



City of Santa Barbara
Police Department

Memorandum

DATE: 5/23/2022

TO: Fire and Police Commission

FROM: Lori Pedersen, Business Manager

SUBJECT: Taxi Driver Permit - Maximino Negrete Vargas

Maximino Negrete Vargas is seeking to renew his taxi drivers permit for the City of Santa Barbara.

Per Santa Barbara Municipal Code §5.29, applicants must submit a taxi driver permit application with the required supporting documentation.

On 4/28/22, Mr. Vargas delivered his application with a sealed drug test screening from the CADA clinic. The drug test screening was also dated on 4/28/22 and tested positive in the Uranalysis for alcohol. Per Santa Barbara Municipal Code §5.29.185 H. Proof of Compliance with Federal and State controlled substance and alcohol testing requirements, including proof that the driver has tested negative for controlled substances and for alcohol, applicants must provide negative drug test screenings. Mr. Vargas' application was denied on 5/02/22.

Mr. Vargas stated to the Police Technician he was misinformed of the 80-hour alcohol detection part of the test and would have been more mindful if he knew. He also believed it may have been over the counter cough syrup that could have triggered it since he was feeling ill around the same time.

Mr. Vargas has been a taxi driver since 2007 and has never been denied for submitting positive drug results until now. He has been in good standing for the past 10 years and has followed all the Municipal Code requirements when renewing his taxi driver permit.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Santa Barbara Police Department recommends an alternative response to reinstate Mr. Vargas' permit. We ask that Mr. Vargas submits a new drug screening that provides negative results for alcohol. Once that has been provided, a permit will be reissued to him.