



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of April 25, 2009**

DATE: April 23, 2009

SUBJECT: An Ordinance to Enact a New Chapter 25.1 (Taxicabs) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia (“Code”), and to Repeal Chapter 25 (Taxicabs) of the Code, Concerning the Regulation, Operation and Control of Taxicab Service, Taxicab Businesses, Owners, Drivers and Passengers, Including the Establishment of Rates and Charges for Taxicab Service, to Be Effective upon Enactment

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Do not enact the new Chapter 25.1 (Taxicabs) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia (“Code”) that was authorized for advertisement for a public hearing on April 25, 2009 (Attachment 1).

ISSUES: Since the previous version to a new Chapter 25.1 (Taxicabs) (“Attachment 1”) was authorized by the Board for advertisement for a public hearing, a number of issues have been raised that require additional work.

SUMMARY: Staff has worked intensively with the Transportation Commission, the taxicab industry and interested stakeholders to develop a new taxicab ordinance to replace the existing Chapter 25 (Taxicabs) of the County Code. At the March 17th recessed session, the County Board authorized the version in Attachment 1 for advertisement for public hearing at the April 25th County Board meeting, but raised a number of issues and concerns. Since the March County Board meeting, staff has worked toward resolving the issues but further staff work and discussion are needed before a new version of the ordinance will be ready for advertisement.

BACKGROUND: Efforts have been underway for several months to overhaul Arlington’s Taxicab Ordinance (Chapter 25 of the County Code), which was developed several decades ago. The County Board approved a recommendation to advertise a new ordinance (Attachment 1) at its March 14, 2009, meeting (recessed session of March 17th) for a public hearing on April 25, 2009, with the understanding that the County Manager would consider several issues and concerns and return to the Board with revised language for advertisement.

DISCUSSION: Since the meeting on March 17th, staff have reviewed and considered the guidance provided by Board members, testimony at that meeting, further comments from the industry and the Transportation Commission’s action at its meeting on April 16, 2009.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Mark Kellogg, DES

Comments about and proposed changes to the advertised ordinance (Attachment 1) have focused primarily on five subjects: a) public notice and participation, b) fuel-efficiency standards, c) the appropriate level of current rates of fare, d) greater restrictions on smoking and drivers' use of cellular phones and text-messaging in taxicabs, and e) the determination of the number and allocation of taxicabs.

At its meeting on April 16, 2009, the Transportation Commission considered the advertised new ordinance (Attachment 1), and voted unanimously to recommend that the County Board not authorize advertisement of a new ordinance, unless and until the smoking, cellular-phone and text-messaging restrictions are strengthened.

Further staff work and discussion are needed, especially on these issues, before an ordinance will be ready for advertisement. Therefore staff recommends that the Board take no action on the advertised ordinance changes. Staff expects to bring a Request to Advertise a revised ordinance to the County Board's meeting on May 16, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT: The deferral of action has no fiscal impact.