[Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Waive the 2017 Taxi Medallion Renewal Fee for All Medallion Holders]

Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and its Board to waive the Medallion Renewal Fee set forth in Transportation Code, Section 320, for all Taxi Cab Medallion Holders.

WHEREAS, Section 320 of the Transportation Code sets forth taxi-related permit and permit renewal fees, and among those fees is an annual Medallion Holder Renewal fee of $1,134, effective July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, On March 27, 2017, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) issued a request to its Board of Directors to amend Section 320 of the Transportation Code to eliminate the Medallion Holder Renewal Fee for Transferable Medallions that were purchased under the Taxi Medallion Sales Pilot Program and the Permanent Taxi Medallion Transfer Program; and

WHEREAS, As of March 1, 2017, of the 1850 Taxi Medallions that exist in the City and County of San Francisco, 700 are Transferable Medallions, which require the medallion holder to drive a taxicab 800 hours per year, or 156 hour-hour shifts per year, or otherwise risk fines, penalties or revocation of their medallion; and

WHEREAS, Of the 700 Transferable Medallion Holders, 534 purchased Medallions for the full price of $250,000, and 156 purchased under the half-price program for $125,000; and

WHEREAS, In its recommendation to permanently eliminate the medallion renewal fee for Transferable Medallion Holders, the SFMTA finds, "Taxicab drivers, including the working transferable medallion holders, are experiencing diminished incomes attributed to an increased level of competition from the numerous Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) that are currently on San Francisco streets"; and

Supervisors Peskin; Ronen
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, All traditional taxi cab drivers are adversely impacted by the increased level of competition from the numerous TNCs that are currently on San Francisco streets, in the form of fewer fares and lower pay; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA nevertheless limits its requested relief to Transferable Medallion Holders, at a loss to the Agency of $793,800, on the dual bases that they have "invested the most financially in the industry", and that if fees were waived for all medallion holders that have a driving requirement, the total annual lost revenue to SFMTA would be approximately $1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Treasurer’s Office estimates that there are now 45,000 Uber and Lyft drivers who operate on San Francisco streets, dwarfing the 1,850 taxi cabs on San Francisco streets, and

WHEREAS, The revenue that could be generated by requiring Business Permits of all 45,000 TNC drivers, even at the lowest fee for business registration of $75, would generate $3.375 million annually; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA finds that eliminating the Medallion Renewal Fee for Transferable Medallions supports the goals and objectives set forth in the SFMTA’s Strategic Plan, including (1) creating a safer transportation experience for everyone; (2) improving the environment and quality of life in San Francisco; and (3) creating a workplace that delivers outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating the Medallion Renewal Fee for all Medallion Holders also furthers the goals and objectives set forth in the SFMTA’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Taxi cabs serve a critical role in the context of the City’s public transportation plan, including providing transportation to people who don’t have credit cards, don’t have smartphones, require paratransit services, or do not have access to TNCs for other reasons; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA to expand its request to the MTA Board to include relief for all Medallion Holders, in the form of a waiver of the 2017 Medallion Holder Renewal Fee or permanent waiver of that Fee; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA to pursue other sources of funding through appropriate regulation of TNCs to make up for the loss in revenue that would result from a temporary or permanent waiver of the Medallion Holder Renewal Fee.
Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and its Board to waive the Medallion Renewal Fee set forth in Transportation Code, Section 320, for all Taxi Cab Medallion Holders.

April 11, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/11/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board