

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-20

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA AMENDING TITLE 6
"BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS" OF THE SITKA GENERAL CODE BY
REPEALING CHAPTER 6.30 "TAXICABS" AND REPLACING WITH CHAPTER 6.30
"COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLES" AND AMENDING TITLE 11 "VEHICLES AND
TRAFFIC", CHAPTER 11.45 "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING", SECTION
11.45.140 "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING OF BUSES AND TAXICABS"**

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is of a permanent nature and is intended to become a part of the Sitka General Code (SGC).

2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or any application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application to any person or circumstance shall not be affected.

3. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote safe and convenient commercial passenger vehicle services, and to establish and enforce reasonable, clear, and consistent standards and procedures for regulating those services. The specific purposes of this ordinance are to:

- a. Encourage safe, convenient, and effective commercial passenger vehicle services;
- b. Establish standards for drivers, and operational standards for commercial passenger vehicle services; and
- c. Authorize promulgation of regulations to implement this ordinance.

4. ENACTMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the Sitka General Code Title 6, entitled "Business Licenses and Regulations", be amended: 1) by repealing Chapter 6.30, entitled "Taxicabs" and replacing with Chapter 6.30, entitled "Commercial Passenger Vehicles", and 2) amending Title 11, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Chapter 11.45, entitled "Stopping, Standing and Parking", Section 11.45.140, entitled "Stopping, Standing and Parking of Buses and Taxicabs", to read as follows (deleted language stricken, new language underlined):

**Title 6
BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS**

* * *

Chapter:

~~6.30~~ TAXICABS

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**Chapter ~~6.30~~
TAXICABS**

Sections:

- ~~6.30.010 Definitions.~~
- ~~6.30.020 Operator's license.~~
- ~~6.30.030 Application for operator's license.~~
- ~~6.30.040 Police investigation for applicant.~~
- ~~6.30.050 Eligibility for operator license.~~
- ~~6.30.060 Consideration of application.~~
- ~~6.30.070 Insurance.~~
- ~~6.30.080 Operator's license.~~
- ~~6.30.090 Taxi driver's permit required.~~
- ~~6.30.100 Application for driver's permit.~~
- ~~6.30.110 Police investigation of applicant for driver's permit.~~
- ~~6.30.120 Eligibility for driver's permit.~~
- ~~6.30.130 Consideration of application for driver's permit.~~
- ~~6.30.140 Permit to be posted.~~
- ~~6.30.150 Suspension and revocation of driver's permit.~~
- ~~6.30.160 Initial license/permit Duration.~~
- ~~6.30.170 License/permit renewal and late penalty.~~
- ~~6.30.180 Fees.~~
- ~~6.30.190 Transfer of license or permit.~~
- ~~6.30.200 Licenses and permits property of the municipality.~~
- ~~6.30.210 Notice of suspension or revocation.~~
- ~~6.30.220 Hearing.~~
- ~~6.30.230 Rates.~~
- ~~6.30.240 Receipts.~~
- ~~6.30.250 Acceptance and discharge of passengers.~~
- ~~6.30.260 Vehicles.~~
- ~~6.30.270 Reports and records.~~
- ~~6.30.280 Preexisting licenses and permits.~~
- ~~6.30.290 Violation Penalty.~~

6.30.010 Definitions.

Unless expressly stated, wherever used in this chapter, the following words shall mean:

- A. ~~"Municipality" means the city and borough of Sitka.~~
- B. ~~"Police chief" means the chief of police of the city and borough of Sitka, or his/her authorized representative.~~
- C. ~~"Person" means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association.~~
- D. ~~"Street" means every road, highway, thoroughfare, alley and place, including bridges, viaducts and other structures within the boundaries of this municipality used or intended for the use of the public for vehicles.~~
- E. ~~"Taxicab" means every motor vehicle, except cars for rent without drivers, used for the transportation of passengers for hire within the corporate limits of the municipality, not operated exclusively over a fixed and defined route, but used for transportation of passengers where the destination and route are controlled by the passengers, for which a charge is made.~~
- F. ~~"Taxicab driver" means person who carries on the vocation of driving a taxicab.~~

~~G. "Taxicab operator" means any person engaged in the business of providing services of a taxicab.~~

~~**6.30.020 Operator's license.**~~

~~No person shall operate or permit a taxicab owned or controlled by them to be operated as a vehicle for hire upon the streets of the city and borough of Sitka without having first obtained an operator's license from the chief of police.~~

~~**6.30.030 Application for operator's license.**~~

~~A. An application for an operator's license shall be filed with the police chief upon forms provided by the municipality. The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee to be determined by the police chief per person named as owner or co-owner. Such application shall be verified under oath and shall include the following information:~~

- ~~1. The name and residence address of the applicant;~~
- ~~2. The business name and business address of the taxicab operation;~~
- ~~3. The experience of the applicant in the transportation of passengers;~~
- ~~4. The number of vehicles to be operated or controlled by the applicant and the location of proposed depots or terminals;~~
- ~~5. The color scheme or insignia to be used to designate the vehicle or vehicles of the applicant is to be approved by the police chief;~~
- ~~6. Information regarding any criminal convictions; and~~
- ~~7. Information as the police chief may require.~~

~~B. The application shall be signed by the applicant; such signature shall constitute the applicant's consent to an investigation conducted by the municipality of the applicant's qualifications.~~

