

ORDINANCE NO. 5051

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 9 (LICENSING AND REGULATION), Chapter 12 (TAXICABS AND OTHER VEHICLES FOR HIRE) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Title 9, Chapter 12 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained by the amendment of Section 9-12-81 to read as follows:

(New language is underscored; deleted material is ~~stricken~~)

Sec. 9-12-81 - Requirements for vehicles.

Every taxicab and the equipment used in connection therewith, subject to a vehicle permit pursuant to this division, shall at all times comply with the following minimum standards:

- (a) *Vehicles to be clean.* All taxicabs shall at all times be kept clean and sanitary to the satisfaction of the hack inspector.
- (b) *Ventilation of vehicles; lights.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with properly functioning heating, air conditioning and windows and passenger cabin lights.
- (c) *Body types of vehicles; seating capacity.* Every taxicab shall be of a vehicle type approved by regulation with four doors, at least two seats and not less than five-passenger capacity; provided, however, that any taxicab, otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this article may, upon the written application to and approval of the city manager, and having only three doors, may be used to provide transportation to handicapped or otherwise physically disabled persons.
- (d) *Shades and curtains.* No taxicab shall be equipped with shades or curtains which can shield any occupant from observation.
- (e) *Speedometers.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with a standard speedometer, properly installed and kept in good working order at all times.
- (f) *Rear-view mirror.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with an adjustable rear-view mirror, properly installed.
- (g) *"Off duty" signs.* Every taxicab shall carry, prominently displayed on the front windshield, a sign bearing the words "off duty," whenever the vehicle is driven by an operator other than a duly licensed taxicab driver, or is transporting a nonpaying passenger, or is not in service.
- (h) *Information to be displayed on outside of vehicle.*
- (1) Every taxicab shall bear on the rear thereof and on each side thereof in lettering at least three inches high the word "taxicab" or "cab."

- (2) The certificate number under which the taxicab is operated, clearly visible, shall be placed on the rear and on each side of each taxicab.
- (3) The prevailing rates of fare shall be displayed on each side of the taxicab by means of cards or stickers, furnished by the director of finance at a cost established by regulation, placed in the side rear window in such a manner as to be visible from the outside. The form, size and content of said cards or stickers shall be as approved by the hack inspector.
 - (i) *Display of permit.* Every driver shall post his driver's permit in such a place as to be in full view of all passengers while the driver is operating a taxicab.
 - (j) *Display light.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with a plainly visible light signal permanently affixed on the exterior of the cab of a design approved by the hack inspector, which signal shall be turned on and exhibited at all times when the taxicab is on duty and available for hire.
 - (k) *Two-way communication.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with a means of wireless two-way communication, properly installed and kept in working order at all times. Such means of communication shall be operated in compliance with all applicable regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. Each unit will have the ability to conduct a two-way conversation with the taxicab dispatcher.
 - (l) *Age of vehicles.* Except for hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles, no vehicle permit shall be issued for a taxicab that is older than ~~eight~~ 10 model years; ~~provided, however, that a taxicab that was lawfully being operated as of July 1, 2005, may continue in operation until July 1, 2007, provided such vehicle complies with all other provisions of this article.~~ No vehicle permit shall be issued for a hybrid or alternative fuel taxicab that is older than ~~10~~ 12 model years; ~~provided, however, that such a taxicab that was lawfully being operated as of July 1, 2005, may continue in operation until July 1, 2007, provided such vehicle complies with all other provisions of this article.~~
 - (m) *Taximeters.* Every taxicab shall be equipped with a taximeter in compliance with section 9-12-131.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

ALLISON SILBERERG
Mayor

Final Passage: January 28, 2017