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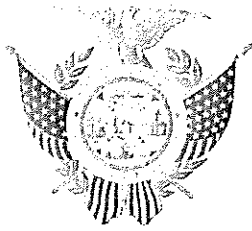
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- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

November 6, 2013

Ald. Terry Witkowski, Chair, Public Safety Committee  
Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall – Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ald. Witkowski, Chair:

By this Communication (Common Council File Number 130516), I am transmitting the Report of the Study Subcommittee of the Public Transportation Review Board as directed in Common Council Resolution File Number 130172, together with a report prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau reviewing Milwaukee taxicab regulation and describing taxicab licensing and regulation models in selected U.S. cities.

I was privileged to serve as Chair of the Study Subcommittee together with other members including Assistant City Attorney Adam Stephens, representing the City Attorney's Office, Ald. Terry Witkowski in his capacity as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, and the following 4 members of the Public Transportation Review Board: Mariano Schifilacqua, Don Natzke, Terry Radtke and John Doherty.

The Study Subcommittee was directed in File Number 130172 to investigate and report on the following:

1. Matters relating to the provision of taxicab service in the city and the licensing and permitting of taxicabs, taxicab companies and affiliations in the city.
2. Identification of practices, programs and regulation for improving taxicab service and recommendations for the implementation of improvements and the licensing and permitting of taxicabs, taxicab affiliations and companies.
3. Recommendations about increasing the numbers of taxicab permits issued by the City, addressing proposals to increase the numbers of current permits by a minimum of 100, or by removing limitation on the number of permits that may be issued, and providing a detailed proposal relating to the manner in which the recommended increase may be accomplished.

The Study Committee met on 3 dates: August 9, 2013, September 13, 2013, and October 11, 2013. In accord with Resolution File Number 130172, notice was taken of the reports, testimony and information received by the Taxicab Improvement Task Force and the Taxicab Review Board over the last 10 years.



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The Study Subcommittee reviewed research and analysis conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau (attached to this Communication File).

Notice was also taken of the information, testimony and drafting alternatives contained in File Number 111222, the proposed legislation leading to the creation of the Study Subcommittee. The opinion of the City Attorney related to the version (Substitute 3) before the Public Safety Committee when the File was held to the call of the Chair, was also reviewed. Information was received related to litigation currently on appeal challenging the current ordinance which prohibits the issuance of new taxicab vehicle permits.

The chief recommendations of the Study Subcommittee for legislation to revise taxicab licensing and regulation are to:

1. Authorize the addition of 100 new taxicab vehicle permits and to provide for an annual review of the need for additional permits.
2. Establish requirements for taxicab permittees that include submission of detailed plans of operation and require affiliation with fleets of 10 or more taxicabs that provide dispatch services.
3. Require affiliations of 10 or more taxicabs to be certified as fleet affiliations.
4. Require fleet affiliations to provide citywide service on a 24-hour basis.
5. Require fleet affiliations to receive, maintain and report dispatch information, assure that affiliated permittees and vehicle drivers comply with requirements that include driver training, driver appearance standards, vehicle inspection standards, written plans to assure passenger and driver security, rear-seat credit card payment capacity.

A number of additional recommendations are included in the attached report. These changes were contained in Discussion Draft 3 approved by the Study Subcommittee on October 13, 2013, and are generally consistent with earlier draft versions of proposed legislation related to vehicle equipment and design specifications, inspection procedures, development of fuel efficiency standards, and periodic review by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare and submit the report of the Public Transportation Review Board Study Subcommittee on proposed legislation to revise taxicab licensing, permitting and regulation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bauman, Chair  
Public Transportation Review Board  
Public Transportation Review Board Study Committee

CC: Common Council Members

Attachments