

Chapter 5.16

TAXICAB\* \*\*

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\* For statutory provisions relating to the issuance of operators' licenses generally, see Veh. C.A. §12500 et seq.

\*\* Prior code history: Prior code §§3800-3804.

5.16.010 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the words and phrases defined in this section shall be construed in accordance with the following definitions.

"Company" means any entity operating a taxicab business, including without limitation, a natural person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, or public entity.

"Company permit" means a valid permit issued by the JPA authorizing a company to operate a taxicab business.

"Driver" means a person who drives or controls the movements of a taxicab.

"Driver's permit" means a valid permit issued by the JPA authorizing a person to drive or control the movements of a taxicab.

"JPA" means the Marin Streetlight Acquisition Joint Powers Authority or successor entity.

"Operate a taxicab" means to drive a taxicab and either solicit or pick up passengers for hire in the town.

"Program" means the Marin Street Light Acquisition Joint Powers Authority Taxicab Regulation Program adopted and administered by the JPA.

"Taxicab" means a motor vehicle regularly engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, designed for carrying not more than eight persons, excluding the driver.

"Town" means the town of Ross.

"Vehicle permit" means a valid permit issued by the JPA authorizing a particular vehicle to be operated as a taxicab. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.020 Compliance with program.

No driver or company shall operate or cause the operation of a taxicab in the town unless such operation complies with the terms and requirements of the program which shall be adopted by separate resolution of the town. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.030 Driver's permit required.

A person shall only operate a taxicab in the town if that person possesses a driver's permit. A company shall only allow a driver to operate a taxicab if that driver possesses a driver's permit. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.040 Taxicab vehicle permit required.

A driver shall only operate a taxicab in the town if that vehicle displays a vehicle permit. A company shall only allow a taxicab to be operated in the town on its behalf if that vehicle displays a vehicle permit. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.050 Company permit required.

A company shall only operate a taxicab business in the town if that company possesses a company permit. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.060 Application for permits.

Application for a driver's permit, vehicle permit and/or company permit shall be made to the JPA, upon a form provided by the JPA and shall be accompanied by an application fee sufficient to cover the administrative costs of processing such application as established by the JPA. The fee schedule established by the JPA shall be adopted by separate resolution of the town council. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.070 Testing for controlled substances and alcohol.

A driver shall test negative for controlled substances and alcohol as required by the program and any and all applicable state statutes. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.080 Insurance required.

A driver operating a taxicab in the town shall carry with him/her at all times proof of insurance covering that vehicle, with such policy limits and coverage as established by the JPA. Such proof of insurance must clearly identify the vehicle covered.(Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.090 Equipment.

A taxicab operated under the authority of this chapter shall be equipped according to the standards established by the JPA. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.100 Mechanical condition.

A taxicab operated under the authority of this chapter shall be maintained according to the standards established by the JPA. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.110 Operational requirements.

- A. A driver shall only carry a passenger to his/her destination by the most direct and accessible route.
- B. A taxicab shall have all permits issued by the JPA conspicuously displayed according to the standards established by the JPA.
- C. A taxicab shall have the following information continuously posted in a prominent location in the taxicab passenger compartment according to the standards established by the JPA.
  - 1. A schedule of rates and charges for the hire of the taxicab;
  - 2. The company's name, address and telephone number;
  - 3. The company permit;
  - 4. The taxicab identification number;
  - 5. The driver's permit issued by the JPA; and
  - 6. The vehicle permit issued by the JPA.
- D. A driver shall give a receipt for the amount charged upon the request of the person paying the fare.
- E. A taxicab shall only be operated if the passenger compartment is kept in a clean and sanitary condition free from offensive odors in accordance with the standards established by the JPA.
- F. The name or trade name of the company shall be printed, stamped or stenciled conspicuously on the outside of each taxicab according to the standards established by the JPA. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.120 Separate from business licensing.

The requirements of this chapter are separate and independent from the business licensing and any other provisions under the town code. Any company and/or driver operating a taxicab in the town shall obtain a business license to the extent required under the terms of this code. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).

5.16.130 Enforcement and penalty provisions.

The town intends to secure compliance with the provisions of this chapter by any of the following alternate, separate and distinct methods. Each method set forth in this chapter is intended to be mutually exclusive and does not prevent concurrent or consecutive methods being used to achieve compliance against continuing violations nor does it prevent utilization of any other enforcement mechanisms and/or penalties available by law. Each day a violation exists constitutes a separate offense.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, each violation of the provisions of this chapter may be enforced alternatively as follows:

- A. Infraction. Any person or entity including without limitation a driver or company violating any of the provisions or failing to comply with any of the mandatory requirements of this chapter may be prosecuted for an infraction. Written citations for infractions may be issued by police officers or nonsafety employees designated by the town by separate resolution. Any person convicted of an infraction under the provisions of this chapter shall be punished by:
  - 1. A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for a first violation;

2. A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars for a second violation within one year;

3. A fine not exceeding five hundred dollars for each additional violation within one year.

B. Misdemeanor. Any person or entity including without limitation a driver or company violating any of the provisions or failing to comply with any of the mandatory requirements of this chapter may be prosecuted for a misdemeanor. Written citations for misdemeanors may be issued by police officers or by nonsafety employees designated by the town by separate resolution. Any person convicted of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this chapter shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

C. Civil Action. The town attorney by and at the request of the town council, may institute an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to restrain, enjoin or abate the condition(s) found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter, as provided by law. (Ord. 588 §1(part), 2005).