

FILE NO. 992021ORDINANCE NO. 331-99

1 [Operation of Spare Taxicabs on New Year's Eve]

2 AUTHORIZING THE TAXI COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE COLOR SCHEME PERMIT-  
3 HOLDERS TO OPERATE APPROVED SPARE VEHICLES AS TAXICABS WITHOUT A  
4 TAXICAB PERMIT FROM THE CITY FOR THE PERIOD FROM 6:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER  
5 31, 1999 THROUGH 6:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 1, 2000.

6  
7 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

8  
9 Section 1. **Findings.** This Board of Supervisors hereby finds that:

10 1. Putting out additional taxicabs on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999, will  
11 promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

12 2. Even on an ordinary New Year's Eve, the demand for taxis in the City far outstrips  
13 the available number of permitted vehicles. The heavy influx of party-goers who instead rely  
14 on private vehicles significantly raises the levels of congestion, accidents, and driving under  
15 the influence in the City.

16 3. This year's Millennium celebrations are expected to draw record crowds into the  
17 City on New Year's Eve, overwhelming already-scarce parking facilities and taxing the  
18 capacity of the City's public transportation system. The resulting traffic congestion threatens  
19 pedestrian and bicycle safety, pollutes the atmosphere, and interferes with access by  
20 emergency and mass transit vehicles.

21 4. Proposition K and Article 16 of the Municipal Police Code establish a permit scheme  
22 for ongoing and continuous taxicab operations. They do not address or take into account  
23 exceptional situations in which public safety and welfare mandate the authorization of  
24 additional taxicabs to operate outside of the permit scheme and subject to strict conditions  
25 and time limits that are narrowly tailored to respond to the exceptional situation.

TAXI COMMISSION  
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Supervisor Newsom

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1           5. The approximately 250 spare vehicles maintained by the City's cab companies to  
2 back up their regular fleet are already available, equipped and inspected as taxicabs. The  
3 cab companies themselves are already licensed and regulated by the City.

4           6. Increasing the number of available taxicabs through the use of spares for one night  
5 will reduce the demand for private vehicles and help reduce traffic and congestion problems  
6 and promote public safety by reducing the number of private vehicles and party goers driving  
7 vehicles on the streets. It will provide additional opportunities for drivers to drive on what is  
8 traditionally a very lucrative night for them. Even with the additional vehicles out on the  
9 streets, the demand for taxi service will be so great that no driver will suffer from the increased  
10 competition.

11           7. The presence of additional legitimate taxicabs will also help discourage and reduce  
12 the demand for illegal taxicabs and limousines. The increased holiday business will go to  
13 drivers and companies who know the City and who will follow City laws, including fare  
14 restrictions for the benefit of the riding public and gate limits for the benefit of working drivers.

15  
16           **Section 2. Operation of Spare Vehicles as Taxicabs on New Year's Eve.**

17 Notwithstanding the provisions of Police Code Sections 1078 and 1120 prohibiting the  
18 operation of a taxicab in San Francisco without a permit from the City, or the provisions of  
19 Proposition K (Appendix 6 to the San Francisco Administrative Code), the Taxi Commission  
20 may by resolution authorize color scheme permit-holders to operate approved spare vehicles  
21 as taxicabs without permits for the period from 6:00 p.m. on December 31, 1999 through 6:00  
22 a.m. on January 1, 2000. No single shift for a driver driving a spare pursuant to this  
23 authorization shall exceed ten hours.


24           The Taxi Commission may impose additional restrictions on the operation of such  
25 vehicles as it deems to promote the public's safety and convenience. The Taxi Commission

1 shall establish a gate fee for these vehicles based upon and consistent with the gate fee cap  
2 established in the Police Code. The Taxi Commission may charge the color scheme permit-  
3 holder a fee not to exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) for operating each spare. The fee shall be  
4 included within the gate cap. The proceeds of such fee shall be placed in a special account to  
5 be established by the Controller to be used by the Commission to promote safety measures  
6 for taxicab drivers, including subsidizing the lease or purchase of security cameras or other  
7 safety equipment.

8 No color scheme permit-holder shall charge a driver an additional or special fee for the  
9 opportunity to drive this shift. The opportunity to drive this shift shall be made available to  
10 drivers on some fair and equitable basis. Violation of the Taxi Commission's restrictions may  
11 be a basis for disciplinary action against the color scheme permit-holder or other responsible  
12 party.

13  
14 Section 3. **Limitation.** Except as specifically provided in this ordinance, this  
15 enactment shall not be construed to authorize unlicensed drivers or color scheme operators to  
16 operate taxicabs during this or any other period or to authorize the use of unapproved  
17 vehicles as taxicabs during this or any other period.

18  
19  
20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
21 LOUISE H. RENNE, City Attorney

22  
23 By:   
24 THOMAS J. OWEN  
25 Deputy City Attorney

TAXI COMMISSION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

## Ordinance

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**File Number:** 992021

**Date Passed:**

Ordinance authorizing the Taxi Commission to authorize color scheme permit-holders to operate approved spare vehicles as taxicabs without a taxicab permit from the City for the period from 6:00 p.m. on December 31, 1999 through 6:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000.

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December 6, 1999 Board of Supervisors — PASSED, ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

December 13, 1999 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED

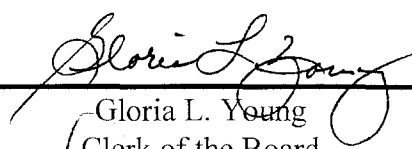
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 992021

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance  
was **FINALLY PASSED** on December 13,  
1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City  
and County of San Francisco.

**DEC 23 1999**

**Date Approved**

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.