ARTICLE V. SIGHTSEEING VEHICLES OPERATING PURSUANT TO FRANCHISE

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Sec. 78-250. [Regulatory power.]

Pursuant to applicable law, the city commission may regulate vehicles for hire, including, but not limited to, sightseeing motor vehicles operating within the Key West city limits.

Other than sightseeing motor vehicles operating pursuant to business licenses, as outlined in article IV, above, all other sightseeing motor vehicles operating within the City of Key West must operate pursuant to a franchise ordinance approved by the Key West City Commission pursuant to article 7.01(4) of the City Charter.

The commission may, from time to time, enter into franchise agreements with particular grantee(s), granting the right, privilege, and franchise to use designated streets, avenues and other public highways, together with other public property designated by the city commission in said city, for and during periods of up to ten years. Said franchise agreements shall be for the purpose of a particular grantee's operating and maintaining sightseeing motor vehicles in said city, the enjoyment and exercise of the right so granted to be at all times in conformity with, and subject to, all provisions, terms and conditions of this article. A grantee's right to use the city's streets, alleys, public ways and places for the purposes herein shall not be exclusive, and the city reserves the right to grant the use of all streets, alleys, public ways and places to any person at any time during the period of any franchise granted pursuant to this article.

This article V shall apply to any franchise issued after the effective date of this ordinance, whether a renewal of an existing franchise or otherwise.

(Ord. No. 09-23, § 6, 12-3-2009)

Sec. 78-251. Franchise application process.

(a) Any person or corporation desiring to obtain a new or renewal franchise to operate sightseeing motor vehicles pursuant to this article V shall file an application with the city manager, along with an application fee of $5,000.00 made payable to the City of Key West to subsidize the costs of processing applications.

(b) In order for a franchise application to be considered by the city commission, the application shall contain the following (all submitted in electronic and paper format) to the city manager:

(1) Proposed franchise ordinance meeting the requisites of section 78-252(a);

(2) If the applicant is a corporation, a letter of good standing issued by the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, certifying that the applicant is either a Florida corporation, or a foreign corporation, which is duly registered with the Florida Division of Corporations;

(3) Proposed number of vehicles to be operated under the franchise, with true and accurate color photographs of the vehicles to be used in the operation, along with accurate dimensions, fully loaded weight and turning radius of such vehicles;

(4)

Proposed fixed route, schedules, stops and hours of the operation delineated on a Key West city map and a plan to minimize noise and traffic impacts on the residents and guests of the City of Key West; and

(5) Proposed script of the sightseeing tour to be given to passengers.

(c) Upon receipt of all of the items listed in this section, the city manager shall deem an application "duly-submitted" and the city manager shall place the item as an ordinance for first reading to appear on the agenda for a regularly scheduled city commission meeting occurring within 60 days of the city manager's designation of the application as being "duly-submitted."

(Ord. No. 09-23, § 6, 12-3-2009)

Sec. 78-252. City commission consideration of duly-submitted application.

The Key West City Commission has plenary authority regarding any duly-submitted franchise application.

Consistent with the requirements specified in this chapter, the city commission may grant any application, deny any application, or grant any application with amendments, or conditions, upon any reason in which the city commission deems appropriate for the protection of health, safety and welfare and which advances the public convenience.

(a) Subject to the above plenary authority, the city commission shall not approve a proposed franchise ordinance hereunder unless such franchise ordinance includes:

(1) A provision requiring: that the franchisee shall, at all times, maintain liability insurance in an amount of not less than $10,000,000.00 per occurrence. Such insurance shall comply with the laws and regulations of the State of Florida. All insurance policies insuring said sightseeing/shuttle vehicles shall be issued by an insurance company registered to do business in the State of Florida, subject to the laws and regulations of the State of Florida. Insurers issuing the above-referenced policies must maintain an A.M. Best rating of no less than "A". The City of Key West shall be named as an additional insured on all liability policies. The policies shall contain a waiver of subrogation provision whereas the franchisee's insurer waives any claim against the City of Key West. Certificates of insurance shall be filed and maintained with the city clerk evidencing the minimum limits of insurance cited above. All policies shall provide they may not be terminated or modified without the insurer providing the city at least 30 days' advance notice. The franchisee shall immediately notify the city of any cancellation of such insurance.

At the request of the city manager, the franchisee shall meet with the city's representatives to review the extent and amount of insurance coverage provided hereunder. Should the city manager believe that the coverage provided is not sufficient to protect its interest, it may specify the increased level of insurance required. If franchisee objects to the level of coverage, city and franchisee shall enter into a binding arbitration within 15 days of the date of the dispute to resolve the issue. If city and franchisee are unable to agree on a neutral arbitrator, each party shall select an arbitrator who will then appoint a third arbitrator to resolve the matter. If an arbitrator is not selected through no fault of the city, the coverage required by the city shall be placed.

(2) A provision requiring an annual franchise fee be paid to the City of Key West in an amount equal to the greater of (i) five percent of gross revenues it receives from all sources derived from operations pursuant to the franchise agreement, or (ii) $7,500.00 per vehicle authorized in the franchise agreement (this amount shall be referred to as the "minimum guarantee"). The $7,500.00 per vehicle fee shall be increased yearly in an amount equal to the increase in the United States Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Said five percent shall be paid at the end of each calendar month with a 15-day grace period. The yearly guaranteed minimum payment of $7,500.00 per vehicle shall be payable at the end of each 12-month period with a ten-day grace period. Failure to pay any sum due shall result in

imposition of interest at the rate of 18 percent per annum of the delinquent amount per month or such maximum amount permitted by law until paid in full.

