

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism  
2 Preservation Act]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886, the California Journalism**  
4 **Preservation Act, authored by Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, requiring social media**  
5 **companies to remit a journalism usage fee to each eligible digital news publisher,**  
6 **equal to a percentage of the social media company’s advertising revenue, as a first**  
7 **step in a larger advocacy and policy effort to level the playing field in a rapidly**  
8 **changing media market that includes a diversity of community and ethnic local media**  
9 **outlets, and ensure that journalists are fairly compensated for their work.**

10  
11 WHEREAS, A diverse, ethical and open local media industry, including community and  
12 ethnic media, is necessary for democratic participation, for functional and accountable local  
13 government, and for informed and engaged communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Daily access to factual journalism plays an essential role in California and  
15 in the San Francisco Bay Area, with local news organizations providing the public with critical  
16 information about their communities; and

17 WHEREAS, News content publishers should receive fair market value for their content  
18 that is used by others on digital platforms, in an effort to ensure that smaller local news outlets  
19 can help sustain the critical diversity of the industry as a whole; and

20 WHEREAS, Communities without local news outlets, including community and ethnic  
21 journalism publications, lose touch with government, business, education, and neighbors, and  
22 operate without journalists working to keep them informed on issues that impact their daily  
23 lives, confirming factual information, exposing corruption, and reflecting and uplifting common  
24 goals and shared experiences; and

1           WHEREAS, Over the past ten years, newspaper advertising has decreased 66  
2 percent, and newsroom staff have declined 44 percent; and

3           WHEREAS, Major U.S. newspapers and online investigative outlets have their shrunk  
4 newsrooms, laying off hundreds of journalists and copy editors, and one in four local  
5 newspapers that operated in 2005 no longer exist; and

6           WHEREAS, Social media platforms have used their market power to unfairly redirect the  
7 flow of advertising money away from credible news organization and insufficiently  
8 compensated them for their content, leading to serious impacts to news outlets' financial  
9 sustainability, as well as their ability to maintain or recruit staff; and

10          WHEREAS, Especially hard-hit have been ethnic media outlets, which have long been  
11 a distinctive genre of journalism and community communications that inform, engage, and  
12 advocate on behalf of communities underserved by both the for-profit and not-for-profit  
13 general market media; and

14          WHEREAS, Ethnic, grassroots, and in-language media plays a unique role in  
15 upholding the fourth estate in our democracy by facilitating cross-racial and cross-ethnic  
16 culturally competent communications which facilitate social integration, promote civic  
17 engagement, and address inequities across underserved communities; and

18          WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to numerous ethnic and local community news  
19 outlets that span a wide range of diverse neighborhoods and communities; and

20          WHEREAS, San Francisco's ethnic and community journalism outlets broadly reflect  
21 the City's cultural diversity, including outlets focused on specific neighborhoods, immigrant  
22 communities, native languages, religions, sexual orientation, races, genders, bodily abilities,  
23 and professions; and

24          WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that  
25 ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and

1           WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media  
2 platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a  
3 percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers'  
4 allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair  
5 compensation; and

6           WHEREAS, On April 16, 2024, multi-billion dollar corporate conglomerate, Google  
7 LLC, announced it would begin pulling California news links from its search engine in  
8 retaliation for and response to AB 886's proposal to require it to pay for linking to news  
9 content on its platform; and

10           WHEREAS, Intentionally eliminating access to vital and credible information to a  
11 population increasingly reliant on digital news sources, in particular and most concerning  
12 shutting off voters' access to news in the middle of a critically important election cycle, is a  
13 brazen and destructive act that undermines one of the founding principles of American  
14 democracy and will result in the disenfranchisement of voters; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
16 supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which  
17 requires social media companies to remit a journalism usage fee to each eligible digital news  
18 publisher, equal to a percentage of the social media company's advertising revenue, as a  
19 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated,  
20 thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors opposes attempts by Google  
22 LLC to threaten lawmakers, undermine a fair and democratic press, and disenfranchise voters  
23 and journalists who deserve to be compensated for their content; and, be it

24           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges San Francisco's State  
25 Legislative delegation to support AB 886, and the California State Legislature to pass it, and

1 Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, as a first step in a larger advocacy and  
2 policy effort to level the playing field in a rapidly changing media market that includes a  
3 diversity of community and ethnic local media outlets, and ensure that journalists are fairly  
4 compensated for their work; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
6 to send a copy of this Resolution upon final passage to the offices of San Francisco's State  
7 Legislative delegation, Assembly Member Wicks, the City Lobbyist, and the Governor's Office.

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# City and County of San Francisco

## Tails Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**File Number:** 240356

**Date Passed:** April 23, 2024

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886, the California Journalism Preservation Act, authored by Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, requiring social media companies to remit a journalism usage fee to each eligible digital news publisher, equal to a percentage of the social media company's advertising revenue, as a first step in a larger advocacy and policy effort to level the playing field in a rapidly changing media market that includes a diversity of community and ethnic local media outlets, and ensure that journalists are fairly compensated for their work.

April 16, 2024 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

April 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING NEW TITLE

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

Excused: 1 - Melgar


April 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

Excused: 1 - Melgar

File No. 240356

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on 4/23/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

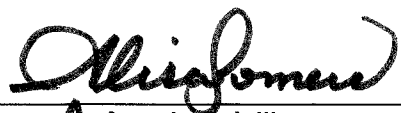
Unsigned

\_\_\_\_\_  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

05/03/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

05/03/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date