

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA AND FRANK BAKER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION OF THE TAXI INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, The Taxi industry in Boston has struggled to compete with rideshare companies that have developed strategies and best practices for participating in the current market, leaving drivers and medallion owners with little economic success; **and**

WHEREAS, 1,825 taxi medallions are licensed by the City of Boston and owned by Boston residents; **and**

WHEREAS, The Taxi industry is primarily made up of small-business owners and is a majority immigrant-owned industry; **and**

WHEREAS, The Boston Taxi industry is an essential resource for neighbors, including elderly and disabled Boston residents, who may receive discounted taxi coupons; **and**

WHEREAS, Information and guidelines regarding the application process for a Hackney License are outdated, lacking necessary steps, and inaccessible for non-native English-speaking residents; **and**

WHEREAS, The Hackney Division of the Boston Police Department is responsible for regulating all taxis, sight-seeing automobiles, horses and carriages, and pedicabs in the City of Boston; **and**

WHEREAS, Taxi drivers are licensed by the Police Commissioner under Chapter 392 of the Acts of 1930 and commanded by the Inspector of Carriages, who regulates the taxi industry; **and**

WHEREAS, Regulation and management of the Taxi industry is a small-business issue, an immigrant community issue, and an issue of economic justice; **and**

WHEREAS, The need for fundamental changes to the Taxi industry is not a new subject, given that the Institute for Justice studied the issue in 1995 and former Mayor Walsh created a Taxi Advisory Committee in 2017; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: The appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the recovery and revitalization of the Taxi industry. Representatives from the Boston Police Department's Hackney Division, the Office of the Boston Police Commissioner, the Office of New Urban Mechanics, the Department of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment, the Age Strong Commission, the Department for Small Business Development, and other related departments, government entities, non-profits, associations, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 1, 2023