



Gainesville Police Department – Administrative Services

Vehicle For Hire & Transportation Network Companies

Gainesville Police Department
February 2015

Revised March 2015

GOALS OF THIS PROCESS

- Create ordinance to accommodate TNC's
- Reduce regulation on VFH's
- Establish a level playing field between the two business models

Steps of the Process

- City staff reviewed TNC ordinances from other areas.
- Opportunities were provided for stakeholder feedback on early drafts of both the TNC and VFH ordinances.
- Feedback was vetted and then incorporated into the changes of both VFH and TNC ordinances.

FOCUS OF TNC ORDINANCE

- Extensive background checks for drivers.
- Rigorous insurance requirements.
- Features to help customers identify the driver and their vehicle.
- Can only accept rides booked through the mobile app, no hails.

Background Checks for Drivers

Sec. 28-52. - Driver requirements

- Must possess a valid Florida DL.
- Must be at least 18 years old
- The background check by City approved company
- Criminal history requirements
- City provided with active list or access to an active list of all approved TNC drivers and shall minimally include the driver's full name and Florida driver's license number.

Sec. 28-48. – Insurance Requirements

- Must provide full commercial insurance while driver is engaged in a prearranged ride
- Must maintain partial insurance while driver is logged onto network
- *After recent Joint Committee meeting added requirement that TNC must cover insurance gaps if and when a driver's personal insurance denies a claim.*
- *Reduced insurance requirements to State minimums for commercial vehicles instead of one million dollars so as to avoid creating a barrier for any start up TNCs.*

TNC Vehicles Sec 28-50 & 51

- Vehicles are inspected by a City approved mechanic: required to evaluate the vehicle's brake system, lights, steering, suspension, tires, and seat belts.
- The TNC shall provide to the licensing official an active list of all approved TNC vehicles and shall minimally include the vehicle make, model, color, and state registration (auto plate) identification. *Following meetings with Uber's representatives, this portion was removed and reduced to a list of drivers' Drivers License numbers and TNC number are provided. Uber has been resistant to providing a list of drivers and/or vehicles on their network.*

Features ID Driver and Vehicle

- TNC vehicle shall display a consistent and distinctive signage or emblem at all times while the driver is active on the TNC dispatch system. (28-51)
- TNC shall issue a credential to each driver that authorizes them to accept trip requests via its digital platform. The credential shall display the first name of the driver and a photograph of the driver. (Sec. 28-53)

TNC Cannot Operate as VFH

Sec. 28-54

- No TNC driver shall accept or respond to passengers' or potential passengers' requests for service via traditional street hail, including hand gestures and verbal statements.
- No TNC driver shall pick up or discharge a passenger on: Designated taxicab stands, no stopping or standing zones, or other restricted areas as outlined in this Code.

Reduce regulation on VFH's

- Eliminated secondary vehicle inspection by the City, must be inspected by City approved mechanic/garage.
- Eliminated limitations on signage requirements, design, and color schemes.
- Eliminated redundant language in the ordinance with regards to issues covered by state statute
- *Eliminated requirement that VFH company needs \$200,000 general liability insurance.*

Operating on Private Property

- **Operation on private property (ORD. SUMMARY).**
 - Nothing in this ordinance shall limit any non-City entity (e.g. Gainesville Regional Airport, University of Florida) to develop their own rules, regulations, and fees when allowing a VFH to operate on their property.
 - A VFH or TNC driver shall not operate on private property if the owner/representative expressly forbids such operation.

TNC Fees: Sec.28-44

- Initial one-time Application Fee: \$2000.00 (REMOVED)
- *Following feedback at Joint Committee eliminated one-time application fee in favor of an annual fee for a TNC. Fees based on current VFH driver and vehicle permits.*
 - *TNC may either pay a permit fee for each driver/vehicle at rates listed below or,*
 - *pay for an unlimited number of drivers/vehicles at 100 drivers * (Driver Permit Fee + Vehicle Permit) = \$3950.00. (This one time type of payment was preferred by Uber)*
- Business Tax Receipt under Chap. 25-42
- Franchise Fee under Appendix A -\$335.25
- Driver Permit Fee - \$24.25 (annually) / Vehicle Permit Fee - \$15.25 (annually)

VFH Fees starting 2016

- Initial one-time Application Fee: \$1000.00
- Business Tax Receipt under Chap. 25-42
- Franchise Fee under Appendix A -\$335.25
- Driver Permit Fee - \$24.25 (annually)
- Vehicle Permit Fee - \$30.50 (every two years)