~~**6.30.040 Police investigation of applicant.**~~

~~The police department shall conduct an investigation of each applicant for an operator's license, and a report of such investigation shall be maintained.~~

~~Applicants shall provide proof of their residence or residences for the ten years previous to their application and shall provide fingerprints and F.B.I. and state police record printouts as necessary.~~

~~**6.30.050 Eligibility for operator license.**~~

~~Except as provided for in Section 6.30.060, no operator license shall be issued to:~~

~~A. A person who has been convicted of murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree or any other unclassified felony, or their counterparts in another jurisdiction; or~~

~~B. A person who has been convicted of any other crime included in the Alaska Statutes or its counterpart in another jurisdiction, within the time period specified as follows:~~

Years Immediately Preceding	Crime(s)
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**Application for
License**

40	Class A or B felony
5	Class C felony or Class A misdemeanor or other felony or misdemeanor not specifically classified as unclassified, A, B or C
2	Class B misdemeanor

~~G.— An applicant who fails to supply information so required or submits false or misleading information.~~

~~6.30.060—Consideration of application.~~

~~A.— The police chief, after considering the application, the reports required to be attached thereto, and the results of the police investigation, shall approve or deny the application for an operator's license. The chief of police shall issue a statement of reasons in writing for a denial. If the application is denied, the applicant may request a hearing, pursuant to Section 6.30.220, before the police chief, to offer evidence why the denial should be reconsidered. An adverse decision may be appealed to the municipal administrator and ultimately to the municipal assembly.~~

~~B.— The purpose of these regulations is to promote the safety of taxicab passengers and of the public generally. In considering an appeal or application, the police chief, the administrator and the assembly shall consider the nature of the disqualifying offense or other justification for permit denial, the time which has passed, as well as the applicant's driving record and the applicant's completion of any condition or requirement of any probation imposed, in determining if public safety will be protected if the appeal is granted.~~

~~C.— No right of appeal should be afforded to persons convicted of a class A felony.~~

~~6.30.070—Insurance.~~

~~A.— Before a license is issued to any operator, the operator shall deposit with the police chief a policy or policies of an insurance company or companies duly licensed to transact business in the state, insuring the operator of any taxicab against loss and liability imposed by law for damages on account of bodily injuries or death, or for damages to property resulting from the ownership, maintenance, or use of any taxicab to be owned or operated under such license and naming the city as an additional insured. The policy or policies shall be approved by the municipal attorney as to form and compliance with this chapter. The limit in any such insurance policy shall be not less than fifty thousand dollars for damage to or destruction of property arising out of a single accident or occurrence, one hundred thousand dollars for bodily injuries to or death of one person, and two hundred thousand dollars for any number of claims arising out of a single accident or occurrence.~~

~~B.— The policy or policies shall be maintained in full force and effect during the operation of the business and shall provide for thirty days' prior notification to the police chief of all changes in the terms and/or cancellation of the policy.~~

~~C.— Any license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire automatically upon the cancellation of the insurance required by this section.~~

~~D.— The licensed operator may not sublet or permit satellite business operations to extend from his license; and~~

~~1.— The operator must be the person or entity controlling the business operations of the taxicab operation for which the license is issued;~~

~~2.— The operator may allow drivers with permits required by SGC Section 6.30.100 to lease his vehicles or drive their own vehicles if all of the following exist:~~

~~a.— The vehicles are properly licensed and registered, and~~

~~b.— The vehicles and drivers are fully insured as required by SGC Section 6.30.070 and fully comply with the other requirements of this chapter, including, but not limited to insignia and color requirements, and~~

~~c.— The operator shall maintain central records for all taxicabs in his operation, and~~

~~d.— The operator shall be responsible for any damage or personal injury caused by negligent or wilful misconduct of drivers and vehicles in his operation;~~

~~E.— Any change in ownership shall require a new application for an operator's permit or license.~~

~~6.30.080 — Suspension or revocation of license.~~

~~A.— The operator's license issued under the provisions of this chapter may be revoked or suspended by the chief of police if the holder thereof has:~~

~~1.— Violated any of the provisions of this chapter;~~

~~2.— Discontinued operations for more than thirty days;~~

~~3.— Committed any offense as listed in Section 6.30.050;~~

~~4.— Violated subsection D of Section 6.30.070.~~

~~B.— Except as otherwise provided in subsection C below, prior to suspension or revocation, the holder shall be given notice of the proposed action to be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.30.210.~~

~~C.— Upon determining that an immediate danger to persons or property exists, the police chief may suspend the license at once. The suspension shall take effect immediately upon notice of the suspension being received by the licensee, or being delivered to the licensee's business address as stated on the licensee's application for the license that is being suspended. The notice provided for in Section 6.30.210 shall be mailed to the licensee by certified mail.~~

~~6.30.090 — Taxi driver's permit required.~~

~~No person shall drive a taxicab for hire upon the streets of the city and borough of Sitka and no person who owns or controls a taxicab shall permit it to be so driven unless the driver of the taxicab shall have first obtained and shall have then in force a taxicab driver's permit issued under the provisions of this chapter.~~

6.30.100—Application for driver's permit.

