



***CITY OF EASTHAMPTON***  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**Easthampton City Council Resolution on Proposition 22 Clone Ballot Initiative**

**Sponsors:** Thomas Peake, City Councilor, Precinct Three  
Brad Riley, City Councilor At-Large  
Owen Zaret, City Councilor At-Large

**Whereas,** for society to work fairly for everyone, large tech companies, like Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash, should follow the same rules as every other business; and

**Whereas,** Uber and several of these giant tech companies do not pay into Social Security, do not pay important business taxes, and do not pay their workers fairly or consistently by the same rules that apply to all businesses in Massachusetts; and

**Whereas,** Attorney General Healey is currently suing Uber and Lyft for failing to follow our law. In an attempt to escape these violations, the companies have filed House Bill 1234 and a 2022 state ballot referendum question, asking Massachusetts legislators and voters to grant them special exemptions from our labor, civil rights, and consumer protection laws; and

**Whereas,** the Big Tech sponsored bill exempts these "gig economy" companies from paying into Social Security and unemployment, which would cost Massachusetts taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and weakening these programs for everyone; and attempts to shield these companies from liability and financial responsibility if customers or members of the public are injured; and

**Whereas,** the bill, if passed, would create a permanent underclass of low-wage, mostly Black, Brown, and immigrant workers by allowing these companies to pay their workers less than minimum wage and provide few, if any, benefits; and

**Whereas,** at a moment of racial reckoning in our country, the bill would exclude app-based workers from the robust protections against racial discrimination and sexual harassment under the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act, MGL c. 151B; and according to many leading voices, passing this bill would be among the biggest steps backwards in the fight for equity and opportunity at work since the passage of the 1964 Civil Right Act; and

**Whereas**, last year, in California, the same companies pushing House Bill 1234 spent more than \$200 million to win a ballot initiative campaign; and now these companies believe they can buy a law to avoid paying into Social Security, avoid paying taxes, and harm workers and consumers; and

**Whereas**, Big Tech executives seek to present a false choice, suggesting that if low-wage workers are given any control over their schedules, they must sacrifice the rights and benefits our laws provide; yet there is nothing that prevents these companies from offering flexible scheduling while also following our civil rights and labor laws today.

**Therefore**, the Easthampton City Council joins many workers, community, faith, environmental justice, racial justice, labor, civil rights, and consumer advocates to urge the Massachusetts Legislature and the residents of Easthampton to oppose House Bill 1234 and the proposed 2022 state ballot initiative.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that a signed copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of State Representative Dan Carey, State Senator John Velis, Attorney General Maura Healey, the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, and Massachusetts Is Not For Sale.

**Approved by the Easthampton City Council this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.**

DocuSigned by:

*Homar Gomez*

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*Dan Rist*

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*Brad Riley*

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*JP Kwicinski*

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