

Communication from Public

Name: Bob Schoonover

Date Submitted: 02/16/2021 12:05 PM

Council File No: 10-0996-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Framework with an Open Market Permitting System Dear City Councilmembers, We wholeheartedly support LA's taxi workers efforts to preserve the worker-empowered, sustainable franchise system. Every worker is entitled to a \$15 per hour (net) wages as the minimum City and national standard. Taxi driver's engagement in the regulatory process, which determines their future should be applauded and their voices must be heard and made a part of any proposal for any legitimate new proposal to change the industry. Every person is entitled to decent working condition and wages. Driver's voices need to be respected and considered as partners in any political process in order to craft a better way forward. No industry should be "uberized"! TNC business model of "open market" self-regulation has proven to be morally bankrupt, exploitive, predatory, destructive to environment and public transportation and a danger to passenger safety. It is unacceptable as the standard in transportation or any industry. We urge you to extend the current franchise agreements for one year and to engage with taxi drivers in an honest dialogue and genuine collaboration in crafting a way to improve service to the public and a sustainable future for their industry. The largely people of color and immigrants, the community of taxi drivers are the face of the city and its ambassadors to travelers and resident of LA alike. They are the experts and should be treated as a valuable resource, with all due respect and deference, not dismissal and disregard. There is no time like now to change the course and start building a brighter future for all. That's why we stand with the Taxi Drivers in demanding an extension of the Franchise agreement. For the reasons stated above, we recommend the following:

- Any new LA City policy must be based on a \$15/hour net wage for taxi workers in accordance with what will be the L.A. City minimum wage beginning July 1.
- The City Council extend the current franchise for a period of one year to ensure that all the key stake holders, including TWALA come together with L.A. DOT and other city officials to engage in meaningful to create a policy that will have a positive impact for taxi workers and their families.



February 16, 2021

The Honorable City Council
Of the City Of Los Angeles
City Hall—Room 395
200 North Spring Street

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<http://www.seiu721.org>

Re: Ordinance Re: Ordinance to Replace the Taxicab Franchise Regulatory Framework with an Open Market Permitting System

Dear City Councilmembers,

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other city officials to engage in meaningful to create a policy that will have a positive impact for taxi workers and their families.

Sincerely,



Bob Schoonover
President of SEIU Local 721



Gilda Valdez
Chief of Staff , SEIU Local 721