

RESOLUTION 2021-

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO AMENDING CHAPTER 365  
OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED  
“TAXICABS AND TAXICAB DRIVERS”

Council Chairman Kenny Tompkins  
Council Member Andrew Touma

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Niagara Falls, New York that Chapter 365 of the Codified Ordinances entitled Taxicabs and Taxicab Drivers is hereby amended to read as follows on the following pages:

**March 17, 2021 Amendments**

**Change the definition of “Livery”**

**Amendments as shown as underscored language to be added or bracketed language to be removed from Sections 365.11, 365.20, 365.21, 365.24 and 365.32.**

Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Spanbauer \_\_\_\_\_ Touma \_\_\_\_\_ Voccio \_\_\_\_\_ Tompkins \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER 365

### Taxicabs, [and] Taxicab Drivers, Liveries and Livery Drivers

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#### 365.00 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION.

- (a) It is hereby determined by the City Council and the City Officials that the taxicab and livery industry is an integral and vital element which is necessary to assure adequate and safe public transportation for our residents and visitors.
- (b) It is also determined that the taxicab and livery industry is especially suited for inclusion in the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and all City meetings and functions related to public transportation and tourism issues.
- (c) It is found that a spirit of mutual cooperation and public pride exists between the taxicab and livery industry and other governmental and civic organizations and that it is essential that goodwill be maintained amongst all.
- (d) It is also found that reasonable standards and regulations relating to the number of taxicabs and livery vehicles, the number and location of taxicab stands and the condition and appearance of the taxicab and livery vehicles and drivers are needed to assure fairness and to promote the public health, safety and welfare.

### 365.01 DEFINITIONS.

The following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, have the meanings as set out herein:

(a) "Person" means and includes an individual, a corporation or other legal entity, a partnership and any incorporated association.

(b) "Street" means and includes any street, avenue, alley, court, bridge or public thoroughfare within the City.

(c) "City" means the City of Niagara Falls, New York.

(d) "Taxicab" means a motor vehicle regularly engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, having a seating capacity of less than seven persons and not operated on a fixed route.

(e) **Livery" means every motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or a bus, used in the business of transporting passengers for compensation. Livery shall not include any legally permitted ride sharing services, such as UBER and LYFT, as well as vehicles which are rented or leased without a driver.**

[(e)](f) "Cruising" means the driving of a taxicab on the streets of the City in search of or soliciting prospective passengers for hire.

[(f)](g) "Taxicab and livery registration permit" means the permit issued by the Superintendent of Police to a taxicab medallion owner and livery owner which evinces that the operating taxicab or livery has fulfilled the annual inspection and registration requirements as mandated by this Ordinance.

[(g)](h) "Driver's license" means the permission granted by the City to a person to drive a taxicab or livery upon the streets of the City.

[(h)](i) "Taximeter" means a meter instrument or device attached to a taxicab which measures mechanically the distance driven and the waiting time upon which the fare is based.

[(i)](j) "Waiting time" means the time when a taxicab is not in motion from the time of acceptance of a passenger or passengers to the time of discharge, but does not include any time that the taxicab is not in motion if due to any cause other than the request, act or fault of the passenger or passengers.

[(j)](k) "Open stand" means a public place alongside the curb of a street in the City which has been designated by the City as reserved exclusively for the use of taxicabs.

[(k)](l) "Owner" means any person owning or having control of the use of a taxicab or livery or both upon the streets of the City.

[(l)](m) "Manifest" means a daily record prepared by a taxicab or livery driver of all trips made by such driver showing time and place of origin, destination, number of passengers and the amount of fare of each trip.

[(m)](n) "Rate card" means a card issued by the Superintendent of Police for display in each taxicab which contains the rates of fare then in force.

[(n)](o) "Medallion" means the plate issued by the City of Niagara Falls which represents the privilege given to the possessor to operate a taxicab in the City of Niagara Falls.

### 365.02 TAXICAB MEDALLION AND REGISTRATION PERMIT REQUIRED; **LIVERY REGISTRATION AND PERMIT REQUIRED.**

No person shall operate or permit a taxicab owned or controlled by him to be operated as a vehicle for hire upon the streets of the City without having first obtained a taxicab medallion for each vehicle desired to be operated and a taxicab registration permit affixed to each such vehicle. **No person shall operate or permit a livery owned or controlled by him to be operated as a vehicle for hire within the City without having first obtained a livery registration permit affixed to each such vehicle.**

### 365.03 APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER.

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the operation of a taxicab or a livery upon the streets of the City where the point of origin of the fare, or place where the passenger is picked up, begins within the corporate limits of the City, regardless whether the point of destination is within or without the City.