~~A.— An application for a taxicab driver's permit shall be filed with the police chief on forms provided by the municipality; and such application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee to be determined by the police chief. The application shall be verified, under oath, and shall contain the following:~~

- ~~1.— Name and residence address of the applicant;~~
- ~~2.— A concise history of the applicant's employment;~~
- ~~3.— Name of prospective employer;~~
- ~~4.— Information relating to criminal convictions;~~
- ~~5.— Information relating to convictions of traffic infractions;~~
- ~~6.— Number of valid Alaska driver's license;~~
- ~~7.— Such other information as the police chief may require;~~
- ~~8.— Two two-inch by two-inch full-face photographs, to be taken by the Sitka police department.~~

~~B.— The application shall be signed by the applicant; such signature shall constitute the applicant's consent to an investigation conducted by the municipality of the applicant's qualifications.~~

~~C.— A taxicab driver's license shall not be issued to any person who does not meet the medical standards set forth in 2 AAC 90.440.~~

6.30.110—Police investigation of applicant for driver's permit.

~~The police department shall conduct an investigation of each applicant for a taxicab driver's permit, and a report of such investigation shall be forwarded to the police chief.~~

~~Applicants shall provide proof of their residence or residences for the ten years prior to their application and shall provide fingerprints and F.B.I. and state police record printouts as necessary.~~

6.30.120—Eligibility for driver's permit.

~~Except as provided for in Section 6.30.130, no driver's permit shall be issued to:~~

~~A.— A person who does not have a valid driver's license issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles; or~~

~~B.— A person who has been convicted of murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree, or any other unclassified felony, or their counterparts in another jurisdiction; or~~

~~C.— A person who has been convicted of any other crime included in the Alaska Statutes not described in Section 6.30.120D or its counterpart in another jurisdiction within the time periods specified as follows:~~

Years Immediately Preceding	Crime(s)
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**Application for
Permit**

40	Class A or B felony
5	Class C felony or Class A misdemeanor or other felony or misdemeanor not specifically classified as unclassified, A, B or C
2	Class B misdemeanor

~~D.— A person who has been convicted of a traffic offense, as is defined in Alaska Statute Title 28, or Title 11 of the Sitka General Code, or their counterparts in another jurisdiction, within the time periods specified as follows:~~

**Years Immediately
Preceding
Application for
Permit**

Crime(s)

2	Major traffic offense, including driving while under the influence, refusal to take breath test
4	Accumulation of eight or more points under the Department of Motor Vehicles system in any one year

~~E.— An applicant who fails to supply information so required or who submits false or misleading information.~~

~~6.30.130— Consideration of application for driver's permit.~~

~~A.— The chief of police shall, upon consideration of the application and the police investigation, approve or deny the application for a driver's permit. The chief of police shall issue a statement of reasons in writing for a denial. If the application is denied, the applicant may request a hearing, which shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.30.220 to offer evidence why the denial should be reconsidered. An adverse decision may be appealed to the municipal administrator and ultimately to the municipal assembly.~~

~~B.— The chief of police shall have the power, in his/her sole discretion, to issue temporary licenses pending completion of the application investigation.~~

~~C.— The purpose of these regulations is to promote the safety of taxicab passengers and of the public generally. In considering an appeal or application, the police chief, the administrator and~~

~~the assembly shall consider the nature of the disqualifying offense or other jurisdiction for permit denial, the time which has passed, as well as the applicant's driving record, and the applicant's completion of any condition or requirement of any probation imposed, in determining if public safety will be protected if the appeal is granted.~~

~~D.— No right of appeal should be afforded to persons convicted of a class A felony.~~

~~6.30.140—Permit to be posted.~~

~~The driver's permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the taxicab which the driver is operating.~~

~~6.30.150—Suspension and revocation of driver's permit.~~

~~A.— The police chief may suspend or revoke any driver's permit issued under this chapter for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter and for violation of the offenses listed in Section 6.30.120.~~

~~B.— Except as otherwise provided in subsection C of this section, prior to suspension or revocation, the permit holder shall be given notice of the proposed action to be taken, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.30.210.~~

~~C.— Upon determining that an immediate danger to person or property exists, the police chief may suspend the license at once. The suspension shall take effect immediately upon notice of the suspension being received by the licensee, or being delivered to the licensee's business address as stated on the licensee's application for the license that is being suspended. The notice provided for in Section 6.30.210 shall be mailed to the licensee by certified mail.~~

~~6.30.160—Initial license/permit—Duration.~~

~~Unless a shorter period is specified, new licenses or permits shall be valid from the date of issuance for a term of one year.~~

~~6.30.170—License/permit renewal and late penalty.~~

~~The application for renewal of a license or permit shall be made to the municipality prior to the license or permit expiration date. A penalty to be determined by the police chief shall be added to the license or permit fee accompanying a renewal application received by the municipality after the expiration date.~~

~~6.30.180—Fees.~~

~~No taxicab operator's license or taxicab driver's permit shall be issued or continue to be valid unless the holder thereof has paid the fees as required.~~

~~6.30.190—Transfer of license or permit.~~

~~No license or permit issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter may be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred.~~

~~6.30.200—Licenses and permits property of the municipality.~~

~~Any license or permit issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall remain the property of the city and borough of Sitka, and upon expiration, revocation or suspension, it shall be returned to the municipality. If a license or permit is lost or destroyed, upon affidavit made as to its loss or destruction, it may be replaced upon payment by the applicant of a required fee to be determined by the police chief.~~

