



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
Subject: Taxi Scrip Redemption Window Cash Drawer Increase

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing City Manager or her designee to increase the cash drawer amount for the weekly Taxi Scrip Redemption window from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the cash drawer increase is available in the Aging Services Division's Measure BB Fund (Fund 136).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current cash drawer amount allows the Aging Services Division's Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled (BRSD) program to disburse \$1,000 per driver, one day per week, to taxi drivers redeeming taxi scrip. With an increase in taxi scrip distribution to program participants, and twenty-three (23) current permitted taxi drivers, disbursable funds are often depleted before the close of business. This results in non-payment or partial payment to some taxi drivers.

BACKGROUND

City Council approved current cash drawer amount of \$15,000 on January 23, 2018.

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

Measure BB Funds are a critical resource in the Berkeley community to support the needs of disabled and senior Berkeley residents. The City of Berkeley utilizes these funds to administer the BRSD Taxi Scrip and High Medical Need Taxi Scrip (supplemental taxi scrip) Program through the Aging Services Division, which increases transportation options for disabled and senior community members in Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Taxi transportation allows the disabled and senior residents of Berkeley to engage with the community and potentially rideshare.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley taxi drivers are required by Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7336 to provide service to recipients of BRSD taxi scrip. The current Taxi Scrip Redemption Window cash drawer amount allows BRSD to disburse \$1,000 per driver, one day per week, to taxi drivers redeeming taxi scrip vouchers. However, the current amount does not meet the current need. By increasing the cash drawer amount, BRSD will be able to ensure all taxi drivers receive the full amount of their allowable weekly cash disbursement.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Not increasing the weekly cash drawer amount can result in some drivers not getting their allowable weekly disbursement of \$1,000.

CONTACT PERSON

Mary Triston, Transportation Services Coordinator, HHCS, 510-981-5135

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

INCREASE BERKELEY RIDES FOR SENIORS & THE DISABLED TAXI SCRIP  
REDEMPTION WINDOW CASH DRAWER AMOUNT

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7,336-NS requires taxi drivers to accept Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled Taxi Scrip as payment for services; and

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

WHEREAS, Berkeley taxi drivers are providers of critical transportation services to disabled and senior Berkeley residents; and

WHEREAS, City Council approved current cash drawer amount of \$15,000 on January 23, 2018; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the cash drawer increase is available in the Aging Services Division's Measure BB Fund Account 136-51-505-542-2038-000-444.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to increase the weekly Taxi Redemption Window cash drawer amount to \$20,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

