To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

Subject: Increase Berkeley Paratransit Services Taxi Scrip Redemption Window Cash Drawer Amount

RECOMMENDATION
Adopt a Resolution authorizing Berkeley Paratransit Services (BPS) to increase the cash drawer amount for the Taxi Scrip Redemption window to $15,000 to allow BPS to increase the daily cash redemption limit from $400 to $800, one day per week.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
Funds are currently available to support the increase as follows: $194,082 in Measure B (393-7917-463-30.38); $149,623 in Measure BB (408-7917-463-30.38).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
The current cash drawer amount allows BPS to disburse only $400 per day, one day per week, to taxi drivers redeeming spent taxi scrip. Increasing the daily disbursement amount without increasing the cash drawer amount would result in a depletion of disbursable funds before the close of business which could, in turn, result in non-payment to some taxi drivers.

BACKGROUND
Transportation is one of the most significant issues facing seniors and people with disabilities. To address this need, Alameda County voters approved the reauthorization of Measure B in 2000 and the passage of Measure BB in 2014, which enable the Alameda County Transportation Commission to continue to administer the proceeds from the one-half cent transportation sales tax from each Measure. The inception date for the new Measure B was April 1, 2002 and Measure BB began on April 1, 2015.

Measure B and BB funds are critical resources in the Berkeley community to support the needs of disabled and senior Berkeley residents. The City of Berkeley utilizes these funds to administer the BPS Taxi Scrip program and the BPS High Medical Need (supplemental taxi scrip) Program which both increase transportation options for disabled and senior community members in Berkeley.
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
By allowing a larger daily reimbursement, fewer trips to the cash window are required by taxi drivers, saving on transport to and parking in the downtown area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
Berkeley taxi drivers are required by Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7,336-NS to provide service to recipients of BPS taxi scrip. The current Taxi Scrip Redemption Window cash drawer amount allows BPS to disburse $400 per day, one day per week, to taxi drivers redeeming spent taxi scrip. By increasing the cash drawer amount BPS would be able to disburse $800 per day, one day per week which will allow taxi drivers more economic flexibility throughout the month.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
Berkeley Paratransit Services is currently exploring the feasibility of an electronic taxi scrip payment system which would facilitate payment to taxi drivers on a “per ride” basis in real time.

CONTACT PERSON
Richard Castrillon, Senior Center Director, 981-7777

Attachments:
1: Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. ##.###-N.S.

INCREASE BERKELEY PARATRANSIT SERVICES TAXI SCRIP REDEMPTION WINDOW CASH DRAWER AMOUNT

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7,336-NS provides for the use of taxi scrip as payment; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County voters passed, Measure B in 2000 and Measure BB in 2014, which enabled the Alameda County Transportation Commission to continue to administer the proceeds from the one-half cent transportation sales tax from each Measure; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley taxi drivers are providers of critical transportation services to Berkeley residents with disabilities and seniors; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to support a cash drawer increase as follows: $200,581 in Measure B (393-7917-463-30.38); $189,780 in Measure BB (408-7917-463-30.38).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Berkeley Paratransit Services Taxi Redemption Window cash drawer amount will increase to $15,000, and the daily allowable disbursement amount to taxi drivers will increase from $400 to $800, one day per week.