~~6.30.210—Notice of suspension or revocation.~~

~~Unless otherwise provided, prior to revocation or suspension of a license or permit issued under the provisions of this chapter, the chief of police shall provide a notice to the holder of said license or permit. The notice shall contain the following information:~~

~~A.—The name and title of the person issuing the notice;~~

~~B.—The date on which the suspension or revocation will become effective;~~

~~C.—The reason for the revocation or suspension;~~

~~D.—That the licensee or permittee may request a hearing regarding the revocation or suspension;~~

~~E.—That the request for a hearing must be made in person or in writing and received by the police chief within ten days after receipt of the notice;~~

~~F.—That failure to appear in person or mail a letter within ten days after receipt of the notice or by its return by the Postal Service shall act as a waiver of the right to a hearing and the revocation or suspension will, if applicable, become effective on the date included in the notice.~~

~~6.30.220—Hearing.~~

~~A.—Upon request for a hearing, as provided above, a hearing shall be held before the chief of police. The hearing shall be set and conducted within forty-eight hours of receipt of the request, holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays not to be included. The hearing can be set for a later date if the applicant, licensee or permittee so requests.~~

~~B.—At the hearing the applicant, licensee or permittee may contest the denial, revocation or suspension of the license or permit.~~

~~C.—If the police chief finds that the applicant, licensee or permit holder is not eligible for a license or permit, the chief of police may declare the license or permit denied, revoked or suspended. The action of the chief of police is appealable to the assembly of the city and borough of Sitka. The decision of the assembly is final.~~

~~D.—If the applicant, licensee or permittee does not appear at the scheduled hearing, the police chief shall enter an order supporting the denial, revocation or suspension of the license or permit.~~

~~6.30.230—Rates.~~

~~A.—The police chief shall have the right, at any time, after notice to license holders and public hearing, to approve the maximum rates to be charged by taxicabs in the municipality, and no operator shall thereafter charge any passenger a rate higher than those approved by the police chief.~~

~~B.—The driver or operator of any taxicab shall post in a conspicuous place on such vehicle, and keep posted, a copy of such rates in accordance with the rates approved by the police chief.~~

~~6.30.240—Receipts.~~

~~The driver of a taxicab shall, upon demand by the passenger, render to such passenger a receipt for the amount charged, either by a mechanically printed receipt or by a specially prepared receipt, on which shall be the name of the owner, license number, charges, and the date of transaction.~~

~~6.30.250—Acceptance and discharge of passengers.~~

~~Drivers of taxicabs shall not receive or discharge passengers in the roadway, but shall pull up to the right hand side as nearly as possible or, in the absence of a sidewalk, to the extreme right hand side of the road and there receive or discharge passengers, except upon one way streets, where passengers may be discharged at either the right hand or left hand sidewalk or side of the roadway in the absence of a sidewalk.~~

~~6.30.260—Vehicles.~~

~~A. Vehicles must be kept in clean and sanitary condition and shall be inspected by the Sitka police department prior to being used as a taxicab and each year upon renewal of the operator's license or permit or periodically as determined by the police chief. There will be a fee for each inspection.~~

~~B. All vehicles belonging to, or operated by, a particular operator shall be designated by an insignia or logo sufficient to identify that operator's taxicabs to the public.~~

~~C. Smoking in the vehicle is prohibited under Section 9.20.015(L), entitled "Prohibition of smoking in public places."~~

~~6.30.270—Reports and records.~~

~~Any accidents arising from or in connection with the operation of taxicabs which result in death or injury to any person or in damage to any vehicle or to any property in an amount exceeding the sum of five hundred dollars shall be reported within twenty four hours from the time of occurrence to the police chief.~~

~~6.30.280—Preexisting licenses and permits.~~

~~All operator licenses and taxicab driver permits valid on January 15, 1986, the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, shall be and remain valid until their normal expiration dates, unless revoked or suspended in accordance with the provisions of Sections 6.30.080, 6.30.150 or 6.30.290.~~

~~6.30.290—Violation—Penalty.~~

~~Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.~~

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Chapter 6.30
COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLES

Sections:

6.30.010 Definitions.

6.30.020 Administration.

6.30.030 Permit application, issuance, amendment, and transfer.

6.30.040 Administrative sanctions and permit denials.

6.30.050 Procedure for permit denials and administrative sanctions.

6.30.060 No vested rights.

6.30.065 Transition – Preexisting licenses and permits.

6.30.070 Operator's license required.

378 6.30.080 Registration of drivers and vehicles.
379 6.30.090 Endorsements.
380 6.30.100 Professional driver's permit and registration required.
381 6.30.110 Professional driver's permit qualifications and application.
382 6.30.120 Class C driver's permit and registration required.
383 6.30.130 Class C driver's permit qualifications and application.
384 6.30.140 Vehicle approval required.
385 6.30.150 Vehicle standards.
386 6.30.160 Radar detectors, excess passengers, radio scanners prohibited.
387 6.30.170 Insurance.
388 6.30.180 City and borough taxes.
389 6.30.190 Intercepting service call.
390 6.30.200 Application of traffic laws.
391 6.30.210 Official traffic control devices.

