ORDINANCE NO. 2025-42

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO MOTOR CARRIERS; AMENDING CHAPTER 22½ OF THE BROWARD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES ("CODE") TO UPDATE MINIMUM VEHICLE STANDARDS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO TAXICABS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Mayor Beam Furr)

WHEREAS, Chapter 22½ of the Broward County Code of Ordinances (the "Code") governs motor carrier operations within Broward County, including provisions establishing minimum vehicle standards for motor carriers and taxicabs;

WHEREAS, to protect public safety and promote efficient service, the County finds it appropriate to revise certain regulations within the Code relating to vehicle standards and taxicab operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to amend the Code to update the minimum vehicle standards for motor carriers,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Sections 22½-6D, 22½-9A, and 22½-9B of the Broward County Code of Ordinances are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22½-6D. Port Everglades—Business permits.

. . .

(j) All Business Permit holders must comply with the following:

(1) The Business Permit holder shall pay for a Port Everglades decal for each vehicle operating at Port Everglades, and such decal shall be affixed to the windshield of the vehicle in such place as may be designated by the Division; and

(2) The driver of a vehicle operating at Port Everglades shall have in his or her possession, available for inspection, a valid Chauffeur's Registration (or equivalent authorization) from the ~~C~~county of origin.

. . .

Sec. 22½-9A. Operation—Minimum standards of conduct.

The roles of certificate, license, registration, and permit holders are essential to the operation of quality public transportation services for the residents and visitors of Broward County. Therefore, all such holders are required to comply with the ~~following~~ minimum standards in this section, as applicable:

. . .

(y) All operators shall ensure that any chauffeur operating their taxicab(s) has successfully completed a training program approved by the Division that addresses topics such as customer service, Motor Carrier regulations, and such other topics as the Division may prescribe.

(z) To encourage compliance with these provisions, the Division shall develop and establish a system to allow passengers to provide feedback on taxicab vehicles, operators, and chauffeurs.

Sec. 22½-9B. Operations—Minimum vehicle standards.

(a) Motor vehicles shall be kept clean and orderly during all times of active service. The passenger and luggage compartments must be clean, free of grime, oil, or other substances, free of torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, and protruding sharp edges that could harm, injure, soil, or impair passengers or their personal belongings. All equipment in the interior of the motor vehicle shall be safely and adequately secured. There shall be no holes opening to the passenger compartment from the underbody. The motor vehicle exterior must be free of defects that detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle, such as cracks breaks, large scratches, dents, or damaged paint.

(b) All accidents shall be reported immediately to the police.

(c) Motor vehicles shall not be operated if:

(1) The top or interior lights or taillights are not functioning properly;

(2) The brakes, steering mechanism, tires, horn, windshield wipers, ~~or~~ side or rearview mirrors, or air conditioning system are not in good working order; or

(3) The dashboard warning lights are malfunctioning or remain illuminated while the motor vehicle is being driven.

(d) Advertising on any vehicle regulated by this ~~C~~chapter shall not obstruct the driver's view and shall not obstruct the vehicle's top lights or other lights. No vehicle shall have within it, or on its exterior, any sign ~~which~~ that encourages, advertises for, or otherwise solicits tips.

(e) All vehicles operating as motor carriers under this chapter, including motor vehicles operating in municipalities regulating the industry pursuant to Section 22½-12,

and motor vehicles with a passenger capacity of not more than nineteen (19) passengers with a permit to operate at the Airport or Port Everglades, shall have an inspection of the following components, which shall be demonstrated to be functional and meet the safety standards designated by the manufacturer:

. . .

(18) Interior and exterior rear view mirrors; ~~and~~

(19) Safety belts for drivers and passengers~~.~~; and

(20) Air-conditioning system that provides cooled and heated air.

