

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to replace the City's existing taxicab franchise regulatory framework with an open market permitting system.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. PRESENT and ADOPT the accompanying ORDINANCE dated January 27, 2022 to amend Article 1, Chapter VII of the LAMC to replace the City's existing taxicab franchise regulatory framework with an open market permitting system.
2. RECEIVE and FILE the following:
 - a. The January 6, 2022 Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) report relative to taxicab franchises.
 - b. The February 11, 2021 City Attorney report and Ordinance relative to amending Article 1, Chapter VII of the LAMC to replace the City's existing taxicab franchise regulatory framework with an open market permitting system.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the City Attorney. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

URGENCY CLAUSE – 12 VOTES NEEDED ON SECOND READING

Summary:

On January 10, 2022, your Committee considered January 6, 2022 LADOT and February 11, 2021 City Attorney reports and Ordinance relative to amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to replace the City's existing taxicab franchise regulatory framework with an open market permitting system. According to the LADOT, nine existing Ordinances grant franchises to taxi companies, giving them the exclusive right to provide taxicab service in the City of Los Angeles (City). Council granted these franchises following a "Public Convenience and Necessity" analysis, using the procedures prescribed in Administrative Code Section 13 and Ordinance No. 58200 that grant franchises, permits, and privileges.

The City initially adopted the 1990s, and the existing ordinances became effective on January 1, 2001. Following a series of extensions, these ordinances and the subsequent franchise agreements expired on December 31, 2019. In October 2019, Council approved the elimination of franchise agreements, but extended them

through June 30, 2020, to allow time for the LADOT to develop an open permitting structure for taxicab regulations moving forward.

In March 2020, the COVID19 pandemic forced the LADOT to reallocate its resources to address emergency needs. This prevented the LADOT's completion of the necessary steps to implement a new taxicab permit system and Council approved an additional six-month extension in June 2020. In February 2021, the City Attorney presented an ordinance to Council to replace the City's existing taxicab franchise regulatory framework with an open market permitting system. At that time, Council extended the franchise for an additional six months and requested the Taxi Commission present a comprehensive set of rules and guidelines to the Transportation Committee before the new ordinance was approved. In August 2021, the franchises were again extended an additional six months to address industry feedback and allow time for Victor Narro of the UCLA Labor Center to prepare a report on taxi driver wages. In October 2021, the Commission voted to tentatively approve the new rules and guidelines. On December 16, 2021, the Commission made modifications and held a final vote wherein the new rules and guidelines were approved. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter pending further information.

Subsequently, on January 18, 2022 the Committee further considered this matter and after consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to continue the matter. On February 1, 2022, the Committee reconsidered this matter to include a newly submitted January 27, 2022 City Attorney report and Ordinance. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend adoption of the Ordinance dated January 27, 2022 and to receive and file the previous February 11, 2021 City Attorney report and Ordinance and January 6, 2022 LADOT report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Transportation Committee



COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

BONIN:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES

ARL
2/1/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-