

DRAFT
COUNCIL POLICY 500-02, "TAXICAB PERMITS"

BACKGROUND

Regulation of taxicab service is in the interest of providing the citizens and visitors to the City of San Diego with a good quality local transportation service. Towards this end, the City finds it desirable to regulate the issuance of taxicab permits.

PURPOSE

To establish a policy for the issuance of additional taxicab permits, for the purpose of expanding the taxi industry to meet growing demand for taxi service throughout the City, and providing opportunity for both existing and new taxi operators and for experienced drivers.

POLICY

The City will periodically issue additional taxicab permits based on a formula. The formula will take into account changes in civilian population and visitation.

New permits will be issued on a full cost recovery basis. Three methods of issuance will be used:

1. 50% of new permits are issued using a Request for proposal (RFP) process, in which qualified persons, companies, businesses, corporations and other entities may submit proposals meeting specified requirements. Proposers will be evaluated based on experience, financial viability and proposed quality and level of service and other relevant factors.
2. 25% of new permits are issued by lottery to experienced drivers.
3. 25% of new permits are issued by auction to highest bidders.

The process through which permits are issued will limit the concentration of permits. No permits will be issued or transferred to any person, company, business, corporation, or other entity if such issuance or transfer would result in any permit holder having an interest in more than 40% of the existing permits. New permits shall not be transferred for a period of five years after issuance.

IMPLEMENTATION

Increases in the number of taxicab permits will be based on a formula to be computed annually. This formula will be applied after a transitional period during which 135 additional permits will be issued. Permits issued during the transitional period shall be distributed using RFP, lottery and auction processes. With the issuance of the 135 additional permits, there will be 1,005 outstanding permits.

Any permits returned by permit holders will be re-issued in conjunction with issuance of new permits.