

31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
JEFF CURTIS

Clerk of the Board
MEGAN COTTRELL

Majority Leader
NINA SHERWOOD

Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

RESOLUTION NO. 4190 SENSE OF THE BOARD URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO MAKE THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL BUS FARES PERMAMENT FOR ALL BUS RIDERS

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Connecticut has suspended local fares on buses operated by CT Transit until March 31, 2023 in response to rising inflation, among other things; and

WHEREAS, buses are an essential mode of transportation for working- and middle-class families, young people, and students, among others, who cannot afford to or otherwise do not want to own an automobile, many of whom live in the city of Stamford; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that pay-per-use fees for transportation, such as bus fares and highway tolls, are regressive taxes that disproportionately affect the most financially vulnerable residents; and


WHEREAS, the estimated cost investment of making bus travel free annually is \$18 million, a small fraction of infrastructure spending by the Connecticut Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a study of the impact of making bus rides free in Kansas City, Missouri in 2020 found that ridership increased, overall regional greenhouse gas emissions decreased, jobs were created, and economic output for the region was increased as a direct result of the elimination of fares; and


WHEREAS, the Cities of Hartford and New Haven have passed similar resolutions directed toward the Governor and the General Assembly relating to the elimination of local bus fares.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT it calls on the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Connecticut to make the elimination of local bus fares permanent for all bus riders.

This resolution was approved on the Consent Agenda at the regular monthly meeting of the 31st Board of Representatives held on February 6, 2023



Jeff Curtis, President
31st Board of Representatives



Megan Cottrell, Clerk
31st Board of Representatives

cc: Mayor Caroline Simmons
Douglas Dalena, Esq., Director of Legal Affairs
Lyda Ruijter, Town & City Clerk
Sandra L. Dennies, Director of Administration
Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations
Elda Sinani, Director of OPM
Loren Nadres, Director of Economic Development
Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff
Stamford Legislative Delegation
Governor Lamont