

1 [Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Waive the 2017 Taxi Medallion
2 Renewal Fee for All Medallion Holders]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and its Board to**
4 **waive the Medallion Renewal Fee set forth in Transportation Code, Section 320, for all**
5 **Taxi Cab Medallion Holders.**

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7 WHEREAS, Section 320 of the Transportation Code sets forth taxi-related permit and
8 permit renewal fees, and among those fees is an annual Medallion Holder Renewal fee of
9 \$1,134, effective July 1, 2017; and

10 WHEREAS, On March 27, 2017, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
11 (SFMTA) issued a request to its Board of Directors to amend Section 320 of the
12 Transportation Code to eliminate the Medallion Holder Renewal Fee for Transferable
13 Medallions that were purchased under the Taxi Medallion Sales Pilot Program and the
14 Permanent Taxi Medallion Transfer Program; and

15 WHEREAS, As of March 1, 2017, of the 1850 Taxi Medallions that exist in the City and
16 County of San Francisco, 700 are Transferable Medallions, which require the medallion holder
17 to drive a taxicab 800 hours per year, or 156 hour-hour shifts per year, or otherwise risk fines,
18 penalties or revocation of their medallion; and

19 WHEREAS, Of the 700 Transferable Medallion Holders, 534 purchased Medallions for
20 the full price of \$250,000, and 156 purchased under the half-price program for \$125,000; and

21 WHEREAS, In its recommendation to permanently eliminate the medallion renewal fee
22 for Transferable Medallion Holders, the SFMTA finds, “Taxicab drivers, including the working
23 transferable medallion holders, are experiencing diminished incomes attributed to an
24 increased level of competition from the numerous Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)
25 that are currently on San Francisco streets”; and

1 WHEREAS, All traditional taxi cab drivers are adversely impacted by the increased
2 level of competition from the numerous TNCs that are currently on San Francisco streets, in
3 the form of fewer fares and lower pay; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFMTA nevertheless limits its requested relief to Transferable
5 Medallion Holders, at a loss to the Agency of \$793,800, on the dual bases that they have
6 “invested the most financially in the industry”, and that if fees were waived for all medallion
7 holders that have a driving requirement, the total annual lost revenue to SFMTA would be
8 approximately \$1.5 million; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Treasurer’s Office estimates that there are now 45,000
10 Uber and Lyft drivers who operate on San Francisco streets, dwarfing the 1,850 taxi cabs on
11 San Francisco streets, and

12 WHEREAS, The revenue that could be generated by requiring Business Permits of all
13 45,000 TNC drivers, even at the lowest fee for business registration of \$75, would generate
14 \$3.375 million annually; and

15 WHEREAS, The SFMTA finds that eliminating the Medallion Renewal Fee for
16 Transferable Medallions supports the goals and objectives set forth in the SFMTA’s Strategic
17 Plan, including (1) creating a safer transportation experience for everyone; (2) improving the
18 environment and quality of life in San Francisco; and (3) creating a workplace that delivers
19 outstanding service; and

20 WHEREAS, Eliminating the Medallion Renewal Fee for all Medallion Holders also
21 furthers the goals and objectives set forth in the SFMTA’s Strategic Plan; and

22 WHEREAS, Taxi cabs serve a critical role in the context of the City’s public
23 transportation plan, including providing transportation to people who don’t have credit cards,
24 don’t have smartphones, require paratransit services, or do not have access to TNCs for other
25 reasons; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA to expand its request to the
2 MTA Board to include relief for all Medallion Holders, in the form of a waiver of the 2017
3 Medallion Holder Renewal Fee or permanent waiver of that Fee; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA to pursue other
5 sources of funding through appropriate regulation of TNCs to make up for the loss in revenue
6 that would result from a temporary or permanent waiver of the Medallion Holder Renewal Fee.

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