

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, FRANK BAKER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO UTILIZE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FEDERAL AND STATE COVID RECOVERY FUNDS TO BUY-BACK HACKNEY CARRIAGE MEDALLIONS

WHEREAS, Drivers who have invested in a cab medallion under the impression and guidance of the city are losing thousands of dollars while businesses such as Uber and Lyft are capitalizing on the rideshare market in an unregulated fashion and blocking out cab drivers from the industry; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal and State ARPA Funds have been approved with the goal of supporting small business emergency needs, speedy recovery of impacted industries, and addressing negative economic impacts; *and*

WHEREAS, The taxi industry in Boston is largely made up of small-business owners not monopoly holders or companies, according to the director of external affairs at Way Forward Taxi Alliance, buying back Cab medallions purchased for erroneous sums is critical to the economic stability of the almost 680 individual medallion owners in Boston, who together own around 1,255 of the 1,825 City of Boston medallions; *and*

WHEREAS, Medallion owners have practically lost the long term investment that they made on taxi medallions due to a lack of City of Boston regulation on the ride-hailing market; *and*

WHEREAS, Reinvestment in the cab industry, a majority immigrant-owned industry, is a reinvestment in immigrant communities and their families. Buy-back of medallions provides economic stability to City of Boston medallion owners while accomplishing the goals of ARPA; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss utilizing ARPA federal and state Covid-19 recovery funds to buy-back Boston Hackney Carriage Medallions and that the Office of the Boston Police Commissioner, Boston Transportation Authority, and related departments, government entities, non-profits, associations, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

Filed on: June 15, 2022