392
393 **6.30.010 Definitions.**

394 The following words, terms and phrases when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings
395 ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
396

397 A. "Address of record" means the address provided by a permittee or if not so provided, as
398 set forth in the application for the permit.
399

400 B. "Bus" means a commercial passenger vehicle designed to transport more than 15
401 passengers, including the driver.
402

403 C. "Charter service" means time-based transportation provided by a Class A vehicle at the
404 request of a passenger for multiple stops, extended waiting, or other arrangements where the
405 driver is not released to other calls during the engagement, billed at a time-based rate
406 established in Appendix A without reference to destination or distance.
407

408 D. "Commercial passenger vehicle" means a vehicle, including a vehicle propelled solely by
409 human or animal power, while in use, or marked or otherwise apparently available for use for
410 the transportation of passengers for compensation, but not including courtesy vehicles, school
411 buses owned or operated by, or operating exclusively under a contract to, the school district;
412 vehicles used by profit or nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or disabled persons
413 and their attendants; vehicles operated by a driver for a transportation network company
414 regulated under AS 28.23; vehicles providing public transit service that is open to the general
415 public on a fixed route and schedule; or vehicles operated by or while engaged in providing
416 services directly to the city and borough, a federally recognized tribe, the state, or the federal
417 government.
418

419 E. "Commercial passenger vehicle stop" means a location established by the chief of police
420 at which specified classes of commercial passenger vehicles are subject to specified privileges
421 or limitations.
422

423 F. "Compensation" means a fee paid by a passenger directly or indirectly to a commercial
424 passenger vehicle permittee, whether the payment is made at the time the service is rendered,
425 or in the form of a monthly or other periodic payment. A tip or gratuity shall not be considered
426 compensation provided that it is not solicited by the driver through words, posted signage, or

any device during the course of a trip, and is neither an explicit nor implicit condition of transportation.

G. "Courtesy vehicle" means a vehicle providing passenger transportation to patrons of a business as a regular amenity without direct compensation.

1. For the purposes of this definition:

a. "Business" means a person whose primary commercial service is one or more of the following:

i. Commercial lodging facilities, meaning a structure or portions of a structure occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes, and includes any hotel, motel, inn, bed and breakfast, or similar structure.

ii. Tours or experiences but not sightseeing in the vehicle.

iii. Automobile repair.

b. "Patron" means a member of the public purchasing a primary service of the business. Persons who are neither patrons nor employees of the business may not be transported in the courtesy vehicle.

c. "Regular amenity" means the passenger service is offered to all patrons for the purpose of rendering the primary service more attractive or convenient but is not itself the primary purpose of the business, and no separate charge is made to patrons for the amenity.

H. "Directed to that person" means a request for commercial passenger vehicle services communicated to a specific driver or operator by telephone, electronic dispatch, or direct personal address by the passenger. A general street hail shall be deemed directed to the first driver who responds to it.

I. "Dispatch" means to receive requests for, arrange for, coordinate, or direct the delivery of commercial passenger vehicle services.

J. "Drive" means to be in, and "driver" means the person in, physical control of a commercial passenger vehicle.

K. "Endorsement" means an operator's license notation authorizing the holder to provide one of the following types of commercial passenger vehicle services: Class A, Class B, Class C.

L. "Holder" means the person to whom an operator's license has been issued.

M. "Knowingly permit" means to be aware of an action or condition, to have the ability and opportunity to prevent or end it, and allow or fail to prevent or end it. There is a rebuttable presumption that a person is aware of an action or condition that a reasonable person in the same position would be aware of.

N. "Limousine services" means transportation services provided under a Class B endorsement, available only by advance reservation, at an hourly rate, by a bona fide limousine company, and marketed primarily for the luxury quality of the experience.

O. "Municipality" means the city and borough of Sitka.

P. "Permit" used as a noun means a professional driver's permit or Class C driver's permit issued under this chapter, a vehicle approval issued under this chapter, or an operator's license issued under this chapter.

Q. "Permittee" means a person who has been issued a permit.

R. "Person" means a natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

S. "Police chief" means the chief of police of the city and borough of Sitka, or his/her authorized representative.

T. "Provide commercial passenger vehicle services" means to offer, advertise for, solicit for sale, dispatch, or direct transportation in, or own or drive a commercial passenger vehicle.

U. "Revoke" and "revocation" mean that a permit is voided and the permittee to whom it was issued may not be issued any other permit under this chapter for a period of one year from the date the revocation is effective, or such longer period as the commercial passenger vehicle manager shall determine.

V. "Shuttle" means a Class B vehicle that transports passengers on a specified route, with specified stops. Except for the point of origin, a stop shall not exceed ten minutes.

W. "Street" means every road, highway, thoroughfare, alley and place, including bridges, viaducts and other structures within the boundaries of this municipality used or intended for the use of the public for vehicles.

X. "Suspend" and "suspension" mean that a permit is ineffective for a specified portion of its term, and the permittee to whom it was issued may not be issued any other permit under this chapter during the suspension period. The suspension may be conditioned on correction of a status or condition of a person or a vehicle.

Y. "Taxi" means a vehicle providing services unrestricted as to method of contracting, route, stops, destination, or combination thereof.

Z. "Tour" means a Class B vehicle that transports passengers to one or more locations and returns to its starting point with the same group of passengers.

6.30.020 Administration.

A. The chief of police or designee shall serve as the commercial passenger vehicle manager. The commercial passenger vehicle manager shall exercise all powers necessary to the administration and regulation of commercial passenger vehicles, subject to the general supervision of the municipal administrator.

B. Regulations. The chief of police shall issue regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, which shall be adopted by the assembly. The fare schedule for Class A taxi services shall be established by the chief of police and published as Appendix A to the regulations.

