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Staff Report

SS
ITEM NO. 2

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Jeff Laws, Acting City Manager
Date: June 10, 2013
Subject: Taxi Cab Ordinance

Discussion:

Steve Hickman, the owner of Taxi Steve, LLC, has met with Commander Rossi, Administrative Secretary Janie Venegas, and me several times regarding a concern he has with another individual in Lemoore. He believes that Sarah Ormsby is an unlicensed taxi driver because he has seen her driving people from a bar in Lemoore to various locations. He has confronted her and she told him she is a designated driver, not a taxi service. In all of the meetings we have had with Mr. Hickman, this was his only concern and his only request is that the definition of a designated driver be added to the taxicab ordinance in the Lemoore Municipal Code.

The Lemoore Municipal Code defines a taxicab as follows: Any motor vehicle designed and used for carrying passengers, operated in the streets of the city other than over a defined or fixed route, and irrespective of whether the operations extend beyond the boundary limits of the city, between such points and over such route for the transportation of persons for hire at the direction of the passengers. Taxicab shall not include a charter party carrier of passengers within the meaning of section 5351 of the Public Utilities Code. A copy of the taxicab ordinance is attached.

The Lemoore Municipal Code does not provide the definition of a designated driver; however, the Merriam-Webster dictionary website defines it as "a person chosen to abstain from intoxicants (as alcohol) so as to transport others safely who are not abstaining."

Commander Rossi and I met with Sarah Ormsby regarding Mr. Hickman's concern. She denied being a taxicab driver and said she is only a designated driver. She frequents a bar in Lemoore on a routine basis. Since she is there she will give friends a ride home or to get food. On other occasions she has given a friend a ride to work. She only gives rides to people she knows. She has never accepted payment of any kind for giving rides to her friends, except fast food if she could not get to her purse fast enough. She is friends with bartenders at the bar she frequents but she does not work for the bar herself. Mr. Hickman has confronted her, parking behind her car on one occasion and following her for a few blocks and stopping in the street on another occasion, and she has told him that she is not operating a taxicab and she is only a designated driver.

Budget Impact:

None

Recommendation:

That the City Council discusses whether or not they wish to add the definition of a designated driver to the taxicab ordinance in the Lemoore Municipal Code.