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the operation of a taxicab or a livery upon the streets of the City where the point of origin of the fare begins outside the corporate limits of the City regardless of whether the point of destination is within the City.

365.06 APPLICATION FOR **TAXICAB** MEDALLIONS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE **FOR TAXICAB AND LIVERY**

(a) An application for any available taxicab medallion shall be filed with the Superintendent of Police upon forms provided by the City, and shall be verified under oath and shall furnish the following information:

(1) Name, address, age and whether applicant is a citizen of the United States, a noncitizen national of the United States, a lawful permanent resident (Alien#) or an alien authorized to work (Alien# or Admission#) and provide expiration date and if a corporation the name, address, age and whether each officer, director and shareholder is a citizen of the United States, a noncitizen national of the United States, a lawful permanent resident (Alien#) or an alien authorized to work (Alien# or Admission#) and provide expiration date.

(2) Experience of applicant in the transportation of passengers.

(3) Number of taxicab medallions desired by the applicant.

(4) The financial status of the applicant, including the amounts of all unpaid judgments against the applicant arising out of the use of a motor vehicle.

(5) The name or names of persons not an applicant, or, if a corporate applicant not an officer, director or stockholder of such corporation having an interest, financial, proprietary or other, direct or indirect, in the taxicab or the business to be licensed, or having made any loan to an applicant for such taxicab or having any lien or mortgage on such taxicab, setting forth the names and addresses of such person or persons, the nature of the interest and the date acquired.

(6) The name of any person not an applicant herein, or, if a corporate applicant, any person not an officer, director or stockholder of such corporation who shares or will share on a percentage basis, or in any way in the receipts, losses or deficiencies of the operation of the taxicab, to any extent whatsoever other than by fixed salary, setting forth the names and addresses of such persons, the nature and percentage of the share and the date acquired.

(7) Whether the applicant has previously held a taxicab medallion from any locality or a former "taxicab permit" from the City of Niagara Falls and if such medallion or permit has ever been suspended or revoked, and if so, for what cause.

(8) Such further information as the Superintendent of Police of the City of Niagara Falls may require.

(Adopted 7/13/88.)

(b) No person shall be issued a **taxicab and/or livery** driver's license unless such person meets the following qualifications:

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365.10 TAXICAB **AND LIVERY** REGISTRATION PERMIT.

**Except as provided in Section 365.03 herein**, no taxicab **or livery** shall be operated on the streets of Niagara Falls unless it has been issued a taxicab **or livery** registration permit. Each vehicle issued a permit under this Chapter shall affix a decal, supplied by the City of Niagara Falls, to the lower right hand corner of the rear window. The permit decal must be visible at all times and not placed on tinted windows/glass. Said decals shall be issued in a distinctively different color each year as proscribed by the Superintendent of Police. Taxicab **and livery** registration permits shall be non-transferable and must be renewed annually.

365.11 TAXICAB **AND LIVERY** REGISTRATION PERMIT FEES.

The annual cost of a taxicab registration permit shall be Seventy Dollars (\$70.00). **The annual cost of a livery registration permit shall be Forty Dollars (\$40.00).** No taxicab **or livery** registration permit decal shall be issued until such fee is paid. The taxicab **or livery** registration permit shall be issued between and including the dates of June 1 and June 15 of each year and all of such permits shall expire on the anniversary date in the next calendar year, unless sooner suspended or revoked. Any owner to whom a permit is issued during the permit year shall pay the full amount of the annual permit fee. All revenues generated by the collection of taxicab **or livery** permit fees shall be budgeted for the administration and enforcement of the taxicab **and livery** ordinance. **[Permits expiring between April 1 and April 15, 2021 are hereby extended for sixty (60) days and will expire between June 1 and June 15, 2021].**

365.12 APPLICATION FOR TAXICAB **AND LIVERY** REGISTRATION PERMIT.

An application for a taxicab **or livery** registration permit shall be filed with the Superintendent of Police upon forms provided by the City, and such application shall contain the following information:

(a) Make, model type and vehicle identification number of the vehicle to be registered.

