

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND THE
PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 27, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.
Hagler Mason Conference Room
Second Floor, City Hall**



CITY COUNCIL

**John R. Fogg, Chair
John Jerralds, Vice Chair
Jewel Cannada-Wynn
Mike DeSorbo
Marty Donovan
Sam Hall
John W. Nobles
Ronald P. Townsend
Michael C. Wiggins
P. C. Wu**



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Mike Whitehead, Chair
Gene Valentino, Vice Chair
Marie Young
Grover Robinson
Kevin White**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Opening Remarks – Mayor Fogg
2. Opening Remarks – Chairman Whitehead
3. Fair Housing
 - Need for a Local Hearing Office
 - Human Relations Commission
4. Regional Transportation Finance Authority – Comr. Valentino
5. Recycling Update
6. Taxicab Ordinance – Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief
 - Concept
7. Tow Truck Ordinance – Alison Rogers, County Attorney
 - Concept

8. Non-Agenda Issues

9. Adjourn

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to city services, programs, and activities. Please call 435-1606 for further information. Requests must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the city time to provide the requested services.

Local Fair Housing Ordinances and Fair Housing Services

During budget sessions held earlier this year, Escambia County and the City of Pensacola independently made the decision to eliminate funding for the Escambia-Pensacola Human Relations Commission (HRC) effective on October 1, 2008. This action was necessitated by the impact of Amendment 1 on the general fund budgets of each local government. This decision impacts the manner in which fair housing information, services, mediation and enforcement are administered locally. In accepting HUD funds from the Federal Government, the County and City have annually certified to HUD (for well over 20 years) that the local governments will take actions in furtherance of the Federal Fair Housing Law. In the early 1980's, both the County and City individually approved parallel Fair Housing Ordinances to address this HUD requirement and to afford local citizens, realtors, lenders, and property managers an avenue for addressing fair housing issues. The local Fair Housing Ordinances have been implemented by the HRC since enactment. There is no requirement that the fair housing effort be located with or managed by HRC, but that option has been elected annually by the County and City since the early 1980's.

- Escambia County and the City of Pensacola must continue efforts to further fair housing as a condition of receiving Federal funds.
- The County and City mutually agree that a local Fair Housing Ordinance covering the entire community must be maintained, though revisions will be necessitated by the elimination of funding for the HRC.
- The County and City should revise and consolidate their current County and City Fair Housing Ordinances to provide a single ordinance, inclusive of the County and City, with administrative costs to be shared equally.
- The County and City must determine an alternate delivery mode for fair housing services that will provide for a single central fair housing office or officer through which the citizenry can access fair housing information, services and assistance.
- Staff recommends that on or before October 1, 2008, a local Fair Housing Services Office should be created in the County's Neighborhoods and Community Services Bureau, specifically within the Community Affairs Division, to assume fair housing responsibilities. The office will be initially financed with Federal and/or local funding in an amount not to exceed \$37,000, shared equally between the County and City.
- The County and City Legal Departments must move forward with revisions to the current ordinances and interlocal agreements to effectuate the recommended actions on or before October 1, 2008.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Escambia County, Florida

ORGANIZATION: Management & Budget Services Bureau

FROM: Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief

DATE: May 16, 2008

ISSUE: Taxicab Regulations

INFORMATION REPORT:

It is recommended by County Staff that this issue be a topic for the Council of Governments Meeting.

Taxicab Regulations

The City of Pensacola currently regulates the standards and fares for taxicabs that operate within the city limits. The cost per permit is \$41.25 per year, and the City collected \$8,123 for FY 07. This amount does not include airport fees. Section 7-10 of the City of Pensacola's code of ordinance imposes the following basic conditions and fees:

- Establishes various rates for taxi services (current rates are attached)
- Requires Insurance
- Requires identifying markings on the vehicles
- Requires record keeping
- Requires a valid drivers license required
- Sets the conditions for issuance, denial, suspension, revocation or transfer of Permits
- Other fees related to the airport would not apply to the County.

No such regulation exists for the unincorporated portions of Escambia County. According to the Tax Collector's records there are approximately 70 businesses that currently engage in some type of livery services. (See attached)

It would appear that Florida Statutes 125.01(1)(n) allows the County to "license and regulate" taxis, limousines for hire and other passenger vehicles for hire. The County would like to work with the City to develop Countywide Rates and Fees and impose a requirement for permits in the unincorporated area. It is expected that this effort will improve the consistency of rates and services for passengers that travel in both the City and the County.