

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
PUBLIC HEARING
DOC. 254/2012**

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Lawrence that the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence are hereby further amended by **ADDING** the following new paragraph to **Section 5.48.010 to the Municipal Code** (Definitions), to be inserted in proper alphabetical order:

Protective Partition means - A divider between the front and rear portions of the passenger compartment of a Hackney Carriage that has been approved by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division prior to installation;

And by further amending the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence by **ADDING** the following new **Section 5.48.475 (Protective Partitions and Equipment)**, to be inserted in proper order:

Sec. 5.48.475 – Protective Partition

A. All vehicles subject to the provisions of Chapter 5.48 shall be outfitted with an approved Protection Partition dividing the driver's and passenger's seats as defined in writing by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division. Any such approval shall be in writing and shall be stored in the Medallion File.

B. Said Protective Partition must meet the following requirements:

1. The top portion of the Partition shall be enclosed in an adequate frame and constructed of minimum thickness of 3/8" Lexan [registered trade mark] (or equivalent as approved by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division) and shall be approved by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division before the vehicle is approved for use as any vehicle;
2. The top portion of the Partition may be either stationary or may slide horizontally or vertically. If a sliding Partition is utilized, it shall be capable of being fastened in a fully closed position by the Driver and when so fastened, shall not be capable of being opened from the rear seat. The Partition may contain an appropriate opening for the payment of fares on the right half thereof;
3. The Partition shall be designed so as to prevent any object from being inserted into the front of the vehicle;
4. The Partition cannot obstruct either the Driver's rear vision or the passenger's view of the Driver, taximeter, or rate card;
5. The bottom section of the Partition shall constitute metal covering over the entire portion of the back of the front seat;
6. When the vehicle is first placed in service as a licensed vehicle subject to the provisions of section 5.48, the Partition must be new or remanufactured, and cannot be re-used from an old vehicle;

C. Any new protective partition dividers installed pursuant to section 5.48.475 shall be inspected and approved by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division prior to any such vehicle being placed in service;

D. Any vehicle subject to the provisions of this Chapter that has a protective partition divider not approved by the Lawrence Hackney Division shall be immediately taken out of service and remain out of service until a Protective Partition divider is installed, inspected and approved by the Lawrence Police Department Hackney Division;

E. Nothing provided in this section shall prohibit the Lawrence Police Hackney Division from approving the installation of any other form of Protective Partition;

F. Nothing provided in this section shall prohibit the operator of any vehicle subject to the provisions of Chapter 5.48 from allowing any passenger from occupying the front passenger seat of any vehicle in operation pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5.48 unless otherwise prohibited by any other law, regulation, or ordinance of the City of Lawrence, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the United States;

****NB: Per order of the Lawrence City Council, compliance enforcement regarding the provisions of Sec. 5.48.475 shall begin on and after Thursday, November 7, 2013. Any and all vehicles subject to the provisions of Ordinance Sec. 5.48 shall be required to install and maintain equipment subject to the provisions of Sec. 5.48.475 from and after Thursday, November 7, 2013.***

ORD#: 2012-72 -APPROVED: 11-7-12 -EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-7-2012