(3) A provision which includes, with detail and specificity, each and every location where vehicles operated pursuant to the franchise will pick up or drop off passengers (hereinafter referred to as "stop(s)").

(4) A provision requiring that the city manager shall have the authority to disapprove any stop, which in the city manager's opinion disrupts traffic, city operations, or is otherwise unreasonably injurious to the public welfare. Should franchisee or any affected party or entity disagree with the decision of the city manager, it shall, by filing written notice with the city clerk appeal the decision to the city commission.

Should franchisee disagree with the decision of the city manager, it shall, by filing written notice with the city clerk within three days of the city manager's written determination, appeal the decision to the city commission.

Upon the establishment of any proposed stop, the city manager shall mail notice to all property owners and franchisees located within 300 feet of the proposed stop. Such property owners and franchisees shall have 20 days from the mailing of the notice to appeal the decision of the city manager to the city commission in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The city manager shall also cause notice to be mailed to all property owners and franchisees located within 300 feet of any location that the city manager has denied the franchisee an opportunity to establish a stop, and for which the franchisee has appealed, informing them of the city commission meeting at which such appeal will be considered.

The city commission shall set the matter for hearing with appropriate public notice for the next regularly scheduled commission meeting. By majority vote, the commission may affirm, reverse or modify the decision of the city manager based upon the factors considered by the city manager and those contained in subsection (b) below.

Such authorized stops shall be for the loading and unloading of passengers only. The franchisee shall not solicit persons or transact ticket sales on the city streets or sidewalks. The city manager shall have the authority to move stops and to reasonably regulate their use by the franchisee, including requiring of the sharing of stops with other franchisees. The location of stops may be marked on city streets in accordance with the City Code of Ordinances by the city for the benefit of the franchisee. The franchisee, with the consent of the city manager, may install signage at such stops subject to any applicable city regulations. If the city should lawfully decide to alter or change the grade of any street or to make any other public improvements which, in the city manager's sole discretion, requires the franchisee to relocate, modify, or otherwise alter its operations under this franchise, the city manager shall give the franchisee at least 48 hours notice of such decision and may require the franchisee to remove its signs, vehicles, or other property in order to facilitate such city project. The franchisee shall acknowledge and agree to release the city from any losses, injuries, or damages it may suffer as a result of such decision by the city. The movement or relocation of any stops on public property shall be applied equally to all operators under city franchises. The city shall not require a franchisee to relocate, temporarily or otherwise, unless the same request is made to all similarly situated franchisees.

(5) A provision which delineates, with detail and specificity, the fixed route of the operation;

(6) If the franchise permits shuttle operations, a provision which requires all such shuttle operations to be subject to the franchise fee provisions;

(7) A provision including the duration and term of the franchise, which duration or term shall not exceed ten years;

(8) A provision which, subject to due process considerations, authorizes the city, upon reasonable notice, to terminate the franchise ordinance upon a finding that the operator has defaulted under, or otherwise violated, the franchise agreement and has not corrected the default after reasonable notice;

(9) A provision requiring the franchisee to indemnify the City of Key West for any and all claims related to the franchisee's operations;

(10) A provision whereby the operator expressly acknowledges that the operator is prohibited from transacting ticket sales on the streets or sidewalks of the city; and

(11) A provision requiring that all vehicles operated pursuant to the franchise agreement use propane fuel or some other environmentally sensitive alternative fuel. If a proposed vehicle presently does not utilize an environmentally sensitive fuel, the franchisee shall submit a plan specifying that such franchisee will do so within one year of the commencement of its franchise as an agreed-upon condition of continued operation.

(12) A provision requiring the franchisee to have its gross revenues and payments to the city audited at least every three years by a certified public accounting firm pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles, and the results of said audit be promptly transmitted to the city. City shall also retain the right to have gross revenues and payments to the city audited at its own expense by a certified public accounting firm selected by city upon 14 days' written notice to franchisee and further provided that the results of such audit be immediately transmitted to franchisee promptly upon completion. Upon 14 days' written notice to franchisee, city shall be permitted to inspect franchisee's books, records and other pertinent financial information to ensure compliance with the provisions of paragraph (2) above.

(b) Subject to the plenary authority of the city commission regarding the issuance and renewal of franchise hereunder, factors which the city commission may take into consideration in acting upon a duly submitted franchise application include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Public safety;

(2) Traffic impacts, including whether the grant of a franchise would unreasonably increase congestion in the historic district;

(3) Performance history of the applicant, if applicable;

(4) Financial responsibility and wherewithal of applicant;

(5) Consistency of vehicle aesthetics and city environment;

(6) Consistency between vehicle aesthetics and historical neighborhoods;

(7) Environmental impacts;

(8) Capacity and volume of noncommercial and commercial traffic;

(9) Public input; and

(10) Any other factors in which legislative bodies would normally consider in acting upon proposed ordinances.

(Ord. No. 09-23, § 6, 12-3-2009)