



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager

Date: February 15, 2010

Subject: Vehicle for Hire - Regulation

A few months ago the City Council was considering setting a fee for regulating taxi cab companies doing business in the City of Dunwoody. At that time, staff determined that the fee only applied to vehicles for hire that have a physical base of operation in the City limits. Council asked staff to research best practices and determine if an ordinance change may be appropriate that would allow the City to regulate vehicles for hire that do business in the City but do not locate their principal place of business in the City of Dunwoody.

The City of Dunwoody has a heavy volume of vehicle for hire traffic in the City limits due to our large commercial area (Perimeter Center) and the MARTA station in our city limits. For the safety and welfare of our citizens and others either visiting or doing business in Dunwoody, we are authorized to regulate the vehicle for hire industry.

Based on my research of this issue, it appears that the “best practice” for vehicle for hire regulation is a multi-tiered approach to permitting taxicabs.

A company permit would be issued to businesses housed in Dunwoody that qualify for and hold an occupational tax license. We currently collect an occupation tax for these businesses.

A resident driver’s permit would be issued to taxi cab operators who are employed by businesses housed in Dunwoody that qualify for and hold an occupational tax license. We currently regulate these drivers, although Council has yet to adopt a fee.

I recommend amending our ordinance to allow for the addition of a non-resident operator’s permit. This is a permit that would be required to regulate vehicles for hire that are picking up passengers in the City of Dunwoody, but are not associated with a business located in the City of Dunwoody.

I further recommend the Council proceed with a resolution setting the fees for all three types of taxi permits by Resolution after the amended ordinance is considered and adopted. Staff will research and recommend a fee for these permits that is in line with the cost of issuance for the permits.