

Offered by Councillor STEPHEN J. MURPHY

CITY OF BOSTON



IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON  
MEDALLION TRANSFER

*WHEREAS*, In 2008 the Boston Police Department implemented new Hackney Carriage Rules. These new regulations require drastic changes to taxi cabs, such as credit card and hybrid requirements. Although there are valid reasons for such changes, these new requirements are unfairly adversely affecting certain cab operators; and,

*WHEREAS*, Unlike smaller large taxi owners, smaller owners are unable to financially handle these large and expensive mandates. These changes affect the small business owners and employees of Boston, forcing many small owners to sell their medallions to operate taxis. With medallion sale and consolidation of medallion owners comes layoffs and less competition; and,

*WHEREAS*, Smaller medallion owners are forced to sell their City licenses in order to avoid financial ruin caused by new regulations and a slow economy. Transferring medallion ownership requires approval by the Inspector of Carriages within the Hackney Division Unit. Although the Boston Police Commissioner is vested with the authority to regulate hackney carriages, there is a broader welfare issue at stake requiring protective action; and,

*WHEREAS*, This recession is impacting everyone and the City has an obligation to take any action available to ensure that our small business owners aren't crumbled by the down-economy. Furthermore, the City has an obligation to ensure the welfare of its citizenry by guaranteeing that the City's own regulations don't unduly hamper certain businesses; and,

*WHEREAS*, By imposing a temporary moratorium on medallion transfer applications, the City would give smaller medallion owners the opportunity to find ways to comply with the new carriage regulations and will assist such owners and lessees by providing them more time to obtain necessary financing to make required modifications and upgrades in an era of tight credit availability; *NOW, THEREFORE*

***Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:***

*Section 1.*

CBC Chapter XVI is hereby amended by appending the following section after subsection (d) in section 16-15.5:- “e. The Boston Police Commissioner shall impose a one-hundred and eighty (180) day moratorium on all applications for transfer of medallion within the City of Boston. This moratorium shall apply to all applications pending and/or received on or after the date of passage.”

*Section 2.*

The provisions of these sections shall become effective immediately upon passage.