



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

### Seventh District

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**For Immediate Release**

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## COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD PUTS TEETH INTO PEDICAB REGS

### *New Pedicab Ordinance Approved*

Pedicab operators in San Diego have a new set of rules aimed at protecting the public.

“We needed tougher regulations to protect the public and now we have them,” said Councilmember Marti Emerald, who first proposed the new ordinance in July. These protections include a limit on the number of Pedicabs operating in San Diego, preventing some of the fierce competition that has led to unsafe operations and conditions of cabs.

The new law requires seat belts be used at all times. Pedicabs are banned from sidewalks and streets with a speed limit over 25 mph and banned altogether on some streets. In the interest of consumer protection, the new regulations will also require that fares be posted in plain sight. You can see a complete list of the ordinance at:

<http://dockets.sandiego.gov/sirepub/agdocs.aspx?doctype=agenda&itemid=28502>

Emerald still wants restrictions on the number of operator permits issued and will consider options at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, which she chairs.

The Councilmember will also continue working with State Legislature to amend the California Vehicle Code to require Pedicab operators to have valid California Driver’s Licenses.

The Pedicab industry has grown with few restrictions and, although it’s popular with tourists, San Diegans have complained openly about safety issues. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, a tourist was killed when a pedicab turned too quickly causing her to fall out of the pedicab and she suffered a fatal head injury.

The new law awaits the Mayor’s signature and will go into effect 30-days after that.

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