

1 [Opposing Taxi Fare Increase Without Improved Taxi Service]

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3 **Resolution opposing proposed taxi fare increase under consideration by the Municipal**  
4 **Transportation Agency in the absence of improved taxi service.**

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6 WHEREAS, A reliable taxi system is critical to San Francisco’s transportation system  
7 and its status as a world-class City, a fact the Board of Supervisors recently recognized in  
8 supporting increased taxi service through the issuance of peak-time taxi permits; and

9 WHEREAS, A reliable taxi system – one in which people can find taxis when they need  
10 them – is a key element of our Transit First Policy, in that having access to taxis, combined  
11 with great public transportation, safe biking, and pedestrian safety, will encourage people to  
12 rely less on personal automobiles; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco has inadequate taxi service, a fact widely recognized by  
14 San Franciscans who wish to use taxis, businesses whose customers rely on taxis, and  
15 people visiting San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, The inadequate supply of taxi service results from various factors –  
17 including an archaic medallion system, lack of centralized technology, and a gate system that  
18 can have negative impacts on taxi drivers’ ability to earn a living – but most significantly from  
19 an inadequate and artificially constricted supply of taxis; and

20 WHEREAS, The Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), three years after taking over  
21 management of San Francisco’s taxi system, is now contemplating increasing taxi service,  
22 with support from the Board of Supervisors, but has not yet increased the supply; and

23 WHEREAS, taxi service in San Francisco is currently among the most expensive in the  
24 United States, with expensive taxi service discouraging its use; and

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1           WHEREAS, The MTA is now considering a fare increase that would make San  
2           Francisco the most expensive City for taxis in the United States; and

3           WHEREAS, Taxi drivers deserve to make a fair wage and to be treated with respect  
4           and dignity, while at the same time, the public deserves affordable and reliable taxi service;  
5           and

6           WHEREAS, The proposed fare increase will make taxi service in San Francisco even  
7           more expensive than it already is, without any corresponding improvement or increase in taxi  
8           service for the public; now, therefore be it

9           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors opposes MTA's proposed increase in taxi  
10          fares and believes the proposal not to be in the public interest, given that MTA has not yet  
11          increased taxi service; and, be it

12          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors opposes any taxi fare increase  
13          unless such increase is implemented in conjunction with a significant and meaningful increase  
14          in taxi service.

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