

Introduced by: Council Member Williams
Date: November 12, 1996
Action: Failed
Vote: 5-Yes, 1-No

ORDINANCE #96-45-E (EMERGENCY)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHEL DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF NEW TAXI PERMITS.

WHEREAS, City records indicate that there are 78 permits for taxicabs to operate within the City, and

WHEREAS, the number of permits issued appears to be excessive and is growing, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no limit on the number of permits that may be issued, and

WHEREAS, an excessive number of cabs competing for business at high passenger source locations creates excessive and unnecessary congestion, thereby reducing public safety, and

WHEREAS, the processing of new applications and renewals is a burdensome and time consuming function of the Police Department that severely interferes with the ability of the Police Department to expeditiously respond to serious police matters that arise, and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Bethel, Alaska hereby finds that, based upon the facts set out above, an emergency exists justifying a suspension of the transfer and the issuance of new taxi permits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance and shall not become part of the Bethel City Code.

Section 2. Permit Issuance Suspension. No person may apply for and no person may receive a permit for a taxicab, a dispatch service or for the change of a vehicle under an existing taxicab permit. All pending applications for such new permits or for the transfer of such an existing permit shall be returned to the applicant along with the application fee and all other materials submitted with the application.

Section 3. Temporary Suspension. For the 60-day duration of this ordinance, Bethel City Code sections 5.30.040A.1 and 3, so much of subsection A.2 as applies to the change of a

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vehicle, and section 5.50.020 are suspended and ineffective with respect to taxicabs and dispatch services unless this ordinance is sooner repealed. The Transportation Inspector may receive and process all applications for river taxi and bus permits, but may receive and process only those taxicab applications that request a change of dispatch service for an existing permit or a renewal of an existing permit for so long as Section 2 of this ordinance is in effect.

Section 4. Transportation Commission Review. The Bethel Transportation Commission shall review the number of taxicab and dispatch service permits currently in effect in the City, the burdens and problems created in connection with the number of permits issued, the use of a permit system that does not consider the number of permits issued, any ancillary matters, and shall recommend to the City Council changes in the existing system governing taxicab licensing and regulations that would deal with problems identified by the Transportation Commission, or it may recommend a new system for issuing taxi and dispatch service permits.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1996.

Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

L.J. Tanner, City Clerk