

Dear, City Council and Whom else it may concern. My name is Elvis D. Burks. This letter is in reference to opening a Taxi Service here in Jonesboro ,AR. In this letter I will give you my background as a taxi driver and as a co-owner of a taxi company. Also I will be giving you my opinion why I feel Jonesboro needs an alternative Taxi service.

I started driving taxis in Blytheville,AR for my mother Irene Burks back in 2000. As her son I was responsible for helping to start the company, dispatching, and driving for free. As an employee I was responsible for maintenance of all the vehicles, managing all the employees, and driving on a 12 hour shift 7 days a week. In 2003 I was able to purchase part of the company. As part owner I was able to see the financial side of the company and that's when I saw how lucrative the business was. Quickly I started to open my own Taxi Company 2004 In Osceola, AR, Gosnell, AR, and plans to open in Jonesboro

I move to Jonesboro In Feb. 2006 with the intention of opening this company as an owner/operator. Due to the lost of my oldest son to suicide, November 25th 2006, I walked away from the business to focus on my wife and children and worked at Arkansas Glass since March of 2007. 8 years Later I'm now ready to pick up where I left off. I have 6 years of experience as a driver, and operator of 3 locations.

As for why I think Jonesboro needs another Taxi Company, I have several Reasons:

1. Growth : When I moved here in 2006 the population was at 55,000 with 2 cab companies that had 1 car each. 8 years later population is 70,000 same 2 companies with hardly any growth from either companies or any new taxi services.
2. Accommodation: After talking to several businesses with alcohol permits and finding out that patrons are waiting hours for taxis, and that 1 company shuts down at 10pm.
: I myself have used the service here to get a ride from work and 1 ½ hours later my taxi arrived.
:Many people have moved here form Blytheville and they all use the services offered currently and they all recommend I restart the services I once offered.
3. Size: Jonesboro is 80 sq miles 3 vehicles will not accommodate all those that need it in a reasonable time.

My plan is to bring 5 taxis with 2 headquarters 1 on the east-side and one on the west-side of town. I will be dedicating 2 cars to Main St and other late nite spots, 3 cars will be for the public for personal runs. We will hire 15 people to cover 2 ten hour shifts. Our hours will be 5am to 1 am Sunday through Wednesdays, and 5 am to 3am on Thursday through Saturday. All taxis will be equipped with GPS systems, door activated still picture cameras, and bulletproof petitions, lights on top of each car with company name.

Thanks
Elvis Burks
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