C. Fine schedule. The chief of police shall establish a schedule of fines for infractions under this chapter, which shall be adopted by the assembly concurrently with the regulations required under this section and published as Appendix B to the regulations. The fine schedule shall be made available to all permittees upon issuance of any permit under this chapter.

6.30.030 Permit application, issuance, amendment, and transfer.

A. Application. Application for permits must be submitted on forms provided by the commercial passenger vehicle manager, who shall reject applications that are incomplete, unsigned, or unaccompanied by the required fee, or for a permittee that has unpaid commercial passenger vehicle fines or fees. The commercial passenger vehicle manager may require an applicant to submit evidence of authority to submit an application.

B. Issuance. Permits shall be issued to qualified applicants by the commercial passenger vehicle manager in accordance with this chapter. Any license or permit issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall remain the property of the city and borough of Sitka, and upon expiration, revocation or suspension, it shall be returned to the municipality. If a license or permit is lost or destroyed, upon affidavit made as to its loss or destruction, it may be replaced upon payment by the applicant of a required fee to be determined by the commercial passenger vehicle manager.

C. Amendment and transfer. No license or permit issued in accordance with this chapter may be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred. The commercial passenger vehicle manager may amend a permit upon application by the permittee to add or remove a registered driver or vehicle, or to modify the conditions of an endorsement.

6.30.040 Administrative sanctions and permit denials.

A. A permit may be denied, suspended, or revoked if the permittee has violated any provision of this chapter, failed to comply with a lawful written order of the commercial passenger vehicle manager, or has committed any criminal offense, infraction, or regulatory violation specified in regulations issued pursuant to this chapter as grounds for denial, suspension or revocation.

B. An application shall be denied, or a permit immediately suspended, upon the commercial passenger vehicle manager's receipt of a criminal charging document or conviction of the applicant or permittee for criminally sexual behavior, defined as the offenses set forth in Article 4 of AS 11.41, or substantially similar offenses under the laws of another jurisdiction within the United States.

6.30.050 Procedure for permit denials and administrative sanctions.

A. The commercial passenger vehicle manager may summarily suspend or revoke a permit without notice or hearing upon a written determination that grounds for permit suspension or revocation exist and that summary suspension or revocation is necessary to prevent a clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property. Following a summary suspension or revocation under this subsection, the permittee may request a hearing pursuant to the

procedures established by regulation and may appeal the result of that hearing pursuant to subsection (C) of this section.

B. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, an application may be denied, or a permit may be suspended or revoked, only after notice, an opportunity for a hearing before the chief of police, and a written finding that grounds for the denial or sanction have been established by a preponderance of the evidence.

C. A finding by the chief of police regarding denial of an application or suspension or revocation of a permit shall be in writing. The action of the chief of police is appealable to the municipal administrator if such an appeal is brought within 10 days. The appeal decision of the municipal administrator shall constitute a final administrative decision of the City and Borough of Sitka, which may be appealed to the Superior Court if such an appeal is brought within 30 days.

D. Hearing before the chief of police under this section shall be informal. Relevant evidence must be admitted if it is probative of a material fact in controversy. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded.

E. For purposes of permit denial or revocation under this section, a criminal violation or infraction as provided by SGC 6.30.040 (A) and (B) and accompanying regulations may be established either by evidence of a conviction or bail forfeiture in criminal court or by a preponderance of the evidence in a hearing under this section.

6.30.060 No vested rights.

A. This chapter is enacted for the benefit and protection of the public safety and interest and may be repealed or amended at any time for the same purpose without liability for the effect such repeal or amendment may have on the profits or losses of any person. No vested rights are created by this chapter, nor any permit issued by authority of this chapter. No interest in any permit, license, or other type of permission granted under this chapter may be amended, used, transferred, or modified in any way except as allowed by this chapter.

B. The grant or denial of a permit, or any act or omission by the city and borough with respect to such permit is not intended to regulate the private business relationships or to protect the business interests of one party against another. It shall be the individual responsibility of those regulated to enforce their rights and liabilities through civil actions or such other private relief as may be available.

6.30.065 Transition – Preexisting licenses and permits.

All driver permits valid on the effective date of this chapter shall remain valid through their current expiration dates. All operator licenses valid on the effective date of this chapter shall remain valid until March 14, 2028, unless earlier suspended or revoked. Renewal of such licenses and permits shall be governed by this chapter.

6.30.070 Operator's license required.

A. It is unlawful for any person to provide or attempt to provide commercial passenger vehicle services, or knowingly permit another to do so, except under the authority of a current operator's license issued by the city and borough.

B. Violation of this section is an infraction; each vehicle, each day, shall be a separate offense.

6.30.080 Registration of drivers and vehicles.

A. Each operator's license shall identify the drivers and vehicles registered to that license.

B. No holder shall provide, or knowingly permit another to provide, commercial passenger vehicle services with a driver or vehicle that is not registered to an operator's license issued to that holder. Violation of this subsection is an infraction.

C. The holder of an operator's license shall report to the commercial passenger vehicle manager any violation of this chapter, or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, by a driver registered to the operator's license of which the holder is aware. A holder shall be responsible for violations that the holder directed, authorized, or was aware of and failed to correct within a reasonable time after notification by the commercial passenger vehicle manager or a law enforcement officer.

