1444-ORD
12/30/14

ORIGINAL

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6216

AN ORDINANCE authorizing amendments to Bellevue City Code chapter 5.16, in order to remain in compliance with the Interlocal Agreement between the City and King County regarding the licensing and regulation of taxis and other for-hire vehicles including transportation network companies.

WHEREAS, Bellevue, along with King County and other cities in the region, is served by taxis, for-hire vehicles, limousines, and, now recently, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs); and

WHEREAS, TNCs, utilize application-based technology (apps) and phone GIS capabilities to offer rides for fares or suggested donations; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of TNCs entering the local for-hire vehicle market necessitates change in the regulatory scheme and within the industry as traditional taxi and for-hire operators compete against these new service models for market share; and

WHEREAS, by Interlocal Agreement (ILA), King County administers regulation of taxis and for-hire vehicles on behalf of Bellevue and 15 other King County cities; and

WHEREAS, King County's regulations are intended ensure that customers can use the array of transportation options in a safe manner; and

WHEREAS, TNCs, as new market entrants, did not fall under King County's existing regulatory scheme because they were not included in the definition of for-hire vehicles under the existing King County Code; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure public safety, streamline current regulations, level the playing field, and provide a uniform set of regulations for all taxis, for-hire companies, and TNCs, King County amended King County Code chapter 6.64 in September 2014 to govern TNCs; and

WHEREAS, Bellevue's ILA with the County requires it to maintain an ordinance substantially similar to that adopted by the County; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance adopts the applicable chapters of the King County Code by reference to ensure that the City remains in compliance with the provisions of the ILA and ensures continued regulation of all transportation service companies operating in Bellevue; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this ordinance will promote the public health and safety; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 5.16 of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended, as follows:

5.16.010 Adoption of King County Chapter 6.64 by Reference.

5.16.020 Additional enforcement.

5.16.010 Reference to King County Code

A. Adoption by Reference. The city adopts by reference, as though fully set forth in this chapter, King County Code, Chapter 6.64, now or as hereafter amended, and delegates such authority for administration of this chapter to King County in accordance with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement between King County and the City of Bellevue for licensing of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles executed under RCW 39.34.080, now or as hereafter amended.

5.16.020 Additional enforcement

Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the city manager or his or her designee or the King County official charged with administering King County Code Chapter 6.64 or his or her designee may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of the Bellevue City Code, business license ordinance, or other laws or regulations. Nothing in this Chapter is intended to limit any powers or authority of the city manager.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after passage and legal publication

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Passed by the City Council this 5th day of January, 2015 and signed in authentication of its passage this 5th day of January, 2015.

(SEAL)

Claudia Balducci, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Lori M. Riordan, City Attorney

Jerome Y. Roaché, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

Published January 8, 2015.