

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2016, Austin voters rejected Proposition 1 and the ordinance that would have supplanted the existing Council-adopted transportation network company rules; and

WHEREAS, in response to these election results, Austin's two largest transportation network companies, Uber and Lyft, voluntarily discontinued local operations after providing just a few days' - notice; and

WHEREAS, transportation network companies (TNCs) provide a number of benefits in our community, including creating flexible employment opportunities for drivers and an additional transportation option for Austinites; and

WHEREAS, many Austinites have expressed strong interest in continuing to have TNCs as options for transportation and employment; and

WHEREAS, TNCs provide an important option in particular during times of peak demand and special events; and

WHEREAS, additional taxicabs could also help meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, three newer TNCs have begun operating in Austin, and several others may be interested in doing so as well; and

WHEREAS, City staff have been working with the three newer transportation network companies to address their interest in expanding operations within Austin; and

WHEREAS, these meetings have yielded information about the challenges inherent in the process of "onboarding" many drivers at once, many of whom need to participate in the process outside of regular business hours and would be most

efficiently served by having all elements of the application process located in one physical space; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Department staff have helped organize a driver fair during which individuals can apply, be fingerprinted, and have their automobiles inspected all at one time; and

WHEREAS, to meet this one-time immediate need, the City of Austin may be able to assist in other revenue neutral ways; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20150521-034 directed staff to begin the process of creating a driver-owned taxi franchise modeled after a cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the ATX Coop Taxi submitted a proposal for a cooperative franchise with a request for 548 permits on March 7, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Department staff intend to post the ATX Coop Taxi franchise for first reading on the same date as this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin supports small businesses in a variety of ways, and the City's Economic Development Department provides resources including microloans and technical assistance to aid in business development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, these resources may be able to be accessed by smaller transportation network companies seeking to expand an existing or create a new business to meet the demand transportation options in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Economic Development Department provides different resources including microloans and technical assistance to support business development and job creation, and these resources may be able to be accessed by smaller transportation network companies seeking to expand an

existing or create a new business to meet the demand transportation options in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Family Business Loan Program (FBLP) is one such targeted economic initiative, and this federally funded program offers low-interest loans to qualified small businesses who are expanding and creating jobs; and

WHEREAS, some Austinites have expressed interest in supporting TNC models that could afford more financial benefits and more job security for drivers;

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to expedite processing of the ATX Coop Taxi's application for a driver-owned taxicab franchise to the extent allowable by City Charter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue engaging in conversations with existing or interested TNCs that wish to operate in Austin to determine what other obstacles, if any, exist that could impede their ability to scale up to meet the demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager shall identify revenue-neutral city resources and process or policy efforts that would enable smaller companies to expand rapidly to meet the demand and shall post any reasonable suggestions for Council consideration at the first possible Council agenda; and

That the City Manager is directed to provide TNCs with a menu of economic development resources for which TNCs that may be interested in expanding operations to meet the existing demand in the Austin area might be eligible. Of particular interest would be available resources that could be tied to expanding businesses that provide more financial benefits and more job security for TNC drivers.

Because the matter is of immediate concern, the City Manager is directed to report back to Council by May 26, 2016, on the results of these efforts.

ADOPTED: _____, 2015

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk