



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Joel P. Landeen, Assistant City Attorney

DATE: 10-19-2010

RE: Recommendations from Taxi and Limousine Task Force

On August 16, 2010, the City Council appointed a Taxi and Limousine Task Force to review Chapter 5.60 of the RCMC and make recommendations for any changes the task force deemed prudent. The task force has met twice since then and discussed several issues related to licensing and what type of businesses should be regulated under this chapter. The task force also reviewed similar ordinances from Sioux Falls, Cheyenne, Billings, Bismarck and Fargo. Based on a review of those ordinances and the discussions at the meetings, the task force would make the following recommendations for changes to the current City ordinance.

1. Require the licensing of "vehicles for hire." The definition would be such that it would require the licensing of operations such as Jone-Z and Scooters but exclude ambulances, buses traveling fixed routes and courtesy shuttles/vans operated by hotels, car dealers, etc. for which no fee is charged.
2. Include a requirement that businesses licensed under this chapter maintain a minimum level of insurance in order to be licensed. The minimum discussed was \$1,000,000 general liability and \$500,000 auto liability. This amount was in-line with the other communities which had insurance requirements.
3. Change the licensing so that all licenses are processed through the Police Dept. Currently, operators are administratively approved through the Finance Office and drivers are administratively approved through the Police Dept. The Committee agreed operators should be reviewed by the Police Dept. and approved by the City Council. The drivers would remain an

administrative approval through the Police Dept. with the ability to appeal a denial to the City Council.

4. Add some general provisions requiring vehicles to be maintained in a safe operating condition.

5. Make it a City ordinance violation for a passenger to not pay their fare.

The task force is requesting that the City Council adopt these recommendations and direct the City Attorney's Office to draft ordinance amendments implementing them. Upon completion of the changes, the task force will review the draft ordinance and once satisfied with its form send it back to the City Council for first and second reading.