6.30.090 Endorsements.

Each operator's license shall be endorsed for one or more of the types of service set out in this section. The endorsement shall set forth conditions. Further conditions may be established by regulation.

A. Class A endorsement.

1. Purpose. An operator's license endorsed for Class A service may not be endorsed for any other service, in order to ensure that Class A operators remain dedicated to providing readily available taxi service to the general public throughout the roaded service area.
2. Conditions. The endorsement shall be subject to the conditions that the holder charges the standard fare or, where applicable, the charter rate, each as established by the chief of police and published in Appendix A to the regulations, and that the service be available to provide transportation throughout the roaded service area to the general public.
3. Method of establishing fares. The chief of police shall, by regulation, establish a standard fare to be charged by all taxis operating in the city and borough. Before establishing or amending the fare schedule, the chief of police shall provide written notice to all current Class A license holders and shall hold a public hearing. In setting the fare, the chief of police shall consider the following factors:
 - a. The public need for readily available taxi service at a reasonable cost;
 - b. The cost of vehicle operation, including fuel, maintenance, insurance, depreciation, and license fees;
 - c. Prevailing driver wages and cost of living in the city and borough; and
 - d. Revenue sufficient to sustain viable commercial taxi operations.
4. Posted fares. The driver or operator of a taxi shall post in a conspicuous place on such vehicle, and keep posted, the rate card reflecting the fare schedule established by the chief of police in Appendix A to the regulations.

5. Receipts. The driver of a taxi shall, upon demand by the passenger, render to such passenger a receipt for the amount charged, either by a mechanically printed receipt or by a specially prepared receipt, on which shall be the name of the owner, license number, charges, and the date of transaction.

6. Infractions. It shall be an infraction for a person driving a commercial passenger vehicle pursuant to a Class A endorsement to charge, or to knowingly permit another to charge, for such services in an amount other than that established by the chief of police.

B. Class B endorsement.

1. Purpose. The Class B endorsement includes commercial passenger vehicles, other than taxis, providing tours, limousine services, and similar services.

2. Conditions. The service shall be subject to conditions established by regulation specifying stops, routes, forms of passenger pickup, or other limitations.

3. Infractions. It shall be an infraction for a driver operating pursuant to a Class B endorsement to stop a vehicle to pick up or discharge a passenger at a place not authorized by the endorsement.

C. Class C endorsement.

1. Purpose. The Class C endorsement is for human-powered vehicles.

2. Conditions. The services shall be subject to conditions established by regulation specifying stops, routes, forms of passenger pickup, or other limitations.

3. Infractions. It shall be an infraction for a driver operating pursuant to a Class C endorsement to stop a vehicle to pick up or discharge a passenger at a place not authorized by the endorsement.

D. Operating a commercial passenger vehicle or knowingly permitting another to operate a commercial passenger vehicle, in violation of its endorsement, or conditions of its endorsement, is an infraction.

6.30.100 Professional driver's permit and registration required.

A. Drivers of Class A licensed vehicles must obtain a professional driver's permit. Drivers of Class B licensed vehicles must obtain a professional driver's permit unless the driver holds a current commercial driver's license.

B. A driver shall display the driver's permit as required by regulation.

C. It is unlawful for an operator's license holder to allow a person who does not hold a current professional driver's permit, or a commercial driver's license if operating a Class B vehicle, to drive a commercial passenger vehicle.

D. Violation of subsection A, B, or C of this section is an infraction.

6.30.110 Professional driver's permit qualifications and application.

A. In order to qualify for a professional driver's permit, an applicant must possess a current state driver's license.

B. In order to qualify for a professional driver's permit, a driver shall not have been convicted of a felony within the preceding five years or any two or more misdemeanors within the preceding five years, or had an operator's license suspended more than once or revoked at any time within the preceding three years; provided, however, that if the crime for which the driver is convicted is for criminally sexual behavior, as defined as the offenses set forth in Article 4 of AS 11.41 or substantially similar offenses of the laws of another jurisdiction within the United States, or a felony for which the driver is convicted in any way involving a commercial passenger vehicle, the commercial passenger vehicle manager shall not issue a professional driver's permit to that person, regardless of when the conviction occurred.

C. In order to qualify for a professional driver's permit, an applicant must meet the medical standards established by regulation, which shall be no less protective than those set forth in 2 AAC 90.440 as amended.

6.30.120 Class C driver's permit and registration required.

A. Drivers of Class C licensed vehicles must obtain a Class C driver's permit.

B. A driver shall display the driver's permit as required by regulation.

C. It is unlawful for an operator's license holder to allow a person who does not hold a Class C driver's permit to drive a Class C commercial passenger vehicle.

D. Violation of subsection A, B, or C of this section is an infraction.

6.30.130 Class C driver's permit qualifications and application.

A. In order to qualify for a Class C driver's permit, an applicant must possess a current state driver's license.

B. In order to qualify for a Class C driver's permit, a driver shall not have had an operator's license suspended more than once, or revoked at any time, within the preceding three years.

6.30.140 Vehicle approval required.

A. No holder shall provide, or knowingly permit another to provide, commercial passenger vehicle services with a vehicle that is not currently approved by the commercial passenger vehicle manager. This section applies to vehicles operating under a Class A or Class C endorsement, and to vehicles operating under a Class B endorsement that are not subject to safety inspection or certification requirements under AS 28 or regulations adopted thereunder.

