



Series 200 Operations	Effective Date 12/16/2022	Review Date Annually	Directive Number 201.8
Chapter 201 - Patrol Operations			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised <small>Revisions in <i>italics</i></small>
Reviewing Office Public Vehicles			
References Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 257.2101 – 257.2153, Public Act 345 of 2016			

PUBLIC VEHICLES

201.8 - 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for members for the licensing of public vehicles.

201.8 - 2 Definition

A public vehicle is every public service vehicle, such as taxicabs, Transportation Network Company (TNC) services (ex. Uber and Lyft – see Public Act 346 of 2016) commercial buses and motor vehicles for hire, which are used by the general public for a fee. This shall not include city owned buses. The operator of a public service vehicle shall have a chauffeur's license and a public vehicle operator's license. The public vehicle license and rate card shall be displayed in a conspicuous place inside the vehicle. Buses, other than those owned by the city, shall display a rate card.

Public vehicle license plates shall expire on June 30th of each year and must be displayed along with the regular state license plate. Members observing public vehicles not equipped with this license plate shall issue the operator an Ordinance Violation Notice and shall prepare an *Incident Report* which shall be forwarded to the commanding officer of Public Vehicles. Vehicles owned by the Department of Transportation do not require a public vehicle license plate.

201.8 - 3 Confiscation of Licenses

The public vehicle license of any operator of a taxicab or motor vehicle for hire shall be confiscated and forwarded to the commanding officer of Public Vehicles, if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The operator is arrested;
2. The operator is issued the court copy for a moving violation;
3. The operator is given an ordinance complaint for conduct unbecoming a taxicab driver; or
4. The operator is given an ordinance complaint for high flagging (failure to display fare to passenger).

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The operator of a public service vehicle whose public vehicle license has been confiscated or suspended shall not be permitted to operate the vehicle until permission is obtained from the commanding officer of Public Vehicles.

201.8 - 4 Operation of Taxi Cabs

Members should familiarize themselves with regulations specific to taxicabs. The following list (not inclusive) is regulations that taxicabs drivers must comply with:

1. Operators of taxicabs shall refrain from smoking while carrying passengers;
2. It shall be the responsibility of taxicab drivers and drivers of cars for hire to turn in any property left by a passenger to the nearest police station, within twenty-four (24) hours, unless the company maintains a regularly established lost and found department;
3. An operator who persistently violates the public vehicle regulations by congregating in taxicab stands, gambling or using loud and inappropriate language shall be reported to the commanding officer of Public Vehicles on an *Incident Report*;
4. Operators of taxicabs shall not be permitted to carry other passengers without the consent of those first employing the taxicab;
5. The operator of a taxicab or car for hire shall not allow any person to ride with *them* on the front seat unless the rear seat is filled to capacity;
6. The operator of a taxicab shall not solicit passengers who are waiting at an established loading point to take passage on a city owned bus;
7. While passing a public place for the purpose of soliciting passengers, an operator shall not turn and pass again until *they* have gone a distance of two (2) square blocks;
8. Taxicabs and cars for hire shall park in single file at designated stands. A metal sign designating the number of cars permitted to park will mark all authorized stands. If parked in the rear of the stand, *they* may leave the vehicle for not more than thirty (30) minutes; and
9. Each taxicab driver is required to maintain a trip sheet record containing the following:
 - a. Date;
 - b. Cab number;
 - c. Name of the driver;
 - d. Start and end time of work day;
 - e. Taximeter and odometer readings – beginning and end; and
 - f. Addresses or intersections where fares were picked up and discharged – listed in chronological order. The location at which the fare was picked up shall be recorded before beginning the trip, and the address at which the fare is discharged shall be recorded as soon as the passenger leaves the cab.

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It shall be the responsibility of the cab owner to file and retain all trip sheets for a period of ninety (90) days. Trip sheet records must be presented for examination upon demand of a police officer, and the officer may retain the trip sheet as evidence for court.

Any taxicab driver violating these provisions shall be issued a Miscellaneous Ordinance Violation for improper trip sheet record. An *Incident* Report containing all information relating to the violation and the number of the ordinance violation shall be forwarded to the commanding officer of Public Vehicles.

201.8 - 4.1 Disputes

Officers should attempt to resolve "cab and a fare" disputes to the satisfaction of both parties. However, if no agreement can be reached and arguing persists, the responding member shall request both parties to accompany the officer to the district/precinct station. The officer in charge of the station desk shall make further attempts at reconciling the matter. If this fails, the officer in charge of the station desk may direct the investigating officer to issue a Miscellaneous Ordinance Violation for Disorderly Conduct (fail to pay/accept disputed public vehicle fare).

201.8 - 5 Department of Transportation Bus Drivers

Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) bus drivers encountering problems with persons aboard their buses will activate emergency four-way flashers. Officers observing these flashers shall board the bus and take appropriate action.