



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 12, 2024 City Commission meeting

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West

From: Ron Ramsingh, City Attorney

Subject: Amendment of Vehicle for Hire Ordinance Regarding Limousines

Sponsors: Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover

Background

Historically, limousines have been defined as chauffeur-driven luxury vehicles based on a car frame that is limited to 20 feet in length and carries no more than 20 passengers. Vehicles cannot have advertising on the outside, and fares must be arranged in advance. Luxury vans have been excluded from this category. However, recent market demands have shifted the types of vehicles that consumers use. Specifically, stretch Cadillacs, Mercedes and Lincolns, etc. are not so much in demand as luxury "Sprinter" vans that have much taller rooves, which allows for passengers to sit more upright, and enter/exit the vehicle standing up/walking out. There are 3 different lengths of Mercedes Sprinter vans: 233" (19.4 feet) 274" (22.8 feet) and 290" (24.2 feet). Our current ordinance limits limousine lengths to 20 feet and 20 passengers. A typical parking space is 20 feet in length as well. This proposed amendment simply allows for a taller limousine and does not extend the length or width of limousines and limits their size to the smallest luxury Sprinter vans less than 20 feet that do not require a CDL to operate.

Cost

No cost to the City of Key West

Options:

1. PASS the proposed ordinance amendment which would include the more modern version of luxury limousines to include taller "Sprinter" vans. Only the smallest length Mercedes

Sprinter vans would fit the definition. Such vehicles must still meet the definition of luxury limousines, and shall not require a CDL to operate.

2. DENY the proposed ordinance. The current definition of luxury limousines will continue, which specifically excludes vans.

Recommendation:

Pass the proposed ordinance.