



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0459

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 20, 2025

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances to Establish an Administrative Application Process, Associated Fees, and Define Vehicle for Hire Services and Operating Standards - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale to establish an administrative application process for vehicle for hire permits, application and renewal fees, and to define vehicle for hire services and operating standards.

Background

As currently defined in Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances, vehicles for hire include, but are not limited to, taxicabs, private limousine services, non-emergency transportation services. However, low-speed vehicles providing private shuttle services (i.e. golf cart types of vehicles), are not currently defined in the Code of Ordinances.

Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances requires all vehicle for hire applicants to seek approval from the City Commission at a public hearing for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to obtain permits to operate a vehicle for hire business within the city limits. Chapter 27 also defines types of vehicles permitted to operate under this Chapter and the rules, regulations, and general standards associated with operating a vehicle for hire service.

At the June 18, 2024, City Commission Meeting, the City Commission requested that City staff review and address low-speed vehicles and operational standards for vehicle for hire services. Specifically, the City Commission identified the following concerns:

- the observance of traffic rules and regulations;
- loud music originating from low-speed vehicles;
- regulation of advertisements, words, and images on low-speed vehicles operating as vehicles for hire;

- regulation of the vehicles for hire that operate for gratuity or voluntary compensation; and
- limiting the number of permitted low-speed vehicles operating within the City limits.

At the December 17, 2024, City Commission Meeting, the City Commission requested that City staff consider revising the vehicle for hire permitting process so that applications are reviewed and approved administratively by City staff, rather than requiring City Commission consideration.

City staff researched policies of local and coastal municipalities to confirm best practices for regulating the operation of vehicle for hire services and low-speed vehicles.

The proposed amendment adds definitions for additional vehicle service types, specifically low-speed vehicles and non-emergency medical transport and redefines vehicle for hire to include those operating for monetary compensation in the form of rates, fares, or voluntary compensation (such as tips or gratuity).

The proposed ordinance establishes an administrative application process that eliminates the need for a public hearing for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to obtain permits and establishes a fee for rental cars with chauffeurs (including low-speed vehicles), of \$151.00 for new permit applications and \$100.00 for annual renewals.

The proposed application process also reinforces operational requirements for permitted business to operate under Chapter 27, such as, but not limited to, parking, stopping, and standing in public right of way in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances. Furthermore, the proposed application process reinforces regulations regarding the operation of music from vehicles, signs and advertisement on vehicles, and upholding rates, fares or voluntary compensation as identified and approved by the City through the application process.

If the proposed ordinance amendment is approved, City staff will implement an educational period of up to 90 days prior to commencing any enforcement actions.

Resource Impact

The proposed amendment adopts a cost recovery permit fee for each applicant.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 4: facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision: We Are Connected.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Estimate

Prepared by: Morgan Dunn, Acting Division Manager, Transportation and Mobility

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