

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION relating to the for-hire transportation industry; establishing a work program for the City Council to explore ways to ensure equitable compensation for drivers, to review the administrative rules and regulations to improve customer service and lower costs to participants, and to explore ways to ensure equal market access to all participants.

..body

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Ordinance 124524 on July 14, 2014, establishing minimum operating requirements for transportation network companies (TNCs) and affiliated drivers; imposing industry-wide vehicle inspection and driver training standards; imposing insurance requirements for transportation network companies and affiliated vehicles; altering insurance requirements for taxi and for-hire vehicles; requiring rate transparency across the industry; establishing and altering licensing fees; establishing an accessibility service charge; raising the maximum number of taxicab licenses issued by the City; granting hailing rights to for-hire vehicles; and establishing a property right in the license for taxi and for-hire vehicle license holders; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Ordinance 124968 on December 23, 2015, establishing a framework that would require companies that hire or contract with for-hire drivers licensed to operate in the City to bargain the terms and conditions of work with a Driver Representative if enough such drivers chose to be represented; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, over the last several years, has worked on new policies to create a competitive and fair environment for taxis, for-hire vehicles, and TNCs, allow new market entrants and technologies, improve customer convenience and safety; and

1 WHEREAS, City Councilmembers have received feedback from labor representatives and TNC
2 drivers indicating that the fare charged by TNCs have been falling over time, resulting in
3 lower compensation to drivers; and

4 WHEREAS, labor representatives and many TNC drivers have requested the City Council enact
5 legislation to establish a minimum fare for all segments of the industry that ensures equal
6 market access and establishes an industry aligned with the City's values of fairness,
7 shared prosperity and transparency; NOW, THEREFORE,

8 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:**

9 Section 1. The City Council will consider legislation requiring data on fares charged,
10 hours worked, total number of drivers, and driver compensation from all market participants,
11 including possibly drivers, to support the formation of City Council policy for the industry. In
12 drafting such legislation, the City Council will consider defining what constitutes an operating
13 hour and will explore creative ways to address the concerns of market participants about the
14 release of data.

15 Section 2. The City Council will consider legislation to establish a set of minimum
16 charges across all segments of the for-hire transportation industry to ensure fair market access to
17 all participants. Options could include setting a minimum base fare rate of \$2.40 or legislation
18 establishing minimum compensation for independent contractors.

19 Section 3. Additional issues Council will examine and review to improve the for-hire
20 transportation industry in Seattle include, but are not limited to:

- 21 1. Transition to regional license system for all market segments. The City would
22 continue to coordinate with King County in establishing and administering
23 consistent rules, regulation, and fare structures;

2. Consolidation and leveling of operating fees in SMC 6.310.150;
3. Options for conversion of for-hire vehicles to metered taxicab for those choosing to convert;
4. Flexibility in licensing tenures to allow drivers time to travel to visit family overseas, and to accommodate the seasonality of the market;
5. Flexibility in the financial obligations on drivers and owner-operators in the taxi industry;
7. Flexibility in insurance standards to lower driver costs;
8. Establishing a bill of rights for drivers and passengers; and
9. Expanding the Seattle–King County Taxicab Advisory Commission to include all for-hire transportation industry segments.

Section 4. Council will introduce preliminary policy recommendations by the end of the second quarter of 2018 and final recommendations with legislation by the end of the third quarter 2018.

