

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: City Administrator
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DATE: October 18, 2005

SUBJECT: Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity
for Latino Taxi Company Owned and Operated by Ruben Lara Mendoza

RECOMMENDATION: That Council convene a public hearing, receive oral testimony, and determine if the public convenience and necessity require the operation of passenger transportation services by Latino Taxi Company.

AUTHORITY: California Vehicle Code Section 21112 permits cities to adopt rules and regulations regarding the operation of taxicabs. Chapter 30 of the Lompoc City Code regulates the operation of taxicabs on the public streets of the City. Prior to operating any taxicab, the business owner must apply for an Owner's Permit, which is issued by the City after (a) verification of required insurance coverage; (b) completion of a background investigation by the Lompoc Police Chief; and (c) Council approval of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

BACKGROUND: On August 6, 2005, Mr. Ruben Lara Mendoza submitted an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, to allow him to transport passengers between Lompoc and Santa Barbara, and also to the Los Angeles International Airport from Lompoc.

As required by the City Code, the Police Chief, City Attorney, City Treasurer, and Community Development Director have reviewed and investigated the information submitted by Mr. Lara. Nothing was discovered that would preclude Council approval of the requested Certificate at this time; however, prior to operation, Mr. Lara must obtain a Home Use Permit if he wishes to operate this business from his home, provide a final insurance certificate (in substantially the same form as the preliminary document) to the City Attorney, and comply with drug and alcohol testing policy and procedures.

DISCUSSION: Guidance for considering Mr. Lara's request is contained in LCC Section 3028, attached at Exhibit A. In addition, pertinent portions of Mr. Lara's application, attached at Exhibit B, contain information relating to the convenience and necessity of his proposed services.

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Considering that there is only one taxicab company headquartered in Lompoc, and that Mr. Lara proposes to specialize in out-of-town trips, staff recommends that Council find that the public convenience and necessity require the operation of Latino Taxi Company. (2) Based upon the conclusions of the above-mentioned staff officers, it is recommended that Council also find that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to provide the proposed services and to conform to the provisions of LCC Chapter 30. (3) Staff recommends that Council direct the City Clerk to include these findings in the Official Minutes of the City Council, and that staff issue a Taxicab Owner's Permit to Mr. Lara to operate Latino Taxicab Company, upon his compliance with all applicable laws and requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary P. Keefe
City Administrator