- (b) Year of manufacture and seating capacity of each vehicle.
- (c) New York State license number of each vehicle to be registered.
- (d) The color scheme and insignia to be used to designate each vehicle.

In addition to the application and filing fee, **[a taximeter certification issued within the last twelve (12) months and]** proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance, if required in accordance with Section 365.13, must be submitted at the time of application; **and in the case of a taxicab, a taximeter certification issued within the last twelve (12) months.**

The Superintendent of Police shall keep records of all vehicles registered pursuant to this chapter. Said records shall include the date of original vehicle inspection and shall record any subsequent inspections of the vehicle as well as any vehicle equipment and vehicle condition violations.

#### 365.13 LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE REQUIRED.

(a) No taxicab **or livery** permit shall be issued or continued in operation unless there is in full force and effect a liability insurance policy issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of New York, and approved by the City for each vehicle authorized in the minimum amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for bodily injury to any one person; in the minimum amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for injuries to more than one person which are sustained in the same accident, and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for property damage resulting from any one accident. Such policy or policies shall insure to the benefit of any person who shall be injured or who shall sustain damage to property proximately caused by the negligence of a holder, his servants or agents. Such policy or policies shall be filed with the Superintendent of Police shall have at least fifteen days' written notice of such cancellation, which requirement shall be conspicuously placed on said policy or policies and any Certificate evidencing such insurance.

(b) No taxicab **or livery** permit shall be issued or continued in operation unless there is in full force and effect a worker's compensation insurance policy issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of New York, and approved by the City for each vehicle authorized in the statutory minimum amount. This provision may be waived if the taxicab **or livery** owner can produce a letter from the State of New York within the last twelve (12) months confirming that the taxicab **or livery** owner does not need worker's compensation insurance.

#### 365.14 INSPECTION OF VEHICLES.

Prior to the use and operation of any vehicle and the issuance of a taxicab **or livery** registration permit under the provisions of this chapter, such vehicle shall be thoroughly and carefully examined and inspected by the Police Department and must be found to comply with such reasonable rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Superintendent of Police. These rules and regulations shall be promulgated to provide safe and comfortable transportation and shall specify such safety equipment and regulatory devices as the Superintendent of Police shall deem necessary therefor.

In addition to periodic inspections by the Police Department, at such intervals as shall be established by the Superintendent of Police, taxicab **and livery** vehicles are subject to on-the-spot "no notice" inspections by police officers. Inspections shall not be initiated nor undertaken while a fare is present. Such inspections shall require, but are not limited to, the following vehicular standards:

- (a) All vehicles shall have current New York State Inspection Certificates.
- (b) The exterior of the vehicles shall be generally clean and free from rust and damage.
- (c) The vehicle paint must be applied in a professional manner. Automobile make insignias and vehicle chrome shall not be painted over.
- (d) Vehicles must be completely assembled and shall not be structurally altered from the manufacturer's design including, but not limited to, having the lights, exhaust system, fenders and bumpers properly attached.
- (e) Any lettering or company logo applied to the exterior of the vehicle must be professionally air-brushed or neatly stenciled upon the vehicle. A decal insignia shall be considered an acceptable substitute for the above requirement.
- (f) The interior of the vehicle must be kept clean and sanitary, and shall be free of all litter and debris.

If a vehicle has been involved in an accident causing physical damage so as to violate the above vehicle standards, it shall not be automatically excluded from service, if the vehicle can still be operated safely. The taxicab **or livery** owner shall have 24 hours to have the vehicle evaluated by the Police Department, in order to determine if the vehicle should be taken out of service or to determine the exact date repairs will be made. If a vehicle is taken out of service on account of the police inspection of damage, the taxicab **or livery** owner shall be notified in writing.

(g) A violation of any of the above vehicle standard requirements will be punishable by a fine of not more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for each offense. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

### 365.15 EMERGENCY TAXICAB AND LIVERY REGISTRATION PERMITS.

The Mayor may, in case of a declared public emergency or necessity, waive or modify any or all of the requirements of this chapter and may issue a temporary permit for the operation of any vehicle defined in this chapter upon the streets of the City without a public hearing, such permit to be revocable at any time with by the Mayor or his designee.

