

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2016- 729

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, RELATING TO OPERATION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR HIRE DURING NATIONALLY COMPETITIVELY BID EVENT PERIODS; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City has and will continue to host nationally competitively bid events that will draw an attendance in excess of 75,000 people into the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the bids and preliminary plans for these nationally competitively bid events are approved by City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in anticipation of the vehicular and pedestrian congestion and other public safety issues associated with nationally competitively bid events, City officials who have familiarity with traffic and public safety issues have similar concerns that the venues in which major events are conducted could become over-congested; and

**WHEREAS**, during nationally competitively bid events the City desires to adjust certain requirements with respect to licensing limousine and taxicab drivers in order to allow efficient processing of temporary taxicab and limousine license applications to accommodate the needs of the public during travel periods associated with such events; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to introduce joint temporary ground transportation airport use permits in order to allow the Houston Airport System and ARA to streamline permitting of ground transportation vehicles during nationally competitively bid events and thus encourage the availability of transportation options during travel periods associated with such events; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** That Section 25-156 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Sec. 25-156. Temporary taxicab and limousine driver licenses.**

During a national bid event period, the director of administration and regulatory affairs is authorized to issue temporary taxicab and limousine driver licenses for the same fee as described for taxicab and limousine driver licenses in chapter 46 of this Code. In order to expedite processing temporary taxicab and limousine driver license applications, the director may waive licensing requirements articulated in chapter 46 of this Code, with the exception of those related to fingerprinting, which shall remain mandatory, provided the director, in the exercise of her reasonable discretion, determines the waived licensing requirements do not pose a significant threat to the public health and safety. The temporary taxicab and limousine driver licenses shall be valid only for taxicab and limousine vehicles operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of chapter 46 of this Code and only during the national bid event period. This section shall not be construed to excuse compliance with any other provision of chapter 46 of this Code."

**Section 3.** That Article IV of Chapter 25 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a new Section 25-156.1 that reads as follows:

**"Sec. 25-156.1. Joint ground transportation airport use permits.**

During a national bid event period, the director of administration and regulatory affairs, in cooperation with the director of the Houston airport system, is authorized to issue joint temporary ground transportation airport use permits that will be valid only during the national bid event period. The permits shall be issued in a manner that is, to the extent practicable, consistent with the requirements of chapter 46 and chapter 9 of this Code, upon payment to the director of administration and regulatory affairs of the fee stated in the city fee schedule."

**Section 3.** That the City Council hereby authorizes the Director of the Department of Administration and Regulatory Affairs to charge a fee for temporary ground transportation airport use permits and approves that fee in the initial amount of \$102.23. This fee shall be subject to the annual fee increase in Section 1-13 and the administrative fee in Section 1-14 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas. The Director of Finance shall incorporate the new and revised fees in the City Fee Schedule

**Section 4.** That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to direct the publisher of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, (the "Code") to make such nonsubstantive changes to the Code as are necessary to conform to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance, and also to make such changes to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance to conform them to the provisions and conventions of the published Code.

**Section 5.** That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

**Section 6.** That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this** 28<sup>th</sup> **day of** September, 2016.

  
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Mayor of the City of Houston

