

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: August 9, 2017

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager

From: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Re: Regulation of Vehicles for Hire, Including Internet-Based Ride Sharing Programs
Ordinance No. 25-2017

Date: August 1, 2017

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Town Council adopt Ordinance No. 25-2017, regarding regulation of vehicles for hire.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Approximately one year ago the Palm Beach County Commission adopted an ordinance to impose new regulations relative to vehicles for hire, including internet-based ride sharing programs such as Uber and Lyft. Subsequent to the County's adoption, the Ordinances, Rules, and Standards (ORS) Committee reviewed the highlights of the new regulations and decided to recommend that the Town rely on the County's regulations and rescind its vehicle for hire ordinance.

Prior to Town Council consideration of approving the ORS recommendation, staff advised the Committee of the State Legislature's intent to address regulations related to ride sharing programs during the 2016/2017 session. Staff also realized that a complete rescinding of our current ordinance would remove the limit on the number of vehicle for hire permits issued each year.

Ordinance No. 25-2017 attached indicates all proposed changes to Section 130 of the Town Code of Ordinances. Much of the Town Code was deleted, as the Town will now follow a great deal of the Palm Beach County regulations relative to vehicles for hire. Vehicles for hire that are permitted in the Town, and their drivers, shall comply with Palm Beach County's Code regarding same. Additionally, if an applicant for a permit has a valid and current Palm Beach County vehicle for hire permit and complies with all other requirements in this regard, the permit application shall be approved and the permits applied for shall be granted in Town, subject to availability. The Town Code will now reference "permits" in place of "certificate of public convenience" in most references of the Code. Vehicles for hire as defined in 320.01 (15) F.S. specifically excludes Transportation Network Companies as defined in 627.748 F.S.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney.

Attachments

cc: Jane Struder, Director of Finance
John C. Randolph, Town Attorney