

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION OF COUNCILORS TIMOTHY McCARTHY and MICHELLE WU

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council held a very well attended hearing regarding the Inconsistencies in Commuter Rail Fares and the effect of this policy on local communities in the Hyde Park Community Center; and

WHEREAS: The Commuter Rail Fares are based on a "Zone" and "Interzone" System with Zone 1A servicing the Greater Boston area and Zones 1 through 10 servicing communities and suburban areas outside of Boston; and

WHEREAS: Some Greater Boston Neighborhoods are in Zone 1 and there are inconsistencies and inequities in fares between stations in the same neighborhoods, some less than one half mile apart with fares from one station to the next more than double; and

WHEREAS: These fare differences place an unfair burden on Boston residents and their communities creating overcrowding in some stations and long waits in others; and

WHEREAS: This difference in fares is also reflected in the use of Commuter Rail parking lots, in Hyde Park where three lines are a quarter mile from each other, one parking lot is over filled and the other empty. This makes traffic congestion and parking on residential streets by commuters a constant problem for residents of that section of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: In other areas such as Roslindale, which is Zone 1, the station is about a quarter mile from Forest Hills which is Zone 1A, and the Forest Hills area is overburdened by commuters looking to park; and

WHEREAS: The General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) attended the hearing and acknowledged the receipt of communications from numerous state and municipal elected officials expressing the concerns of their constituents and advocating for a review and changes to the current system; and

WHEREAS: Unanimously The residents, community organizations representatives and elected officials presented testimony to the committee and the MBTA reaffirming the antiquated, inefficient and inequitable current status of the fare system and also offered ideas, suggestions and collaboration in any process to evaluate and implement best practices and new technologies resulting in effective and just fares, maximizing available resources and encouraging greater use of public transportation; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA has been slow in the past addressing these concerns, at the hearing the General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority thanked the committee and the residents for their continued input and stated that the MBTA has been actively conducting a comprehensive system wide review of the system and will be submitting recommendations in the very near future; and now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council applauds the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for its current efforts to address these matters and strongly urge all relevant authorities to promptly act to implement the needed policy changes to the Commuter Rail Fares system for equity throughout Boston neighborhoods and that the Boston City Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the General Manager of the MBTA, the Chief Administrator of the MBTA, the Fiscal and Management Control Board of the MBTA, the Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the members of the Massachusetts Legislature.