### 365.16 SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR TAXICABS; DISPLAY.

There shall be displayed in the passenger's compartment of each taxicab in full view of the passengers, a card not less than four inches by six inches in size, which shall have plainly printed thereon the name of the owner or the [fictitious] name under which such owner operates the business, the address and telephone number of such owner and a correct schedule of the rates to be charged for conveyance in such vehicle. Such card shall be approved as to form by the Superintendent of Police before being so displayed. A true and correct copy of the card, as approved, shall be filed with the Superintendent of Police.

### 365.17 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF MEDALLION AND TAXICAB REGISTRATION PERMIT OR LIVERY REGISTRATION PERMIT.

A taxicab medallion or taxicab registration permit or livery registration permit issued under the provisions of this chapter, may be revoked or suspended by the City Administrator, if the owner thereof has:

- (a) Violated any material provisions of this chapter.
- (b) Falsified any information on the application or failed to notify the Superintendent of Police of any material change of status from that indicated in the application.
- (c) Abandoned the taxicab medallion or taxicab registration permit or livery registration permit. The medallion or permit shall be deemed abandoned when a taxicab assigned a medallion or taxicab registration permit or livery issued a livery registration permit has not been regularly operated as a taxicab or livery for a period of six (6) months, or
- (d) Conducted himself in a manner indicating he is not a fit and proper person to hold such an owner's medallion or taxicab registration permit or livery registration permit.

In the event any person to whom an owner's medallion or taxicab registration permit or livery registration permit is issued has such medallion or permit suspended on three separate occasions, such medallion or permit shall be revoked. Whenever any medallion shall be revoked, the same shall be surrendered to the Superintendent of Police. If the medallion is suspended, the same shall be surrendered to the Superintendent of Police and retained by him until the suspension period expires. In the case of suspension or revocation of the taxicab registration permit or livery registration permit, the identifying decal shall be immediately removed.

Prior to suspension or revocation, the owner shall be given written notice of the proposed action to be taken together with a statement of the basis therefor and shall have an opportunity to be heard by the City Administrator within two weeks of receiving said written notice. No suspension or revocation shall be effective until a written decision of the Administrator is filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

### 365.18 TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE AND LIVERY DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Except as provided in Section 365.03 of this Chapter, no person shall operate a taxicab for hire or livery upon the streets of the City and no person who owns or controls a taxicab or livery shall permit it to be so driven, and no taxicab or livery licensed by the City shall be driven at any time for hire unless the driver of such taxicab or livery shall have first obtained and shall have then in force a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter. This prohibition shall not apply to a taxicab or livery driver who is returning a fare to a destination outside the corporate limits of the City which fare originated outside the corporate limits of the City, provided the return fare is made within 24 hours of the drop off of the originating fare.

### 365.20 APPLICATION FOR TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE AND LIVERY DRIVER'S LICENSE.

An application for a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license shall be filed with the Superintendent of Police on forms provided by the City, and such application shall be verified under oath and shall contain the following information:

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Any false statements made by the applicant on the application for a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license shall be sufficient cause for the refusal of the issuance of a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license to such applicant, or shall be sufficient cause for the revocation or suspension of a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license after the issuance of same.

Upon request, a person who has been issued a taxicab driver's license by the City may request from the Superintendent of Police, on forms provided by the City, a livery driver's license. Provided the taxicab driver's license is valid and has not been revoked or suspended, a livery driver's license shall be issued for no additional fee.

Upon request, a person who has been issued a livery driver's license by the City may request from the Superintendent of Police, on forms provided by the City, a taxicab driver's license. Provided the livery driver's license is valid and has not been revoked or suspended, a taxicab driver's license shall be issued upon the payment of an additional fee in the amount of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00).

#### 365.21 EXAMINATION OF APPLICANT.

Before licensing, all taxicab drivers and livery drivers must undergo a local orientation program of up to two hours coordinated by [the Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation (NTCC) Prior to the issuance or renewal of a license, each driver must successfully complete a test of the information covered during the program.] Destination Niagara USA. The applicant is responsible to pay any fee incurred by [the NTCC] Destination Niagara USA for administering the [test] program. Such program shall include, but is not limited to, the geography of the City, traffic laws and regulations and public relations and appearance.

