

January 19, 2011

Name
Company Name
Address
Gainesville, FL

Dear :

Over the past few years, the Gainesville City Commission's Public Safety Committee has received reports of overcharging by vehicle-for-hire companies. Some of these reports have come from University of Florida students.

On Monday, November 15, 2010 Police Captain Ed Posey attended a liaison meeting between members of the University of Florida Student Senate and the University of Florida Police Department. At the meeting there was a discussion of over-charging by vehicle-for-hire companies operating in Gainesville. The meeting participants decided the best course of action would be to conduct plain-clothes details in an effort to determine the extent of the problem.

The Gainesville Police Department and the University Police Department agreed to conduct taxicab details as soon as possible. On November 18 and December 9, 2010 our agencies, with the assistance and cooperation of students representing the Student Senate, conducted 2 taxicab details.

I am happy to report that during these details none of the undercover operatives were significantly over-charged. Unfortunately, a number of the drivers failed to activate or use the taximeter as required by City Ordinance 28-9 (a-c). In an effort to prevent drivers that were cited for a violation from warning other drivers, it was decided not to cite drivers on the night of the details. While charges could still be initiated against these drivers, I have decided to send this letter as a reminder to all companies of this regulation. We will continue to conduct vehicle-for-hire details in the future as needed and while the specific focus of this detail was over-charging, we may cite drivers for future violations of any City Ordinance.

This letter should serve as a warning and reminder to all of the agencies and drivers that failed to follow all of the requirements provided in the City Ordinance of the City of Gainesville. I also appreciate and thank the drivers and companies that utilized meters and properly charged detail personnel. A copy of City Ordinance 28 is attached for your files.

Sincerely,

Tony Jones
Chief of Police