



Happy Holidays from FRESC!



December 2015

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Dear Friends of FRESC,

It has been a busy year filled with success and challenge. I want to end it by saying Thank You! Thank you for supporting our work through gifts of treasure (your hard earned money), for your partnership on the issues that matter most: jobs, housing and transit. Also thank you for following our work and being a voice for change and an ally for workers and economic justice. Creating the kind of strong communities we all desire that offer opportunity for everyone will require ALL of us to be at the table, all of us lifting our voices and fighting the good fight.

No matter what your faith or beliefs, I wish you a holiday season filled with renewal, rest and love. Give some love, receive some love. Remember that life isn't all about the grind or material things; it's about our shared humanity.

Happy Holidays,

Felicia

Felicia F. Griffin
Executive Director

Seattle City Council Votes to Give Drivers a Voice On The Job



In unanimous vote, city becomes first to give all for-hire drivers the right to a collective action

Nationwide – In a historic unanimous vote this afternoon, Seattle became the first city to help ensure safe and reliable transportation by giving all for-hire drivers – including Uber, Lyft and taxi drivers – a right to speak out collectively about workplace concerns.

“I’m so happy that my coworkers and I will now have a way to resolve the issues we’re facing at work. We called for action and our city listened,” said Seattle Uber driver Papa Diawara. “I’m hopeful that this new law will give us a way to keep the best parts of our job, while working with our company to make sure Uber jobs are good jobs and that we can provide the best service possible for our customers.”

The legislation is the first of its type in the country. While legal battles rage across the nation over app-based drivers’ current legal classification as independent contractors – a status which denies them access to basic worker protections like minimum wage, workers’ compensation and overtime – the Seattle *Giving Drivers a Voice* law ensures that all for-hire drivers, including taxi, limo, Uber and Lyft drivers, have the right to a voice on the job. City Council Member Mike O’Brien sponsored and was a leading proponent of the innovative legislation.

“Today, we set an example for how cities across the country can work to ensure safe, reliable transportation and basic worker protections in our current legal landscape,” said City Council Member Mike O’Brien. “As a Council Member, I recognize the importance of giving businesses the flexibility to innovate, while also making sure working people and our community have access to good jobs and services. This legislation is an important step forward in creating the conditions in which our whole

community can thrive.”

The passage of the *Giving Drivers a Voice* comes as the national debate around the on-demand workforce grows. Just last week, a highly-watched class-action lawsuit brought against Uber in California picked up momentum as the judge expanded the class to include a broader swath of drivers. The suit challenges Uber's claim that drivers should be considered independent contractors, rather than employees. It also comes just a month after talks of nationwide Uber strikes emerged among self-organized drivers online.

“In Seattle and beyond, we see drivers coming together to address their concerns on the job,” said Partnership for Working Families Director Nikki Fortunato Bas. “This legislation will give drivers a clear mechanism to do just that, ultimately improving transportation for the entire city. This law is the first in what is likely to be a rising wave of innovative approaches to updating a legal framework that ensures all workers in the on-demand and sub-contracted economies have access to the basic rights they deserve.”

[For Full Article »](#)

Community Member Highlight

Arthur Cruz is a local small business owner and committed community leader from Westminster. He has been in the hardwood floor business for over 27 years and is eager to use his leadership skills to influence the city's fastracks connectivity, mall re-development and decision-making processes. With his home just blocks away from the commuter rail, Arthur would like to see a sustainable station area that provides easy access for his children and neighbors.

His personal hope is that as construction continues, small business owners like himself, will have the opportunities to help Westminster flourish. As a 12 year resident, he also hopes the city continues open communications with residents on the future of Westminster neighborhoods. With three children and a wife, who also owns a small business, Arthur is extremely passionate about calling Westminster home. When asked about what motives him to take action, Arthur replied, “My neighbors are like my family and we can all express our voice together”.

For more info on Cruz'in Hardwood Floors and to support our Community Member, contact Arthur Cruz at: [720-422-2616](tel:720-422-2616)

Policy Link ~ Equity Manifesto



It begins by joining together, believing in the potency of inclusion, and building from a common bond.

It embraces complexity as cause for collaboration, accepting that our fates are inextricable.

It recognizes local leaders as national leaders, nurturing the wisdom and creativity within every community as essential to solving the nation's problems.

It demands honesty and forthrightness, calling out racism and oppression, both overt and systemic.

It strives for the power to realize our goals while summoning the grace to sustain them.



It requires that we understand the past, without being trapped in it; embrace the present, without being constrained by it; and look to the future, guided by the hopes and courage of those who have fought before and beside us.

This is equity: just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Unlocking the promise of the nation by unleashing the promise in us all.

The Equity Manifesto has been inspired by the work, commitments, insights, and resolve of the many partners with whom PolicyLink has shared this journey. Please use it, share it, and reflect on it in your lives, your work, your struggle. Just please don't change it.

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