

From: [Gee, Natalie \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Business and Tax Regulations Code amendment suspending taxi driver fee
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:39:36 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Linda,

Please add this to File No. 210180.

Thank you!

Natalie Gee 朱凱勤, Chief of Staff
Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10
President, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl, San Francisco | Room 282
Direct: 415.554.7672 | **Office:** 415.554.7670

*I am working from home due to the **COVID-19 Stay Safer At Home order** and will be most responsive by email.*

From: Toran, Kate <Kate.Toran@sfmta.com>
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 at 3:11 PM
To: Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>
Cc: Gee, Natalie (BOS) <natalie.gee@sfgov.org>, Burch, Percy (BOS) <percy.burch@sfgov.org>, Ramos, Joel (MTA) <Joel.Ramos@sfmta.com>, Martinsen, Janet (MTA) <Janet.Martinsen@sfmta.com>, Cranna, Philip (MTA) <Philip.Cranna@sfmta.com>
Subject: Business and Tax Regulations Code amendment suspending taxi driver fee

Dear Board President Walton,

I am writing to support the [Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code](#) to extend the temporary suspension of the business registration and fee requirements to taxi drivers through fiscal year 2021-2022. Extending the suspension of business registration fees for taxi drivers is particularly important at this challenging time.

The SFMTA is doing its part to support the taxi industry as well, and has waived all [taxi fees](#) for two years. Additionally, the SFMTA has provided the following support to the taxi industry:

- Established the [Essential Trip Card \(ETC\) program](#) to provide discounted taxi trips for seniors and people with disabilities who would have otherwise taken the trip on Muni. Over 2,600 riders are currently signed up for this program and over 12,000 trips provided thus far.
- Created a [promotional video of ETC program](#).
- Supporting the Department of Environment's [Essential Worker Ride Home program](#),

which provides subsidized taxi trips for essential workers. SFMTA worked with the Transportation Authority and the Department of Environment staff to identify \$447,000 in funding that was reprogrammed to support this important program.

- [Provided personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) kits that include sanitizing fluid, paper towels, nitrile gloves, and face masks for taxi drivers.
- Training taxi company representatives and posted [training video on proper cleaning procedures](#).
- Ensuring that taxis are sanitized after each passenger trip.
- Procured and [distributed clear plastic shields](#) for vehicles at no charge to taxi companies. This plastic shield adds a layer of protection for both the driver and passenger.
- Publicizing the benefits of taking taxis via [Blog Post](#).
- Honoring outstanding [Every Day Heroes: Taxi Driver Corey Lamb](#).
- Increasing the per vehicle rebate up to \$7,700 in the SFMTA's [Clean Air Taxi program](#) and expanding eligibility to used vehicles. Over 96% vehicles in the taxi fleet are low-emission and play a critical role in meeting the City's ambitious climate goal of 80% of trips taken by sustainable means of travel by 2030.
- Including taxis in the expansion of the network of permanent transit only lanes, which will allow taxis to provide more efficient service to customers.
- Including taxis in the [emergency order](#) for [Temporary Transit Only Lanes](#) currently being implemented.
- Launched a pre-pilot to test concept of using taxis to provide work-related trips for city employees to replace non-revenue vehicle trips.
- Distributed [face mask stickers](#) to inform passengers that they must wear a face mask while riding in a taxi.
- Reprogrammed ~\$240,000 for a [taxi marketing campaign](#), which will be developed in winter/spring and is intended to provide sustained value over time, leveraging SFMTA's in-house marketing talent, access to on-board advertising, and public service announcements.
- SFMTA will now [pay the \\$600 cost](#) of the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) evaluation for taxi drivers who failed the drug test as part of the driver permit renewal process
- Temporarily [suspended the Post-K full-time driving](#) requirement
- Temporarily [modified the insurance](#) requirements for a twelve-month period
- Published an [on-line map of the transit-only \(red\) lanes](#), which shows both taxi stands and red lanes that specifically allow taxis. This useful tool shows taxi drivers and potential riders how taxis are able to bypass normal vehicle restrictions with access to these lanes across the city.
- Provided information relevant to the taxi industry regarding Covid-19 [crisis resources](#), [CARES Act](#) benefits, and [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#).
- Requested SF Federal Credit Union establish a [loan deferral](#) program for taxi medallion holders.
- Temporarily amended the [ramp taxi incentives at SFO](#) to make it easier to qualify for the benefit and limiting the number of short trips per month. The SFO Short pass allows eligible drivers to have a maximum of 15 short trips per month.
- Updated the SFO rules to only allow pick-ups in Purchased medallions and ramp

taxis.

- Requested that taxi drivers get the vaccine shot as soon as possible, and be considered in the same group as Muni operators and paratransit drivers.
- Provided [additional access to taxi service](#) for those who use the [Essential Trip Card](#) for trips to/from vaccine appointments
- PPE Provided to the Taxi industry (minimum count) as of 3/11/21:
 - 14,504 gloves
 - 3,469 masks
 - 830 hand sanitizers
 - 87 gallons of disinfectant
 - 259 rolls of paper towels
 - 822 plastic shields installed between front and rear seat

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like a briefing on any of the aforementioned steps we have taken to support the taxi industry during these unprecedented times.

Thanks to you and your colleagues for your leadership.

Kate Toran

Director

Taxis, Access & Mobility Services Division

all pronouns welcome



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