#### 365.22 POLICE INVESTIGATION OF APPLICANT.

The Police Department of the City shall conduct an investigation of each applicant for a taxicab driver's license and livery driver's license, and a report of such investigation and a copy of the traffic and police record of the applicant, if any, shall be attached to the application for the consideration of the Superintendent of Police.

#### 365.23 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION.

The Superintendent of Police shall, upon consideration of the application and the reports and certificate required to be attached thereto, in his discretion, approve or reject the application. If the application is rejected, the applicant may request a personal appearance before the Superintendent of Police to offer evidence why his application should be reconsidered.

#### 365.24 ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; DURATION AND ANNUAL FEE.

Upon approval of an application for a taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license, the Superintendent of Police shall issue a license to the applicant which shall bear the name, address, age, signature and photograph of the applicant, issuance number, date of expiration and the name of the owner for which such driver is authorized to operate a vehicle. Such license shall be valid only so long as the driver continues in the employ of such owner. Upon the termination of any driver's employment, the owner by whom such driver has been employed shall immediately give the Superintendent of Police written notice of such termination, the reasons therefor, and shall forthwith surrender the driver's license to the Superintendent of Police for cancellation.

Such license shall be in effect for the remainder of the calendar year. A taxicab driver's license for every calendar year thereafter shall be issued upon the payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), unless the license for the preceding year has been revoked. A livery driver's license fee for every calendar year thereafter shall be issued upon the payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), unless the license for the preceding year has been revoked.

#### 365.25 LICENSE PERIOD.

A taxicab driver's license or livery driver's license shall be issued as of January 1st in each year and shall be valid to and including December 31st of that same year unless sooner suspended or revoked. Any driver to whom a license is issued during the license year shall pay the full amount of the annual license fee.

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#### 365.27 DRESS, BEHAVIOR AND GROOMING OF TAXICAB DRIVERS AND LIVERY DRIVERS AND USE OF RADIO FREQUENCY BY TAXICABS ONLY.

(a) Each driver shall make a presentable appearance while operating taxicabs and liveries in the City of Niagara Falls, and shall be clean, well-groomed, neatly dressed, and conduct himself or herself in a professional, courteous manner. Every driver shall be required to wear a shirt with a collar.

(b) Each taxicab driver shall be permitted to use only the radio frequency that is used by the company the driver is affiliated with. The monitoring of another cab [or livery] company's frequency is strictly prohibited and will lead to sanctions

against the driver and/or company the driver is affiliated with. **Liveries and livery operators are not permitted to use radio frequencies.**

**365.28 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

A taxicab driver's license **or livery driver's license** may be suspended for the following reasons:

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No driver or operator whose license has been revoked shall be eligible to be licensed as a taxicab driver **or livery driver** in the City for a period of three (3) years, unless otherwise prohibited by Section 365.19 of this Chapter.

**365.29 NOTICE TO DRIVER.**

A taxicab driver's license **or livery driver's license** shall be deemed to be suspended or revoked as of the third day after the Superintendent of Police shall cause to be deposited in the United States Post Office within the City, a registered letter giving notice of such revocation or suspension, and directed to the person named and to the address given on the application pursuant to which such license was issued. **In the event a person has both a taxicab driver's license and a livery driver's license, a suspension or revocation of one license has the effect of suspending or revoking the other license.**

**365.30 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.**

Every driver licensed under this chapter shall comply with all City, State and Federal laws. Failure to do so will justify the suspension or revocation of a license.

**365.31 DESIGNATION OF TAXICAB.**

The taxicabs of every owner operating a taxicab within a City shall be of a color scheme and bear the owner's trade name, monogram or insignia which are clearly and easily distinguishable from the color scheme, owner's trade name, monogram or insignia used on the taxicabs of any other owner's already operating under this chapter. No change whatever in the color scheme or distinguishing characteristics of any taxicab shall be made without written permission from the Superintendent of Police, and it shall be unlawful for any person soliciting patronage from any vehicle described in this chapter to represent by word, sign or insignia that the vehicle for which he is soliciting such patronage is a vehicle owned or operated by other than the actual owners.

