

1 ST READING:	7/23/04
REFERRED TO (NAME OF) COMMITTEE:	PS&RS
PUBLIC HEARING:	8/11/04
2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE:	8/20/04

2004R-090
AN ORDINANCE
of the
CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS

By Zimmermann

Amending Title 13, Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Licenses and Business Regulations: Taxicabs.

The City Council of The City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 341.590 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto a new subdivision (r) to read as follows:

341.590. Condition of vehicle.

(r) Every taxicab shall be equipped with the approved safety equipment in section 341.597 for its particular service company.

Section 2. That Section 341.596 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed.

341.596. Digital camera test. A test of digital security cameras shall be conducted in the following manner:

~~(a) Beginning June 1, 2000, each taxicab service company with more than twenty-five (25) vehicles operating under its color scheme shall ensure that ten (10) percent of vehicles are equipped with digital security cameras meeting the standards specified in section 341.597. If the service company has no other internal process to determine which vehicles shall be so equipped, a lottery shall be conducted. These vehicles shall be regularly operated for a period of six (6) months ending December 31, 2000. Customer comment cards shall be carried in all test vehicles, allowing the department to assess customer reaction. Drivers and owners of vehicles operating with the digital security cameras shall report weekly on a form provided by the department whether any problems have been experienced. The department may investigate any reported problems.~~

~~(b) At the end of the test period, the department shall compile the results and present a report with recommendations to the public safety and regulatory services committee of the city council. The committee shall then forward any policy recommendations for implementation of security cameras to the city council.~~

Section 3. That Section 341.597 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed.

341.597. Safety shields; cameras. (a) Shield requirements: To the extent shields are installed in taxicabs, they shall meet the following requirements:

- ~~(1) Shields must be constructed of bullet resistant "lexan" plastic, at least three eighths (3/8) inches thick in all areas above the front seat.~~
- ~~(2) Shields must be constructed of bullet resistant "lexan" plastic at least three eighths (5/8) inches thick, or of fourteen (14) gauge sheet metal below the top of the front seat.~~
- ~~(3) There may be no more than a one (1) inch gap between the top and sides of the shield and the interior frame of the vehicle and no more than an eight (8) inch gap between the bottom of the shield and the floor.~~
- ~~(4) A money exchange system must be built into all shields.~~

~~(5) Shields must be replaced if the clear portion of the barrier becomes scratched, blemished or if it impedes the driver or passenger vision.~~

~~(6) Shields must contain padding one half (1/2) inch thick, matching the interior of the vehicle, in front of the rear passenger, but not obstructing the driver's view.~~

~~(b) For the purposes of the test pilot described in section 341.596, the requirements for digital cameras shall be as follows:~~

~~(1) Digital cameras must be mounted on the front dashboard or windshield in such a way as to not limit the driver's visibility.~~

~~(2) Digital cameras must have a minimum sixty-four (64) megabit flash memory that provides a clear digital image capable of reproduction of the entire rear seat of the taxicab and its occupants.~~

~~(3) Digital cameras must be equipped with infrared illumination so there is no need for outside light sources.~~

~~(4) Digital camera systems must be capable of storing a minimum number of images sufficient to cover one twelve (12) hour shift.~~

~~(5) Images must be stored in an approved location.~~

~~(6) Each vehicle must have signs approved by the department of licenses and consumer services advising customers that they are being photographed.~~

~~(7) Each vehicle equipped with digital image cameras must have the camera activated by the start of the taxicab meter, but may have additional activation factors. A manual or emergency activation switch must also be available in all vehicles.~~

~~(8) Each digital camera must be inspected by an authorized repair facility every six (6) months.~~

~~(9) Photos taken by the digital security cameras in taxicabs shall be released only to the police or department of licenses and consumer services for a criminal or licensing investigation.~~

~~(10) Photos taken by the digital security cameras, if not overwritten by new images earlier, must be permanently deleted after fourteen (14) days.~~

Section 4. That Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinance be amended by adding thereto a new Section 341.597 to read as follows:

341.597. Mandatory safety equipment. (a) All licensed taxicabs shall be equipped with at least one (1) of the following safety products, chosen by the service company, in accordance with the submission and requirements of their particular service company in section 341.960(m):

(1) Digital camera security system.

(2) Security shield.

(3) Global positioning system (GPS).

(b) The director shall publish, maintain, and make available to the public a document that will outline the minimum standards and specifications required for each of these safety products and the taxicab licensees. This document shall be titled the taxicab safety book of standards. The city council shall approve the initial taxicab safety book of standards to be effective May 1, 2005, and all amendments thereto.

(c) Failure to comply with the terms of the taxicab safety book of standards may subject a taxicab licensee to revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of their license.

(d) No taxicab licensee shall tamper, disable, or otherwise modify an approved digital camera security system, security shield, or global positioning system after installation.

(e) An inoperable or defective digital camera security system, security shield, or global positioning system shall cause the taxicab to be found unfit or unsuited for public use, and such vehicle may be ordered off the streets of the City of Minneapolis until repaired.

(f) No person shall disseminate, sell, or otherwise profit from any image recorded by a digital camera security system.

(g) In the event a taxicab is sold or otherwise transferred from one service company or one driver-owner to another, the approved safety equipment in section 341.597 for the current service company must be properly installed before the vehicle will be inspected and approved.

Section 5. That Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances be amended by adding thereto a new section 341.598 to read as follows:

341.598. Effective date. That section 341.597 becomes effective May 1, 2005.

Section 6. That Section 341.960 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto a new subdivision (m) to read as follows:

341.960. Conditions.

(m) Every licensed service company shall provide the department with written documentation detailing the specific safety equipment in section 341.597 that is required on all taxicabs in its fleet by December 1, 2004. This documentation shall include sufficient information on the specifications, type, and brand of safety equipment chosen to insure compliance with the taxicab safety book of standards.

Certified as an official action of the City Council: 

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE (X INDICATES VOTE)													
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN
President Ostrow	X						Goodman	X					
							Lilligren	X					
Zerby				X			Schiff	X					
Samuels	X						Niziolek	X					
Johnson	X						Benson	X					
Johnson Lee	X						Colvin Roy	X					
Zimmermann	X						Lane	X					

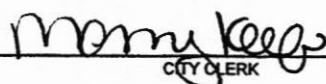
PASSED

AUG 20 2004

DATE

☒ APPROVED ☐ NOT APPROVED ☐ VETOED

ATTEST


CITY CLERK

MAYOR

AUG 25 2004

DATE