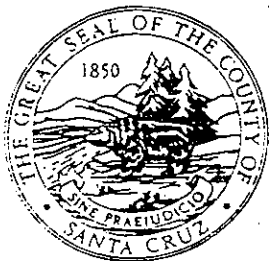


Attachment 2
County of Santa Cruz



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

NEAL COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

May 2, 2007

Tony Campos, Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: TAXI REGULATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

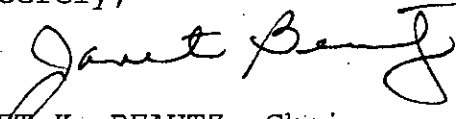
Dear Chair Campos:

I am writing in response to your letter dated March 2, 2007, conveying the concerns of the Commission's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee with regard to taxi regulation. After receiving your letter, I asked our County Counsel and County Administrative Officer to review the Committee's concerns and provide their comments.

Attached are the responses I received from County Counsel and the County Administrative Officer. Essentially, both agree that a reexamination of the regulations may be appropriate at this time. As they point out, it was appropriate for the County to take the lead in the development of the ordinance in 1989 since the Commission was part of County government at that time. However, now that the Commission is a separate agency, I concur with their thought that it is reasonable for the Commission to take the lead in the development of a model ordinance for consideration by all jurisdictions.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted
Attachments

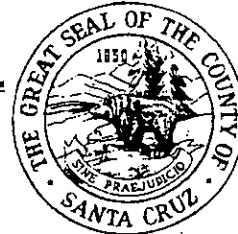
cc: Clerk of the Board
Dana McRae, County Counsel
Susan Mauriello, County Administrative Officer

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



To: Chairperson Jan Beautz
From: Susan Mauriello, County Administrative Officer
Subject: Taxi Regulation in Santa Cruz County
Date: April 13, 2007

On March 15, 2007, you forwarded a letter dated March 2, 2007, from Tony Campos as Chair of the Transportation Commission conveying the concerns of the Commission's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee with regard to taxi regulation. Mr. Campos requested the Board to consider actions to taxicab ordinances that would correct the inconsistencies, minimize the confusion and benefit seniors and people with disabilities living in the unincorporated area of the County. You requested that this office and County Counsel review the Committee's concerns and provide you with our thoughts.

A memo from Dana McRae, County Counsel, is attached which reviews the background of the current taxicab regulations within the County. In summary, in August 1989, the County engaged in a lengthy process involving many interested parties to develop a joint ordinance regulating the operation of taxicabs throughout the County. As a result, a uniform ordinance was established at that point. With the passage of time, however, differences have occurred.

I concur with the information provided by Ms. McRae, and believe that a reexamination of the regulations may be appropriate at this time. The County's leadership role in the development of the current ordinance was appropriate in 1989 since the Transportation Commission was part of County government at the time. However, now that the Commission is a separate agency, I believe that it would be appropriate for the Commission to take the lead in this multi-jurisdictional effort to develop a model ordinance. County staff would, of course, be available to work with the Commission and other jurisdictions to address the inconsistencies and policy issues. The Mayor's Selection Committee could possibly review the draft prior to consideration by each of the jurisdictions as a means to address the concerns of all the jurisdictions.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Cc: Dana McRae, County Counsel
Mayor's Selection Committee

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT INFORMATION

DATE: April 10, 2007
TO: Jan Beautz, County Supervisor
FROM: Dana McRae, County Counsel
SUBJECT: Taxicab Regulation in Santa Cruz County

You asked that we comment on the March 2, 2007, letter from Tony Campos as Chair of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) concerning the status of taxicab regulations within the County.

In his letter, Chair Campos identified certain differences in the taxicab regulations currently in effect in the four cities and unincorporated area. It was suggested that residents countywide could benefit from a more uniform set of regulations particularly when the use of this service may require crossing more than one jurisdictional boundary. It was also suggested that users of this service could be confused by the varying meter rates, whether or not a senior discount rate applies, or the availability of accessible vehicles.

Background

Government Code § 53075.5 requires each city and county to enact an ordinance regulating the operation of taxicabs. In August of 1989, the Board of Supervisors established such regulations for taxicabs operating within the unincorporated area (Ordinance No. 4011 adding Chapter 5.50 to the County Code.) At that time, efforts were made to develop a uniform countywide set of regulations that would be adaptable for all jurisdictions.

The County engaged in a lengthy process soliciting participation from many interested parties including each city attorney, the RTC's Elderly and Handicapped Committee (currently named the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee), the Sheriff, the District Attorney, and each taxicab operator. Significant issues addressed during the course of this process

included: (1) whether to require taxicab meters; (2) rate setting and rate exceptions; (3) insurance requirements; (4) terms of licenses; (5) whether violations should be classified as infractions or misdemeanors; and (6) the process for issuing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity. County Counsel worked jointly with city attorneys and prepared a draft ordinance that was intended to be adaptable by any city with a minimum number of changes.

The ordinance has remained in effect without significant change since its enactment.

Conclusion

It appears that the County's current taxicab regulations were developed in conjunction with each city with the intent of producing a relatively uniform set of requirements. Due to the passage of time and the identification of issues raised by the RTC, it may be time to reexamine these regulations.

If directed by the Board of Supervisors, county staff would be available to work with other jurisdictions and the RTC to review the taxicab ordinances currently in effect and evaluate what changes may be appropriate with the aim of addressing any inconsistencies as well as the other policy issues raised by the RTC. To ensure that a uniform approach is applied whenever possible, it may be appropriate for the RTC to allocate staffing resources to coordinate such an effort.

Alternatively, the RTC staff could continue the review it has already started and prepare a "model ordinance" that incorporates all of the provisions it considers appropriate, and then present that model ordinance to each jurisdiction for deliberation and action.