MEMORANDUM

Date: September 3, 2025

To: Brian L. Barroso
City Manager

Via: Rod Delostrinos
Assistant City Manager

From: Amanda Shouldice
Chief Licensing Official

Subject: Amending the City's Vehicle for Hire Ordinance

Introduction

The City Commission will consider amending Chapter 78 titled Vehicles for Hire, Article I entitled "In General," by amending Section 78-5 Business License or Franchise required for all vehicles for hire, Article II entitled "Passenger Vehicles for Hire," Section 78-62 Limits on Passenger Vehicle for Hire Licenses, Section 78-64, Independent Passenger Vehicle for Hire Licenses, Section 78-67 Revocation of Authorization to Operate a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, Division 3, Entitled "Driver's Permit," Section 78-92 Requirements for Issuance, Section 78-93 Renewal, Section 78-94 Display, Section 78-95 Driver Actions Prohibited, Section 78-96 Receipts, Division 4 entitled "Vehicle License," Section 78-126 Required, Section 78-127 Display of Decal; Standby Vehicles, Section 78-128 Requirements for Issuance, Section 78-129 Requirements of Licensee, Section 78-130 Renewal, Section 78-132 Provisional License, Division 5 Entitled "Rates and Charges," Section 78-161 Meters; Zones.

Background

Since May of 2024 Code Enforcement has received complaints regarding taxi drivers being unlicensed and charging exorbitant rates for cab rides, due to the taxi meters not working. Code Enforcement has responded to several of these complaints only to discover a difficulty in enforcement due to the Vehicles for Hire Ordinance being antiquated. During my research I discovered the State Department of Weights and Measures no longer performs the calibration of taxi meters with that function being delegated to Counties and Municipalities. The Ordinance amendments proposed will assist Code Enforcement in being proactive regarding working meters and assist in achieving voluntary compliance with the City's Vehicles for Hire Ordinance. The amendment to Section. 78-128 proposes a regulatory license fee increase from $125.00 to $225.00. A regulatory fee is based on the regulated activity's cost. The $125.00 fee was

implemented in 2005 and has not been updated since the time of implementation. Considering the additional staff time for multiple departments to provide a thorough inspection to over 80 vehicles annually and the annual cost of the city seal of approval decals, the fee increase is justified. The fee increase would be applicable for the 2026-2027 Vehicle for Hire renewals which are sent out annually in May. The estimated additional revenue is $9,300.

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Acting Director of Code Enforcement recommend the Mayor and Commission approve the amending of the Vehicles for Hire Ordinance.