



MEMORANDUM

City of Venice

City Clerk's Office

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Lori Stelzer, City Clerk

DATE: August 8, 2018

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Yes

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2018

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Encourage and Support a Growing, Diverse Economy

SUBJECT: Vehicles for Hire

Background: State legislation (HB221) was enacted which no longer allows local governments to regulate Transportation Network Companies (TNC), a/k/a ride-sharing programs such as Uber/Lyft as of July 1, 2017. Currently the city regulates vehicles for hire (copy attached). Revisions to the code will be required to address the new state legislation.

Venice has been regulating vehicles for hire since its charter was established in 1927. Basic requirements are a permit, application fee, driver background checks, vehicle safety certificates, and insurance.

I have inquired of other communities and 7 out of 9 respondents reported that taxis are not regulated. For Sarasota County municipalities, the City of Sarasota regulates water taxis only, and Longboat Key and North Port do not regulate vehicles for hire.

The state law requires TNCs to have background checks conducted, whereas, there would be no such requirement for other vehicles for hire in the city limits. There are currently three taxi companies with approximately seven total drivers permitted in the city limits.

The Venice Police Department has no objection to removing regulations for vehicles for hire.

Requested Action: Before staff proceeds with the code revisions, council direction is requested on whether to continue regulating vehicles for hire or discontinue those regulations.

City Attorney Review/Approved: Yes

Risk Management Review: N/A

Finance Department Review/Approved: N/A

Funds Availability (account number): N/A

ATTACHED: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 78, Vehicles for Hire