

# CARRIAGE HORSES RECEIVE A REPRIEVE



## St. Louis City Enacts Regulations to Protect Carriage Horses *Carriage Operators Already Defying New Regulations*

Carriage horses in the City of St. Louis have suffered years of abuse as a result of ineffective regulations and a lack of enforcement. The St. Louis Board of Public Service recently took steps to address the exploitation of carriage horses by enacting new regulations to protect the health and welfare of the horses. Most important, the Board has delegated the enforcement of these new rules to the Department of Health and to the St. Louis Police Department.

This delegation of authority for enforcement is of critical importance as the industry has gone unregulated for several years because of disagreements and confusion over who had the authority and responsibility to enforce health and welfare regulations on carriage horse operations.

One of the important new rules that the Alliance has lobbied for was to prohibit carriage horses from being out in the extremes of temperature especially during the scorching heat of St. Louis summers. In the past, carriage horses could operate until the temperature reached 93 degrees. Yet, rarely would the carriage horse operators return the horses to their barns but instead would leave them out on the hot city streets until the temperature dropped below 93 degrees and then they would continue to transport passengers.

In an effort to keep the horses entirely off the streets in hot weather, the Board of Public Service adopted a new rule on Tuesday which mandates that the horses cannot be on the streets in any 24-hour period where the temperature is *forecast* to be 93 degrees or hotter. This, in effect, would assure that the horses are not on the streets at any time in excessively hot weather – especially on the hot asphalt and pavement of crowded downtown streets where the heat build-up can be overwhelming. Even after the sun goes down, the accumulated heat of the pavement lingers for hours.

Regrettably, the carriage horse operators have decided to flout the new temperature rule and immediately took to the streets on Wednesday despite the excessive heat. Elliott Davis, a news reporter from KTVI-TV, who is shockingly in support of the carriage horse operators, proudly posted this video of carriage horse operators defying the new regulation.

#### [Carriage Horse Video](#)

According to Davis, the carriage companies plan to initiate legal action against the city to block the new temperature requirement.



*Even though the temperature reached 93 degrees on Wednesday, carriage drivers continued to work their horses in defiance of the new city regulation*