Every taxicab operated within the City shall bear the following identification: the owner's trade name, monogram or insignia, together with a cab number and the owner's telephone number or numbers painted upon the metal portion of the outside of each side of the taxicab and the cab number and owner's telephone number or numbers painted upon the outside rear panel of the taxicab. All lettering mentioned in this paragraph shall be not less than two and one-quarter inches in height and not less than five-sixteenths inch stroke. In addition to the identification hereby required, taxicabs may bear the following signs or advertisements:

- (a) A metal sign bearing the words "For Hire", and being no larger than six inches by nine inches;
- (b) A sign attached to the top of the cab bearing the word "Vacant" and being no larger than two and one-half inches by nine inches, and
- (c) Advertisements not exceeding twelve square feet in total area, subject to the rules and regulations of the Superintendent of Police.

If, after a permit has been issued for a taxicab hereunder, any portion of this section is violated in such a manner as to be misleading or deceiving to the public, the Superintendent of Police in his discretion, may suspend or revoke the permit of the owner covering such taxicab or taxicabs.

**(d) This section shall not apply to liveries operating in the City.**

**365.32 TAXIMETER REQUIRED.**

All taxicabs operated under the authority of this chapter shall be equipped with taximeters fastened in front of the passengers, visible to them at all times day and night; and, after sundown, the face of the taximeter shall be illuminated. Such taximeter shall be operated mechanically by a mechanism of standard design and construction, driven either from the transmission or from one of the front wheels by a flexible and permanently attached driving mechanism. No taximeter shall be operated from any wheel to which power is applied. They shall be sealed at all points and connections which, if manipulated, would affect their correct reading and recording. Each taximeter shall have thereon a flag to denote when the vehicle is employed and when it is not employed, and it shall be the duty of the driver to throw the flag of such taximeter into a non-recording position at the termination of each trip. The taximeters shall be subject to inspection from time to time by the Police Department. Any inspector or other officer of the Police Department is hereby authorized either on complaint of any person or

without such complaint, to inspect any meter and, upon discovery of any inaccuracy therein, to notify the person operating such taxicab to cease operation. Thereupon, such taxicab shall be kept off the streets, until the taximeter is repaired and in the required working condition.

**This section shall not apply to liveries operating in the City. [Notwithstanding the foregoing, the owner of a livery operating under the authority of this chapter may, at the option of the owner, equip the livery so owned with a taximeter. In the event the owner equips the said livery with a taximeter, all applicable provisions of this chapter pertaining to taximeters shall apply. In addition, the owner, prior to installation of the taximeter in the livery vehicle, agrees to immediately give written notice to the Superintendent of Police of the installation of the taximeter.]**

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#### 365.35 OPEN STANDS ESTABLISHED; USE AND PARKING.

The Traffic Engineer is hereby authorized and empowered to establish open taxi stands for the exclusive use of taxicabs in such places upon the streets of the City as he deems necessary. In creating an open stand, the Traffic Engineer shall take into consideration the need for such stands by the taxicab owners and the convenience to the general public. He shall prescribe the number of taxicabs that shall occupy such open stands. The Traffic Engineer shall not create an open stand in front of any place of business where the abutting property owners object to the same or where such open stand would tend to create a traffic hazard. Such open stands shall be designated by appropriate signs or curb markings as the Traffic Engineer shall determine.

Open stands shall be used by the different drivers on a first come, first serve basis. The driver shall pull into the open stand from the rear and shall advance forward as the vehicles ahead pull off. A driver shall be in attendance at every taxicab parked in an open taxi stand. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as preventing a passenger from boarding the vehicle of his choice that is parked at an open stand.

No owner or driver of a taxicab shall stand or park such vehicle at any place on a public street other than an open stand, except for the purpose of discharging or receiving passengers.

No person shall park or stand any vehicle other than a taxicab in an open taxi stand.

**Liveries may not utilize open taxi stands for parking or for any other purpose.**

#### 365.36 SOLICITATION, ACCEPTANCE AND DISCHARGE OF PASSENGERS.

No driver shall solicit passengers for a taxicab except when sitting in the driver's compartment of such taxicab or while standing immediately adjacent to the curb side thereof. **No driver of a livery may solicit passengers for a livery.** The driver of any taxicab shall remain in the driver's compartment or immediately adjacent to his vehicle at all times when such vehicle is upon the public street, except that, when necessary, a driver may be absent from his taxicab for not more than ten consecutive minutes, and provided further that nothing herein contained shall be held to prohibit any driver from alighting to the street or sidewalk for the purpose of assisting passengers into or out of such vehicle.

