



Passenger Vehicles For Hire

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

APRIL 13, 2026

Agenda

- ◀ **Background**
- ◀ **Legal Considerations**
- ◀ **Proposed Ordinance Revisions**
- ◀ **Recommendations of City Attorney's Office**

Background

- ◀ **August 2024:** stakeholder letter requesting updates to the Passenger Vehicles for Hire (PVH) ordinance
- ◀ **Fall 2024 – Fall 2025:** meetings between Chief of Police, City Attorney's Office (CAO), and City Manager's Office regarding proposed updates
- ◀ **June 2025:** in-person meeting with a small group of PVH stakeholders, CAO, and Manager's Office
- ◀ **October 2025:** CAO presentation at business meeting
- ◀ **December 2025:** two sessions with stakeholders and CAO
- ◀ **January 2026:** PVH policy referral from Mayor Lyles
- ◀ **February 2026:** virtual input session with stakeholders, Safety Committee, and CAO
- ◀ **March 2026:** Safety Committee voted to adopt recommendations of CAO and send to full Council for consideration

Legal Considerations

- ◀ **North Carolina grants municipalities express authority to regulate taxi cabs**
 - N.C.G.S. § 160A-304, Regulation of taxis
 - N.C.G.S. § 20-37, Limitations on issuance of licenses
- ◀ **State law prohibits local regulation of rideshare companies**
 - N.C.G.S. §§ 20-280.1 – 20-280.14, Transportation Network Companies (“TNC”)

2024 Stakeholder Letter Proposals

- ◀ **Section 101**
 - Applications
- ◀ **Section 22-101(z)**
 - Revise the definition of "operate, operating, or operated."
- ◀ **Section 22-125(b)(3)**
 - Remove training requirements
- ◀ **Section 22-125(b)(4)**
 - Utilize a 5-panel screening, reflective of DOT standards
- ◀ **Section 22-125(d)(1)**
 - PVH Manager cannot request medical records re ability to drive
- ◀ **Section 22-125(d)(3)**
 - Do not limit drivers to NC/SC driver's licenses
- ◀ **Section 22-125(h)**
 - No application shall be accepted if person has pending felony charges
- ◀ **Section 22-126**
 - PVH will send a digital copy of the driver's PVH permit to each company listed for that driver
- ◀ **Section 22-152**
 - Upfront pricing instead of metered rates
- ◀ **Section 22-153(b)**
 - Add that rates and charges for an agency vehicle may not be less than that of a metered vehicle
- ◀ **Section 22-156**
 - Passenger and driver may agree on any pre-arranged rate so long as it is in writing before the fare begins
- ◀ **Section 22-159(d)**
 - Publishing taxi stands
- ◀ **Section 22-165(b)**
 - Remove requirement to report wrecks
- ◀ **Section 22-166**
 - Metered vehicles only use metered rates for trips originating at airport
- ◀ **Section 22-175(a)**
 - Increase vehicle age to 15 years
- ◀ **Section 22-176 and 22-176(b)(2)**
 - Vehicle signage
- ◀ **N.C.G.S. §§ 160A-304, 22-101, 22-125**
 - City should utilize third-party background checks
- ◀ **Section 22-125(d)**
 - Upon utilization of third-party background checks, PVH must approve permit within 3 business days
- ◀ **Section 22-228**
 - Fees for transfer of permit shall not exceed the cost of a new permit or a renewed permit

Stakeholder Input Session Proposals

- ◀ **Cut background checks 10-year lookback period in half**
- ◀ **Black car stands at Airport and in uptown**
- ◀ **Requiring vehicle fleet minimums to operate under PVH**
- ◀ **Adding an ordinance section to specifically address limos/black cars**
- ◀ **Rate changes for limos/black cars**
- ◀ **Universal upfront pricing**

CAO Recommendations

1. **Sec. 22-101**
 - Applications
2. **Sec. 22-101(z)**
 - Define “operator”
3. **Sec. 22-125(b)(3)**
 - Training requirements
4. **Sec. 22-125(b)(4)**
 - Drug screening
5. **22-125(h)**
 - Criminal history
6. **Sec. 22-153(b)**
 - Rates for agency vehicles
7. **Sec. 22-166**
 - Metered vehicles at the Airport
8. **22-175(a)**
 - Vehicle age limit
9. **22-176(b)(2)**
 - Roof lighting
10. **Black car/limo stands in uptown**
11. **Add black car/limo ordinance section**
12. **Incremental billing for black cars/limos**

Fares

- ◀ **Incremental billing for black cars and limos (recommended)**
 - Billing in 15-minute increments
 - Benefits PVH companies and consumers
- ◀ **Universal upfront pricing (not recommended)**
 - Would eliminate the need for PVH Ordinance and meters
 - *Removes time/distance rate of the meters*
 - High probability of disparities or discrimination in fare-setting
 - Public safety concerns for disputes arising out of fare discrepancies
 - *Metered fare vs. pre-arranged fare upon arrival at destination*
- ◀ **Additional flat-rate pricing from the Airport**
 - Needs more research and development

Goals of PVH Recommendations



**ADJUST TO
INDUSTRY
CHANGES AND
RIDESHARE
AVAILABILITY**



**CONSUMER
SAFETY**



**SERVICE
QUALITY**



**IMPROVE
EXPERIENCE
FOR CITIZENS,
DRIVERS, &
COMPANIES**



**MORE
EFFICIENT
INTERNAL
PROCESSES**

Next Steps



Follow-up with Council on any questions not addressed this evening.



If Council is ready, bring forward PVH Ordinance refinements for vote.