



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: February 11, 2013 REPORT NO:
ATTENTION: Members of the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
SUBJECT: Taxicab Camera Requirements

REQUESTED ACTION:

Approve the resolution to request the California State Legislature to amend California Vehicle Code Section 26708 to allow for continuous rolling cameras to be attached to dashboards in taxicabs.

BACKGROUND:

The California Vehicle Code, Section 26708, sub section b (13) directs the placement of video event recorders in all vehicles, including taxicabs, as follows:

26708 (a) (1) A person shall not drive any motor vehicle with any object or material placed, displayed, installed, affixed, or applied upon the windshield or side or rear windows.

(b) This section does not apply to any of the following:

*(13)(A) A video event recorder with the capability of monitoring driver performance to improve driver safety, which may be mounted in a seven-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield farthest removed from the driver, in a five-inch square mounted to the center uppermost portion of the interior of the windshield. As used in this section, "video event recorder" means a video recorder that continuously records in a digital loop, recording audio, video and G-force levels, **but saves video only when triggered by an unusual motion or crash or when operated by the driver to monitor driver performance.***

(C) Video event recorders shall store no more than 30 seconds before and after a triggering event.

The current requirements as stated above limit local jurisdictions to only being able to require video event recorders, which are limited to only being able to respond to a triggering event, such as an "unusual motion or crash or when operated by the driver to monitor driver performance." An event recorder may not have been responsive in recent events, such as the tragic murder of

Mir Sadat Sahou. Mir Sadat Sahou, 68, was a self-employed driver who for years worked Lindbergh Field.

Previously Senate Bill 1534 that would have brought current regulations up-to-date, but SB1534 stalled because of additional concerns such as sound requirements. The only change requested in the attached resolution is to allow for continuously rolling cameras. It would be the state's prerogative to continue to examine other issues.

We would also request this Bill to be named in honor of Mr. Mir Sadat Sahou, the victim of a heartbreaking murder.

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- _____

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TO SEEK AUTHORITY UNDER STATE LAW FOR CONTINUOUS VIDEO RECORDERS TO BE USED WITHIN TAXICABS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DRIVER SAFETY.

WHEREAS, the regulation of the operation of taxicabs is in the public interest, and necessary to protect the safety and welfare of taxicab passengers and drivers; and

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code governs the operations of taxicabs on public streets; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego desires continuous video recording within taxicabs to promote driver safety; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego's Office of Intergovernmental Relations is authorized to carry or support legislation providing local governments the authority to permit continuous video recording within taxicabs.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By _____
Ryan Kohut
Deputy City Attorney

RK:sc
01/11/13
Or.Dept:CD9
R-2013-

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of _____.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____
(date)

Bob Filner, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

Bob Filner, Mayor

DRAFT