B. A vehicle approval shall be issued by the commercial passenger vehicle manager to the holder of the operator's license upon proof that the vehicle has been inspected by the police department and otherwise meets all requirements set forth in this chapter and in regulations issued pursuant to this chapter.

C. A vehicle shall be subject to unannounced inspection (i) If the commercial passenger vehicle manager or any police officer has a reasonable suspicion that the vehicle creates an imminent danger to the public, or (ii) under a program set forth by regulation.

D. Violation of subsection A of this section is an infraction. Each day of operation is a separate offense.

6.30.150 Vehicle standards.

A. The chief of police shall issue regulations establishing safety and operational standards for commercial passenger vehicle businesses. Such regulations shall be adopted by the assembly as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

B. No person may provide commercial passenger vehicle services in a vehicle that is in violation of the regulations promulgated under this section. Violation of this section is an infraction subject to the fine described in the accompanying regulations.

6.30.160 Radar detectors, excess passengers, radio scanners prohibited.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to provide commercial passenger vehicle services in a vehicle equipped with any device, passive or active, to detect or purposefully interfere with any radar, laser, or other device employed by law enforcement personnel to measure the speed of motor vehicles for law enforcement purposes.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to provide commercial passenger vehicle services in a vehicle carrying more than the maximum passenger capacity specified by the commercial passenger vehicle manager for that vehicle. Each excess passenger is a separate offense.

C. It shall be unlawful for the driver of a taxi, or the holder of an operator's license endorsed for taxi service to provide services in a vehicle equipped with a device capable of monitoring the radio communications of another holder or the city and borough police department. This subsection shall not apply to a taxi vehicle not in service and lawfully marked as such.

D. Violation of this section is an infraction.

6.30.170 Insurance.

A vehicle owner or driver shall provide commercial passenger vehicle services only in a vehicle covered by one or more liability insurance policies in amounts and for risks established by the chief of police by regulation. Violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor and a cause for suspension or revocation of a permit issued under this chapter.

6.30.180 City and Borough taxes.

A. An application may be denied, or a permit may be suspended or revoked, if the applicant is delinquent in any city and borough fee levied under this chapter, sales or business personal property tax, penalty, or interest. In addition, an application may be denied, or a permit may be suspended or revoked, for an entity in which the applicant, as an owner, operator, permittee, director, shareholder, officer, partner, manager, assignor, seller, or transferor of any business, which required an operator's license, regardless of its form of legal entity, is delinquent in the payment of any city and borough fee levied under this chapter, sales or business personal property tax, penalty, or interest pursuant to SGC 4.25.

B. An application shall not be denied, nor a permit be suspended or revoked under subsection A, if the applicant or permit holder has entered into a confession of judgment for the unpaid fee, tax, penalty, or interest, and remains in compliance with the terms of the associated stipulation.

C. A holder is responsible for collecting and remitting the city and borough sales taxes for compensation paid for commercial passenger vehicle services provided under the holder's operator's license. The chief of police shall prescribe tax record-keeping requirements by regulation.

6.30.190 Intercepting service call.

It shall be unlawful for any person to provide commercial passenger vehicle services in response to a request unless the request was directed to that person. Violation of this section is an infraction.

6.30.200 Application of traffic laws.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this chapter and other traffic laws, this chapter shall control.

6.30.210 Official traffic control devices.

The chief of police may install signs or other official traffic control devices that limit stopping, standing, parking, or other operations by commercial passenger vehicles.

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**Title 11
VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

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**Chapter 11.45
STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING**

* * *

Sections:

11.45.140 Stopping, standing and parking of buses and ~~taxicabs~~ commercial passenger vehicles.

* * *

A. It is unlawful for any person to park or stop any bus upon any part of Lincoln Street between the intersection of Lincoln Street with Lake Street and Harbor Drive and the Standard Oil fuel dock, except as follows:

1. When a cruise ship or ferry is in port, buses may park on the seaward side of Lincoln Street while actively loading or unloading passengers only;

2. As specified and posted by the chief of police of the city and borough of Sitka.

B. The driver of a bus shall enter a bus stop or passenger loading zone on a street, highway, or roadway in such a manner that the bus, when stopped to load or unload passengers or baggage, shall be in a position with the right front wheel of such vehicle not further than 18

inches from the curb and the bus approximately parallel to the curb so as not to unduly impede the movement of other vehicular traffic.

C. No ~~taxicab~~ commercial passenger vehicle ~~or for hire vehicle~~ shall be parked on any street or public parking lot in the central business district and public use zones in excess of two hours. Otherwise, the driver of a ~~taxicab~~ commercial passenger vehicle may temporarily stop or park in accordance with other stopping or parking regulations at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers. ~~Outside the central business district and the public use zones, taxicabs shall be subject to the same parking regulations as private vehicles except that nowhere in the municipality may more than one taxicab be parked on the same side of the street in any one block (meaning from street corner to street corner).~~

D. Outside the central business district and the public use zones, commercial passenger vehicles shall be subject to the same parking regulations as private vehicles, except that nowhere in the municipality may more than one commercial passenger vehicle be parked on the same side of the street in any one block (meaning from street corner to street corner).

* * *

5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2027.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, this 25th day of August, 2026.

ATTEST:

JJ Carlson, Deputy Mayor

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st reading: 8/11/2026
2nd and final reading: 8/25/2026

Sponsor: Administrator