(f) In addition to the standards set forth in this section, taxicabs shall meet the following minimum standards:

(1) ~~Owner's trade name, monogram or insignia, taxicab number, and telephone number permanently affixed upon the metal portion of the outside of each side in letters at least three (3) inches high, and cab number painted upon the outside rear panel of the taxicab in letters at least three (3) inches high.~~ Every taxicab shall have painted upon each side, in letters at least three (3) inches high and in accordance with instructions issued by the Division, the vehicle's number, the name and telephone number of the certificate holder, and the name, monogram, or insignia of the association or organization under which the vehicle is operated, and any and all such other information and displays as the Division may from time to time require. Every taxicab shall also have painted upon the outside rear panel of the taxicab, in accordance with instructions issued by the Division, the vehicle's number, and any and all such other information and displays as the Division may

from time to time require. To avoid duplication and confusion, all vehicle numbers shall be assigned exclusively by the Division, and no municipality regulating motor carriers pursuant to Section 22½-12 shall assign such vehicle numbers.

(2) Two-way radio installed and operating properly with access to or affiliated with a central dispatch facility, or any other electronic equipment utilized for handling service requests.

(g) ~~In addition to the standards set forth in this section, new, used, or remanufactured jitneys that are purchased or leased for use, or in contemplation of use, after July 1, 2001, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, shall be ADA accessible.~~ Effective July 1, 2026, all motor vehicles operating as taxicabs shall meet one (1) of the following conditions:

(1) The motor vehicle is not more than ten (10) model years old; or

(2) The motor vehicle is more than ten (10) but not more than fifteen (15) model years old and has an odometer reading of less than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) miles.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any taxicab lawfully permitted and operating as of July 1, 2025, may continue to operate until June 30, 2030, provided that the taxicab is fifteen (15) model years of age or less, and continues to comply with all applicable inspection requirements and minimum vehicle standards set forth in this chapter. Any taxicab lawfully permitted and operating as of July 1, 2025, exceeding fifteen (15) model years of age may continue to operate until June 30, 2026, provided that the taxicab continues to comply with all applicable inspection requirements and minimum vehicle standards set

forth in this chapter. In addition, the Director may authorize, in writing, the operation of themed or specialty taxicabs beyond the model year limitations in this section if each vehicle is maintained in safe operating condition and complies with all inspection and minimum vehicle standards in this chapter. For purposes of this section, "themed or specialty taxicabs" means a fleet of at least ten (10) taxicabs under common ownership or control that share a uniform distinctive vehicle body style or design that reflects a cultural or historical theme.

. . .

(i) ~~Every taxicab operating in Broward County shall have painted upon each side, in accordance with instructions issued by the Division, the vehicle's number, the name and telephone number of the certificate holder, or the name of the association or organization under which the vehicle is operated, and any and all such other information and displays as the Division may from time to time require. The vehicle number shall also be posted inside the vehicle in at least two (2) inch lettering in a place clearly visible to passengers and approved by the Division. To avoid duplication and confusion, all vehicle numbers shall be assigned exclusively by the Division, and no municipality regulating motor carriers pursuant to Section 22½-12 shall assign such vehicle numbers.~~ Each taxicab operating in Broward County shall have on display within the vehicle, in at least two (2) inch lettering in a place clearly visible to passengers, and in accordance with instructions issued by the Division, the vehicle number, chauffeur's registration number of the person operating the taxicab, and any and all such information and displays as the Division may from time to time require.

. . .

Section 2. Severability.

If any portion of this Ordinance is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance. If any court determines that this Ordinance, in whole or in part, cannot be legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such determination will not affect the applicability of this Ordinance to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

Section 3. Inclusion in the Broward County Code of Ordinances.

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance become part of the Broward County Code of Ordinances as of the effective date. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or such other appropriate word or phrase to the extent necessary to accomplish such intention.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance is effective as of the date provided by law.

ENACTED November 13, 2025

FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EFFECTIVE

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By: */s/ Javier Navas* 10/14/2025
Javier Navas (date)
Assistant County Attorney

By: */s/ Annika E. Ashton* 10/14/2025
Annika E. Ashton (date)
Deputy County Attorney

JN/dv
Minimum Vehicle Standards
12/01/2025
iManage file #1193378.11

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions from existing text. Words underlined are additions to existing text.