

ITEM #54

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

OCTOBER 19, 2021

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and
GROWTH MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT**



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
One North University Drive, Suite A203, Plantation, Florida 33324
954-519-1260 • Fax 954-765-4804

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 11, 2021

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Broward County Board of County Commissioners

THRU: Bertha Henry
County Administrator

FROM: Philip McChesney, Acting Director
Environmental and Consumer Protection Division

SUBJECT: Additional Material – October 19, 2021 Commission Meeting (Item 54 – deferred from October 5, 2021, Item 46) Information on Broward County Licensed Chauffeurs

At the October 5, 2021 Commission Meeting (Item No. 46), the Board requested analysis by County staff regarding licensed chauffeurs and certificates of public convenience and necessity (COPCN). It is important to note that the sponsor of Item 54 has specifically indicated that this relief be afforded solely to 700 taxicab chauffeur (driver) taxicab COPCN holders. It is unclear as to whether there are 700 taxicab driver taxicab COPCN holders as staff's best estimate places the number of taxicab driver taxicab COPCN holders at 286.

If Relief is Directed to Registered Driver Taxicab COPCN Holders (i.e. "taxicab driver owners", then 286+/- drivers potentially eligible for relief):

- There are currently 1,070 taxicab certificates of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) in Broward County, approximately 286 of which are estimated to be registered driver-owned.
- Of these 1,070 COPCN:
 - 84 certificates are for Wheel-chair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) (including 50 driver-owned WAV COPCN)
 - 986 of these COPCN are for regular taxicabs:
 - The County does not typically track whether a taxicab COPCN is owned by a driver. Therefore, our best estimate using available data is that there are approximately 286 regular taxicab COPCN that are driver-owned;

- The remaining 700 regular taxicab COPCN are owned by individuals or companies (50% are owned by fewer than 20 entities) that rent these COPCN to taxicab drivers or taxicab companies
- The Board discussed driver ownership of taxicabs as a potential consideration during the October 5, 2021 meeting. Should the Board determine that relief is available exclusively to Registered Taxicab Driver Taxicab COPCN Holders, the estimated number of eligible drivers would be 286.

If Relief is Directed to Each Registered Taxicab or Jitney driver (up to 6,420 drivers potentially eligible for relief):

- Chauffeur (driver) registrations are effective for two years from the date of registration.
- The Miami-Dade taxi relief program was available to certain drivers with an active driver registration as of March 1, 2020.
- Should this criterion be used in Broward County, approximately 6,420 drivers may be eligible for relief. This number includes the 3,620 current, actively registered drivers plus the approximately 2,800 who were active as of March 1, 2020, but let their registration expire during the pandemic (for unknown, potentially pandemic related reasons).
- Approximately 24 driver registrations were revoked or denied during the pandemic period from March 1, 2020 to current for non-pandemic related reasons.
- A registered driver may drive a taxicab, a limousine, a shuttle van, a luxury sedan, or any combination thereof. The County does not track which type of vehicle a driver chooses to drive nor is there a clear delineation regarding how long a driver must drive a taxicab to be considered an eligible taxicab driver (i.e., 1 day per year, per month, per week, etc.).
 - In addition, the reports provided by United Drivers of Broward (UDOB) included with the October 5, 2021 agenda item indicate a significant number of drivers may have been unable to drive a taxicab for a significant period during the pandemic.
 - This makes the determination of whether a driver is a taxicab driver or not, even more difficult since an applicant for relief may not currently drive a taxicab or have even driven a taxicab for a prolonged period of time prior to their application for relief.

- To drive a taxicab, a registered driver that does not own their own COPCN must rent a taxicab COPCN from a company or individual who owns one of the 1,070 taxicab COPCN's.
- Therefore, to verify if a registered driver drove a taxicab, the County would need to rely on the word of the driver and/or COPCN owner.

Fees (and associated Board Actions):

- Taxicab Operating Permit (\$200 annually, valid July 1 – June 30)
 - WAV Operating Permit fees were waived through 12/31/2021 by the Board during its February 9, 2021 meeting (Item No. 29) and thereafter reduced to \$50 annually
 - Driver-owned Taxicab Operating Permit fees and late fees were waived through 6/30/2022 by the Board during its September 21, 2021 meeting (Item No. 58).
 - All Taxicab Operating Permit fees and abandonment criteria were waived by the Board through 6/30/2022 during its October 5, 2021 meeting (Agenda Item No. 58)
- Port Everglades Business Permit - \$250 annually
 - The expiration date was extended by the Board through 6/30/2022 for any Port Permit purchased for the 2020-2021 operating year, during its Aug. 24, 2021 meeting (Item No. 89)

cc: Bertha Henry, County Administrator
Monica Cepero, Deputy County Administrator
Lenny Vialpando, Director, EPGMD