



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Staff Report on Taxicab Reciprocity

April 16, 2008

Taxicabs are an essential part of the overall transportation system of the City of Minneapolis, and the Twin City metropolitan area. From time to time the need for taxicab service exceeds the ability of the licensed taxicab fleets to meet the demand. Common peak service demands for taxicab service can include major civic events, conventions, and large entertainment or sports functions.

In conjunction with the Cities of St. Paul and Bloomington, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission, we propose that an ordinance be adopted that allows the issuance of reciprocity licenses to taxicabs from other jurisdictions to operate in Minneapolis during specific periods of high demand. The City of St. Paul is currently in the process of amending their taxicab ordinance to allow reciprocity licenses. The City of Bloomington currently has authority to allow the issuance of reciprocity licenses. The Metropolitan Airports Commission also has the ability to allow taxicab reciprocity.

This amendment is brought forward at this time due the forthcoming Republican National Convention where the demand for taxicab service is expected to exceed capacity in both Minneapolis and St. Paul when 45,000 guests arrive in the last week of August.

The Minneapolis fleet of 415 licensed taxicabs can be supplemented by as many as 600 MSP Airport taxicabs, 300 St. Paul Taxicabs, and 100 Bloomington taxicabs, however, we estimate that only 50% of licensed taxicabs will participate in a reciprocity event. Rather than seek approval for temporary agreements when specific events arise, we suggest that we amend the ordinance to allow the issuance of reciprocity licenses at the discretion of the Director of Licenses and Consumer services.

This amendment contains provisions that require taxicabs and drivers that are allowed to operate with a reciprocity license to meet or exceed all existing standards. The amendment further allows license fees to be charged to cover any costs that are incurred while implementing a reciprocity event agreement.

The proposed amendment on taxicab reciprocity was discussed with the local taxicab service industry at a recent meeting, and notice of today's public hearing was mailed to all Minneapolis taxicab service companies on April 11th, 2008. This proposed amendment is also endorsed and supported by the staff of "Meet Minneapolis".