No driver shall solicit patronage in a loud or annoying tone of voice or by sign or in any manner annoy any person or obstruct the movement of any persons, or follow any person for the purpose of soliciting patronage.

Drivers of taxicabs **and liveries** shall not receive or discharge passengers in the roadway but shall pull up to the right hand sidewalk as nearly as possible, or in the absence of a sidewalk, to the extreme right hand side of the road, and there receive or discharge passengers, except upon one-way streets where passengers may be discharged at either the right or left hand sidewalk or side of the roadway, in the absence of a sidewalk.

No driver shall cruise in search of passengers, except in such areas and at such time as shall be designated by the Traffic Engineer. Such areas and times shall only be designated when the Traffic Engineer finds that taxicab cruising would not congest traffic or be dangerous to pedestrians and other vehicles.

No driver, owner or operator shall solicit passengers at the terminal of any other common carrier, not at any intermediate points along any established route of any other common carrier.

No driver shall permit any other person to occupy or ride in such taxicab unless the person or persons first employing the taxicab shall consent to the acceptance of an additional passenger or passengers. No charge shall be made for an additional passenger except when the additional passenger rides beyond the previous passenger's destination, and then only for the additional distance so traveled.

No driver shall permit more persons to be carried in a taxicab as passengers than the rated seating capacity of his taxicab, as stated in the permit for such vehicle. A child in arms shall not be counted as a passenger.

No driver shall refuse or neglect to convey any orderly person or persons, upon request, unless previously engaged or

unable or forbidden by the provisions of this chapter to do so.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any driver of a taxicab to solicit business for any hotel, or to attempt to divert patronage from one hotel to another. Neither shall such driver engage in selling intoxicating liquors or soliciting business for any immoral purpose, or use his vehicle for any purpose other than the transporting of passengers.

#### 365.37 RECEIPTS.

The driver of any taxicab **or livery** shall, upon demand by the passenger, render to such passenger a receipt for the amount charged, either by a mechanically printed receipt or by a specially prepared receipt on which shall be the name of the owner, license number or motor number, amount of meter reading or charges, and date of transaction.

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#### 365.41 MANIFESTS.

Every driver **of a taxicab and livery** shall maintain a daily manifest upon which are recorded all trips made each day, showing the time and place of origin, the destination of each trip and amount of fare, and all such completed manifests shall be returned to the owner by the driver at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The forms for each manifest shall be furnished to the driver by the owner, and shall be of a character approved by the Superintendent of Police.

Every owner of a permit shall retain and preserve all drivers' manifests in a safe place for at least the calendar year next preceding the current calendar year, and such manifests shall be available to the Superintendent of Police.

#### 365.42 SERVICE CONTRACT REPORTS.

It shall be mandatory for all owners to file with the Superintendent of Police, copies of all contracts, agreements, arrangements, memoranda or other writings relating to the furnishing of taxicab **or livery** service to any hotel, theater, hall, public resort, terminal or other place of public gathering, whether such arrangement is made with the owner or any corporation, firm or association with which the owner may be interested or connected. Failure to file such copies within seven days shall be sufficient cause for the revocation of a permit of any offending owner or the cancellation of any cab stand privileges.

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#### 365.44 APPEAL.

If any person is aggrieved by any act or failure to act on the part of the Superintendent of Police either in issuing, failure to issue, suspending or revoking any owner's permit or driver's license, such aggrieved party may file with the City Clerk a statement addressed to the **[City Administrator] Niagara Falls City Council**, setting forth the full facts and circumstances in connection with the action or failure of action on the part of the Superintendent of Police. Such appeal must be filed within ten days after commission or omission of the act by which the appellant claims to have been aggrieved.

The **[City Administrator] Niagara Falls City Council** shall call **[a meeting] for a public hearing** not less than **[ten] thirty** days from the date on which such appeal shall have been filed with the City Clerk, shall hear the appellant and his witnesses and determine the merits of the appeal, and the **[ruling of the City Administrator] decision by a majority vote of the Niagara Falls City Council** thereon shall be final. (C66 S39, adopted 1-13-69; amended 12/29/11.)

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**Bold and Underlining indicate Additions.**

**Bold and Brackets indicate [Deletions].**