

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 7, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Amendments to Chapter 47A for Horse-Drawn Carriages**

On December 5, 2023, and again on April 15, 2024, the Department of Aviation briefed the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee (QOLAC) on horse-drawn carriages, including:

- Current regulations contained within Chapter 47A Transportation-for-Hire for horse-drawn carriage operations in Dallas,
- Comparisons of those regulations to other cities,
- Current enforcement, and
- Activity overview of the one current operating authority in Dallas, North Star Carriage.

Near the conclusion of discussion at the April 15, 2024 meeting, a motion was made to "...send a recommendation to the Dallas City Council to consider moving to an electric version of carriages and how we can work with industry on making that conversion." Discussion of the motion by the Committee clarified that the motion's intent was to ban horse-drawn carriages on Dallas streets. The motion was approved in a 5-to-1 vote.

An item will be placed on the June 26, 2024 City Council Agenda to amend Chapter 47A Transportation-for-Hire in line with the motion approved by the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee.

The April 15, 2024 briefing materials are attached for your review. Staff will schedule individual meetings with City Council Members who are not part of the QOLAC to discuss further and solicit additional feedback, and a summary memorandum will be provided to the City Council on June 21, 2024, in advance of the June 26, 2024 agenda. If you have further questions, please contact Patrick Carreno, Director of Aviation, at patrick.carreno@dallas.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Majed A. Al-Ghafry'.

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager
Attachments

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager (I)
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement and Alignment (I)
Directors and Assistant Directors



City of Dallas

Horse – Drawn Carriage Update

**Quality of Life, Arts, &
Culture Committee
April 15, 2024**

Patrick Carreno, Director
Department of Aviation
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Purpose
- Enforcement Initiatives
- Carriage Activity
- Horse Breed Comparison



Background/History



- Committee briefed on December 5, 2023
 - Background/history of carriage operations
 - Current carriage regulations
 - Comparable regulations
 - Special initiatives



Background/History



- Ordinance enforced:
 - Chapter 47A – Transportation-for-Hire
 - Only one horse-drawn carriage company currently permitted in Dallas:
North Star Carriage
 - Five carriage permits issued to date



Background/History



- Meetings held to discuss carriage operations
 - Randall Bryant representing Texas Humane Legislation Network
 - Brian High representing North Star Carriage
 - John Jaksch representing Threejays Carriage



Purpose



- Follow up to December 5, 2023 committee briefing to provide additional information on horse carriage operations within the City of Dallas



Transportation Regulation Enforcement



- Transportation Regulation staff includes 2 Code Enforcement Inspectors
 - Inspectors conduct scheduled and random field inspections of all for-hire operations in the City of Dallas
- 40% of all enforcement efforts targeted to ordinance Chapter 47A licensees
 - <1% field and scheduled carriage inspections vs other for-hire inspections
 - Ex. 1 carriage inspection for every 100 taxi/sedan field inspections
- Late afternoon/evening field inspections of non-motorized operations conducted on occasion



Transportation Regulation Enforcement



- Areas of inspection vary depending on events around city
- Frequent field inspection locations include:
 - Major hospitals
 - Popular hotels
 - Omni
 - Sheraton
 - Hilton Anatole
 - High Traffic Areas
 - Downtown Dallas/Deep Ellum
 - Klyde Warren Park
 - North Dallas (NorthPark Center, Galleria Mall)



Carriage Activity



- Unlicensed carriage operations within City of Dallas can include:
 - Weddings
 - Funerals
 - Birthdays/Quinceaneras
 - Special Occasions
 - Staging in Dallas/working in Highland Park
 - Threejays Carriage moved staging to Highland Park
- Events are difficult to enforce due to:
 - Staffing level
 - Occurrence of event (nights/weekends)



North Star Carriage Activity



- Carriage operation averages 6-12 rides per night, Thursdays – Sundays
 - Operation based on weather and staff level
- 80% rides provided in Dallas vs Highland Park
 - Rides provided in Downtown Dallas end of January through first weekend in November
 - Operation transitions to Highland Park November through December annually



North Star Carriage Activity



- Horse allowed to work maximum 8 hours in 24-hour period per ordinance Chapter 47A
- Revenue averages \$900 - \$1080 per night
 - Ride priced according to length of trip
 - 20-minute ride = \$40-\$45
 - 1-hour ride = \$100-\$125



Horse Breeds



- Breed comparison:
 - Riding horse vs driving (draft) horse
 - Riding horse: one used by mounted horse riders with or without a saddle for recreation or transportation
 - Categorized as light horses (Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, etc.)
 - Driving (draft) horse: one used when hitched to a wagon, carriage, or other form of drawn vehicle



Breed Comparison



Breed	Percheron	Clydesdale	Tennessee Walker
Height	16-17 Hands	17-18 Hands	17 Hands
Weight	1,800 - 2,600 lbs	1,800 - 2,000 lbs	900 - 1,200 lbs
Common Colors	Grey, Black	Grey, Black, Chestnut	Black, Chestnut, White
Temperament	Tolerant, Docile	Gentle, Trainable	Gentle, Trainable
Classification	Draft Horse	Draft Horse	Gaited Horse
Best Suited For	Driving, Riding	Driving, Riding	Riding

www.thesprucepets.com



Horse Description



- Horse height measured by “hands”
 - 1 hand = 4 inches
 - 3 hands = 1 foot
 - Ex. Horse average 17hh (hands high) = 5' 8" tall



Driving (Draft) Horse



- Common horse breeds ideal for driving:
 - Belgian
 - Percheron
 - Shire
 - Clydesdale
- Primary breed operated by North Star is Percheron due to strength and developed tolerance to summer temperatures



Horse Pulling Capacity



- Factors that affect pulling capacity
 - Size
 - Weight
 - Age
 - Health
 - Types of harness & equipment used
 - Environment
 - Training & conditioning



Horse Pulling Capacity



- During a normal workday of 8 hours, draft horses can pull more than twice their own bodyweight with a cart*
 - Ex. 2,000-pound horse can pull approx. 5,000 pounds on a sled on dry dirt
 - Average carriage weight is 1,000 pounds
 - Per chapter 47A regulation, a 10-minute rest period is required after every 50-minutes worked.

*<https://animalhow.com/horse-pull-capacity/>



Dry Dirt Versus Concrete



- Dry dirt:
 - Advantages:
 - Natural surface
 - Provides cushioning, shock absorption
 - Disadvantage:
 - Inconsistent/uneven



Dry Dirt Versus Concrete



- Concrete:
 - Advantages:
 - Stable surface
 - At slow pace, is easier than dry dirt
 - Disadvantage:
 - Can lead to joint stress/discomfort over time



Benefit of Horse Carriages



- Historic touring of downtown Dallas
- Additional entertainment option for residents and visitors
- In-person equine education



Alternative to Horse Carriages



- “Horseless” carriage
 - Initially introduced in 1800’s
 - Replaced horse with mechanical propulsion



Alternative to Horse Carriages



- Electric horseless carriage
 - Custom made, Victorian style carriages currently in use in Mount Dora, FL
 - First city in the country to transition to electric carriages
 - Cost to build starts at \$2,000



Next Steps



- Receive Committee feedback on current regulations/operations
- Receive Committee guidance on possible ordinance amendments
- Follow up briefing to Committee prior to City Council action, if needed





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