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Seattle King County

Department:	Rule No:	Supersedes:
City of Seattle **Department of Finance and Administrative Services**	FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-05-2024	New
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Subject: Temporarily Deactivating a Medallion	Code and Section Reference(s): SMC 6.311.210 and .230.F SMC 6.311.470 (rulemaking authority)	

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City of Seattle Director's Rule FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-05-2024 and King County Public Rule FHT-4-2024-PR – Temporarily Deactivating a Medallion

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. The City of Seattle and King County jointly adopt this Rule as new.

I. Purpose. To establish a process for medallion owners to temporarily deactivate a medallion any time the vehicle associated with the medallion is not operating for 60 days or more.

The temporary deactivation process addresses extended periods of non-operation and offers medallion owners more flexibility to operate their small business.

II. Definitions. When used in this Rule, the following term(s) are defined as follows:

1. "Director" means the director of King County's Department of Executive Services and/or the City of Seattle's Director of Finance and Administrative Services, or their designees.
2. "Dual medallion" means an existing medallion issued by the City of Seattle and an existing medallion issued by King County that have been combined and were previously required to be used with the same vehicle.
3. "Medallion" means a license issued by the Director as a plate, decal, or other physical representation, that is evidence that a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion is intangible property.
4. "Medallion owner" means a person who owns a taxicab medallion, a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, or a for-hire vehicle medallion, issued by the Director.
5. "Medallion reciprocity endorsement" means a designation on a medallion issued by King County, or alternatively in the Director's record of the medallion owner, which permits a vehicle to operate in Seattle; or a designation on a medallion issued by the City of Seattle, or alternatively in the Director's record of the medallion owner, which permits a vehicle to operative in King County.

III. Requirements.

1. The temporary deactivation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion and its associated medallion reciprocity endorsement may be for any reason, including, but not limited to, an inoperable or unavailable vehicle, a temporary lack of affiliation with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, an extended leave of absence, or owner convenience.

2. Effective September 1, 2024, a medallion owner may temporarily deactivate a medallion if the owner does not intend to operate the vehicle associated with that medallion for 60 days or more. Any period of non-operation less than 60 days does not require the medallion owner to temporarily deactivate the medallion.

   A temporary deactivation will not last for more than 12 consecutive months. The Director will consider a temporarily deactivated medallion to not be a valid medallion for the purpose of enforcing Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) chapter 6.311 and King County Code (KCC) chapter 6.65. A vehicle operating without a valid medallion is subject to the applicable violations and penalties listed at SMC 6.311.430 and KCC 6.65.430.

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3. To temporarily deactivate the medallion, the medallion owner will complete a medallion temporary deactivation form and submit it to the Director. Among other information, the form will specify the first day and the known or anticipated last day of the temporary deactivation. Neither the City nor the County will charge a separate fee to temporarily deactivate a medallion.

4. Upon temporarily deactivating the medallion, the medallion owner will surrender the medallion plate or decal in a manner determined by the Director.

5. The Director will notify the medallion owner's affiliated regional dispatch agency and, if applicable, the Port of Seattle, of the temporary deactivation, including its first and last days.

   It is the sole responsibility of the medallion owner and the transitional regional dispatch agency (TRDA) or regional dispatch agency (RDA) to determine whether and how a medallion's temporary deactivation impacts the medallion owner's affiliation with the TRDA or RDA.

6. A medallion owner will be limited to no more than two temporary deactivations per medallion in a calendar year. A dual medallion will count as one medallion for purposes of this Rule.

   If a temporary deactivation begins in one calendar year and is planned to end in the next calendar year, the deactivation will count as one deactivation of the two available to the medallion owner in the calendar year in which the deactivation began.

7. There will be no fewer than 120 days between the last day of one temporary deactivation and the first day of another temporary deactivation. A request to waive this requirement for extraordinary circumstances may be approved by the Director.

8. At least 10 calendar days before the last day of the temporary deactivation specified on the temporary deactivation form, the Director will notify the medallion owner. At the time of notification, the Director will provide the medallion owner with specific steps to be completed before the medallion can be reactivated.

   Should the medallion owner choose to end the temporary deactivation early, then the medallion owner must notify the Director of the new last day. The Director will then provide the medallion with specific steps to be completed before the medallion can be reactivated.

   If the medallion expires during the temporary deactivation, reactivating the medallion will require the medallion owner to pay the applicable renewal fees and remit surcharges (consistent with the Director's rule on WAS surcharge collection) before returning the vehicle to service. The medallion renewal date will be the date of reactivation.

   If the medallion does not expire during the temporary deactivation, then the medallion owner may reactivate the medallion and return the vehicle to service.

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9. Medallions revoked, relinquished, or otherwise held by the Director after January 31, 2015, and before September 1, 2024, including those medallions deposited during the COVID pandemic, will be temporarily deactivated starting September 1, 2024. A medallion owner affected by this provision has until September 1, 2025, to renew and reactivate the medallion or transfer it.

   The owner of a medallion revoked, relinquished, or otherwise held by the Director medallion may reactivate the medallion at any time beginning September 1, 2024, but before September 1, 2025, for the purpose of transferring the medallion to a new owner. The transfer of a previously revoked medallion must be completed prior to September 1, 2025.

   The date of reactivation, or the date of transfer, whichever occurs first, will determine the renewal date for the medallion.

10. If a medallion owner fails to reactivate the medallion by the one-year anniversary of the medallion being temporarily deactivated, then the Director will send via certified mail a notice of retirement to the medallion owner's last address of record. The Director will mail a copy of the notice of retirement to the medallion owner's affiliated regional dispatch agency.

11. If the medallion owner fails to reactivate or transfer the medallion within 60 days of the notice of retirement, then the Director will send via certified mail an order of retirement to the medallion owner's last address of record. The Director will mail a copy of the order of retirement to the medallion owner's affiliated regional dispatch agency.

    The notice of retirement may be appealed consistent with SMC 6.311.450 and KCC 6.65.450. Failure to appeal means the order of retirement issued by the Director is final. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion plate or decal that has been retired will be returned to the Director within 15 days of the final order of retirement or, if the order is appealed and affirmed, within 15 days after all appellate proceedings have concluded.

12. Effective November 1, 2024, the Director will initiate a temporary deactivation for any medallion whose owner does not renew the medallion within 60 days of the medallion's expiration date. The Director may use an automated system to notify the medallion owner of the temporary deactivation. All other aspects of the temporary deactivation process outlined in this Rule, including a notice of retirement or order of retirement, apply in these cases.

IV. Implementation. Unless specified otherwise in this Rule, these requirements take effect immediately after the Director files this Rule with the Seattle City Clerk and with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).

V. Rule Maintenance. The Director will consider the number of temporary deactivations, the duration of temporary deactivations, the reasons for deactivation, and feedback from medallion owners, among other factors, to determine whether this Rule needs revision.

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VI. **Rule Enforcement.** The Director may review written documentation and consider community feedback to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined herein.