



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Frank E. Douglass, Jr.
Alder, Ward 2

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Tax Abatement Committee

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September 23, 2024

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I would like to respectfully submit to the New Haven Board of Alders the attached resolution supporting tax fairness and worker rights in “gig” work. Every worker in New Haven and across the country is afforded the full rights and protections they deserve in the workplace.

Many New Haven residents work full- or part-time in the platform or app-based economy, including services like Uber and Lyft. Despite their contributions, these workers are often denied basic workplace protections, such as minimum wage, overtime, workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, and health and safety measures. This is an issue of fairness and justice, as these workers are misclassified as independent contractors, allowing their employers to avoid paying payroll taxes or contributing to state unemployment funds.

It is essential that businesses in New Haven, like those across the nation, operate on a level playing field with fair and equal obligations. When certain companies are allowed to avoid their responsibilities, including paying taxes or complying with workplace protections, they harm their competitors and negatively impact our city's standard of living, public health, and overall social welfare. Other states, including Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey, have successfully investigated app-based companies and recovered significant unpaid revenues from them. The failure of such companies to meet their tax obligations places an undue burden on everyday taxpayers in New Haven and across the country.

For these reasons, I ask that the Board approve this Resolution to the New Haven Board of Alders in urging the Comptroller of the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Department of Labor, and the Attorney General of Connecticut to prioritize a thorough investigation into the conditions of app-based work and the tax implications of worker misclassification in this sector.



Thank you for considering this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank E. Douglass, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Hon. Frank E. Douglass, Jr.
Ward 2, Alder