

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017  
10:00 A.M.  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember William Cruz Shaw, Chair, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; William McManus, <i>Police Chief, SAPD</i> ; Steve Baum, <i>Assistant Director, SAPD</i> ; Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Denice F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	None

**Call to order**

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the August 23, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Brockhouse moved to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2017 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard**

Chairman Shaw called upon the citizens registered to speak.

George Alva spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Din Ghafori spoke in favor of removing the taxicab permit cap.  
A.R. Velasquez spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Hikmatullah Kamal spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Richard Karam spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Bruce Mery spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
George Mery spoke in opposition of any amendments to Article V, Chapter 33 (Limousine Regulations) of the City Code which were recommended by the San Antonio Police Department.  
Mitsuko Ramos spoke in favor of keeping the existing requirements for the Limousine Industry.  
Maribel Gildemeister spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Linda Thomas spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Cruz Chavira spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Miguel Guevara spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.

Marcos Behena spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Robert Gonzales spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Shawn Jordan spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
John Bouloubasis spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Scott Sands spoke in favor of maintaining the taxicab permit cap.  
Hector Garcia spoke in favor of removing the taxicab permit cap.

#### **Items for Consideration:**

#### **2. Briefing and Action on Proposed Chapter 33-Vehicle for Hire Ordinance Revisions. [presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]**

Steve Baum stated that in past years, there were various changes made to the Chapter 33 Vehicle-for-Hire Ordinance. He noted that during recent planning proceedings, a group of approximately 200 Independent Taxicab Drivers submitted a petition to the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) requesting the creation of an Owner/Operator Permit Category for Drivers within Chapter 33. He stated that at the B Session on November 30, 2016, staff presented City Council with the petition and the requests made by the Independent Drivers Group. He noted that the City Council directed staff to investigate the owner/operator request and identify any potential obstacles within Chapter 33 for companies wanting to enter the Vehicle-for-Hire Market. He stated that after several meetings and discussions with representatives from the independent drivers group and existing Taxicab Companies, a recommendation was made that if the city was to incorporate the Owner/Operator Business Model into the Vehicle-for-Hire Industry, then the permit cap (1/1,700 population) would be removed which would create an open market for taxicab permits. He provided additional background information on the process. He stated that neither the taxicab industry leaders nor the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) were supportive of this change.

Mr. Baum stated that in the 1990's, the Limousine Section of Chapter 33 was amended to create the requirement that a limousine company must own and maintain at least one stretch limousine to be a permitted company and requiring that all services be arranged at least one hour in advance. He noted that the Limousine Ordinance evolved over the years and in 2013, Chapter 33 was amended to require two stretch limousines or one stretch limousine and two luxury vehicles to be a permitted company and introduced a minimum per hour trip fee of \$67.50 that all companies must operate at. He stated that a new company interested in entering the market requested a review of the current requirements. He noted that the Limousine Industry was divided in their support of these changes and the TAB was not in support of the changes. He stated that interest was expressed by individuals who wish to enter the Limousine Industry as Black Car Service and not own or operate a stretch limousine. He noted that these individuals have requested City Council to revisit the following three requirements from Chapter 33, Section 5-Limousines which they feel have prohibited entry into an open market and limit options for interested Vehicle-for-Hire Transportation Groups:

1. Requirement for Limousine Companies to own at least one stretch limousine
2. Charge of a minimum fare of \$67.50 per hour
3. Mandate that all limousine rides be pre-arranged at least one hour in advance

Mr. Baum reviewed the following alternatives:

- Do not make any limousine-related changes to Chapter 33
- Remove any or combination of the three requirements
- Remove the requirement to own a stretch limousine, to charge a \$67.50 minimum rate, and have one-hour prearranged advance notice

Mr. Baum provided background information on regulations regarding Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). He stated that on May 29, 2016, the State of Texas took over all regulations of TNCs with the passage of House Bill (HB) 100. He noted that as a result, staff recommended removal of Chapter 33, Article IX-TNCs of Chapter 33 because it had been nullified and was unenforceable. He stated that staff recommended the following:

#### Taxicabs

- Create a single owner/operator category for taxicabs and removal of the taxicab permit cap

#### Limousines

- Eliminate three limousine requirements (i.e. stretch, rate, and prearrangement)

#### TNCs

- Remove the TNC-related portions of Chapter 33

Mr. Baum reviewed the impacts of the changes for the taxicabs and the limousines.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked of the number of people who signed the petition for the changes. Mr. Baum stated that 200 people signed the petition. Councilmember Brockhouse stated that he would like to see more investigation on this subject and could not support the recommendations at this time. He asked for more discussion on the formula utilized to derive the number of permits available for use.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how often the permits expire. Mr. Baum replied that the permits must be renewed every year. Councilmember Sandoval requested to bring this item to the City Council at B Session and to take no action today. She stated she would like to see discussion of this item with other departments including the Department of Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) and the Office of Innovation. She noted that she would like to see a plan for consultation with industries and outside entities including tourists and residents. She stated that she would like to see a proposal to study the taxicab permits and the population ratio utilized at this time. She noted that she would like to discuss the transportation needs of the community and expressed concern about working conditions for Taxicab Drivers. She noted the number of vacancies on the TAB and stated that she would like to discuss the reorganization of the TAB to include all entities.

Councilmember Perry asked of data to support safety issues due to deregulation. Mr. Baum stated that all regulations would remain the same. Councilmember Perry voiced his support to make no changes to the regulations.

Councilmember Courage suggested that each staff recommendation be voted on separately. He stated that he did not support the moving this to a B Session and supports the Committee in making a recommendation.

Councilmember Courage stated that additional study of this item was warranted and that staff recommendations should not be approved.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that this item should be discussed further. He moved to continue discussions on recommendations for the taxicabs and limousines and to remove the section related to TNCs. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration of items for future meetings**

There were no items considered for future meetings.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

  
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William Cruz Shaw, Chair

*Respectfully Submitted*

  
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Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk