



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

Master Minute Order

File Number: 21-024

Report ID: 21-024

Type: Regular - Board
Administrative Matters

Status: Adopted

**Agenda
Section:**

Meeting Body: Board of Directors -
Regular Meeting

Report Created: 12/17/2020

Final Action: 01/13/2021

ded Action: Consider the adoption of Resolution No. 21-001 establishing a temporary reduction in compensation for the Board of Directors. [Requested by President Ortiz.]

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: STAFF REPORT, Att.1 Resolution 21-001, Att.2. BP
123 - Board Compensation

Enactment Number:

Hearing Date:

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting	01/13/2021	Adopted				Pass
Action Text:	MOTION: YOUNG/WILLIAMS to adopt Resolution No. 21-001 establishing a temporary reduction in compensation for the Board of Directors by holding the 2019 and 2020 Consumer Price Index adjustments in abeyance until June 30, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote:					
Notes:	District Secretary Linda Nemeroff presented the staff report and outlined the options under consideration.					

Director Beckles commented that while she appreciated the sentiment, she did not support the reduction on the grounds that the job of an elected official to govern a regional transit district is a huge task that requires a lot of time, attention and fortitude. And, as a former city councilmember, working mother and grandmother she felt it was unfortunate to under pay public servants. She added that the current compensation was not suitable for living in the Bay Area and only deterred working class people and people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds from becoming public servants. People should not have to be independently wealthy or retired to serve the public. Paying the Board members less will not solve any problems at AC Transit.

Director Peeples was sympathetic to the comments offered by Director Beckles and

agreed that Board members are paid very little for the time and energy and they contribute. However, he offered support for Option 2 (5% reduction in compensation until June 30, 2022), saying that he was the one who went Sacramento several times to lobby for an increase in the stipend and was the person who added on the CPI adjustment. Further, the CPI was an inflationary adjustment and not necessarily a raise and believed that the Board needed to show some leadership in the face of a reopening of the union contract even though it may pose a financial burden to Board members.

Director Shaw was also sympathetic to comments made by Director Beckles but believed the District should not be providing raises in a time of unknown economic circumstances.

Director Walsh agreed that people should be paid a living wage no matter what their occupation. She agreed that the small stipend was a barrier to becoming a public servant and shared that a BART Board member recently stopped working their regular job to become a full time Board member, which was the lower paying job. Director Walsh acknowledged however, that due to cuts in service and limited hiring, everyone had to sacrifice a little and voiced her support for Option 1.

Director Young agreed with Director Beckles' comments and understood the optics, but believed the timing was off in that a Democratic President was just elected along with majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate which will likely change the District's financial outlook. Director Young did not feel a reduction in compensation was warranted and moved Option 1 (hold the 2019 and 2020 CPI adjustments in abeyance until June 30, 2022).

Director Peebles pointed out that a CPI adjustment was intended to keep pace with inflation and was not a raise; therefore, he would not support Option 1. Director Beckles concurred.

Public Comment:

Nick Ratto, East Bay DSA, sees the passage of this resolution as mostly symbolic and said the passage of this resolution sends the wrong message that only people with means to deal with low pay and potential pay cuts to be on the Board of Directors and that their work does not deserve a Cost of Living Adjustment or Living Wage.

Ayes: 5 President Ortiz, Vice President Young, Director Walsh, Director Williams,
Director Shaw

Nayes: 2 Director Beckles, Director Peebles
