[Urging California State Legislators to Amend or Oppose California State Assembly Bill 650 (Low) in Recognition of Negative Impact on Local Transportation Services and Consumer Safety Protection]

Resolution urging California state legislators to amend or oppose California State Assembly Bill 650 (Low) in recognition of negative impacts on local transportation services and consumer safety protection.

WHEREAS, California Government Code, Section 53075.5. (a) provides every city or county shall protect the public health, safety, and welfare by adopting an ordinance or resolution in regard to taxicab transportation service which is operated within the jurisdiction of the city or county; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) regulates taxicab transportation services in the City; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of taxi regulation by the SFMTA is to improve taxi service to the public and to protect the public health and safety while providing such service; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Evan Low has introduced Assembly Bill 650 (AB 650), which would repeal California Government Code, Section 53075.5 and take away taxi regulation authority from cities and counties and transfer the authority to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), with the exception of taxicab transportation originating in the City and County of San Francisco or San Francisco International Airport; and

WHEREAS, AB 650 would exempt the City and County of San Francisco and San Francisco International Airport, and remove fair and consistent safety and security requirements, including standardized drug and alcohol testing requirements that should also be imposed on transportation services in other cities and counties; and
WHEREAS, AB 650 would eliminate the ability of cities or counties to regulate taxis according to their perception of the public’s needs, priorities and interests; and

WHEREAS, The CPUC would inherit taxi regulation everywhere but San Francisco, has shown itself to be ineffective in regulating charter-party carriers (CPCs), including Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and lacks the capacity to perform adequate enforcement against violations of the laws and rules governing CPCs; and

WHEREAS, The CPUC, in its regulation of TNCs, has ignored matters of extreme importance to the City and County of San Francisco, and other cities and counties around the State, particularly the provision of transportation service to the people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, AB 650 would remove any limits on the number of taxis which allow unlimited numbers of vehicles to act commercially with no clean air requirement, and ignore environmental and local congestion management goals; and

WHEREAS, AB 650 would result in the de facto deregulation of the taxi industry, which, could negatively impact the quality of taxi service and consumer safety; and

WHEREAS, Further amendments to the bill, or amendments to the Taxi Transportation Services Act in future years could eliminate San Francisco’s special status and bring it in line with the rest of the state, to the detriment of the public and the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In certain parts of the state, taxi companies and drivers that operate in more than one city are forced to obtain multiple permits and pay multiple fees to provide service across municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, The need for multiple permits can be greatly reduced if not eliminated by providing that counties, rather than cities, shall have the authority to regulate taxi transportation service; and
WHEREAS, Local regulation of taxicab transportation services serves vital interests of the public and of the City and County of San Francisco by, among other regulations, requiring minimum liability insurance coverage of $1,000,000 providing service to the disabled community through the Paratransit Program, limiting taxi charges by setting maximum rates of fare, and restricting greenhouse gas emissions by taxicab color schemes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco respectfully urges the California Legislature to amend or oppose AB 650; and, it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this resolution to the respective offices of the San Francisco Legislative Delegation and City Lobbyists upon final passage.
Resolution urging California state legislators to amend or oppose California State Assembly Bill 650, "Public Utilities Commission: Regulation of Taxicabs," authored by Assembly Member Evan Low, in recognition of negative impacts on local transportation services and consumer safety protection.

June 21, 2016 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE
Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Excused: 1 - Mar

June 21, 2016 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Excused: 1 - Mar

June 28, 2016 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

June 28, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 9 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang and Yee
Noes: 2 - Cohen and Wiener
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on 6/28/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Peggy Nevin

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Mayor

7/08/16
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Peggy Nevin

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

7/8/16
Date