

# *Transportation* Council Defines Rickshaw, Cyclocab

Permit Process Needed

6-29-77

The Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday caught up with several thousand years of history by defining rickshaws as "for hire" vehicles.

In the process, the council also defined legally cyclocabs or any other conceivable type of vehicle as a for-hire vehicle if it is used in transporting passengers over streets or other public ways.

The council action results from recent operation in the downtown area of rickshaws and cyclocabs, neither of which fit into the city's previous legal definition of for-hire vehicles.

The redefinition will allow the council to investigate, control and license the non-motor vehicle types under the same conditions that now exist for the motorized for-hire vehicles.

The action was protested vehemently in advance by Marty Hastings, operator of the downtown rickshaw service. He termed the staff report the

council was considering "hogwash." Later, with Mayor Joe Ghio banging the gavel for order, Hastings whirled around to face the audience in the council chambers and said: "These people are dictators."

The council action did not make Hastings' rickshaw operation either more legal or less legal than it was before the vote, City Attorney Rodney Atchison later told The Sentinel.

Essentially, the action struck

from the city code four words that had confined the definition of for-hire vehicles to any "automobile or motor propelled" vehicle not otherwise defined in the code.

Hastings has been cited for operating the rickshaw service. One citation was dismissed by the municipal court.

Hastings claimed to the council that he is being "harrassed" and said in part that "if it is reasonable to be on the streets there is no reason to change the

law."

Effect of the law is to make it possible for the city to require a permit for operation of any type of for-hire vehicle anyone can dream up. Through the permit process, of course, the city can regulate the conditions

of any allowed operation.

According to a report from the city police chief's office: "to allow rickshaws to operate on the vehicular portion of the roadways would require special local legislation permitting what is now prohibited."

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