**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 Tel. No. (415) 554-5184 Fax No. (415) 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor of the State of California 1021 O Street, Suite 9000 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 212-24

Dear Governor Newsom:

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act), which was enacted on May 3, 2024.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

• One copy of Resolution No. 212-24 (File No. 240356)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ak

 Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eileen F. Mariano, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Paul Yoder, Karen Lange, Erica Smith, City Lobbyists - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act]

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers' allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair compensation; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which requires 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 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated, thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

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

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

Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, 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; and, be it

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



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

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 Tel. No. (415) 554-5184 Fax No. (415) 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks California State Assembly Member California State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 212-24

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act), which was enacted on May 3, 2024.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

• One copy of Resolution No. 212-24 (File No. 240356)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ak

 Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eileen F. Mariano, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Paul Yoder, Karen Lange, Erica Smith, City Lobbyists - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act]

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers' allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair compensation; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which requires 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 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated, thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

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

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

Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, 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; and, be it

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



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

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 Tel. No. (415) 554-5184 Fax No. (415) 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wiener California State Senator California State Capitol 1021 O Street, Suite 8620 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 212-24

**Dear Senator Wiener:** 

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act), which was enacted on May 3, 2024.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ak

 Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eileen F. Mariano, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Paul Yoder, Karen Lange, Erica Smith, City Lobbyists - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers' allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair compensation; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which requires 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 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated, thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

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

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

Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, 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; and, be it

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



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

# File Number: 240356

Date Passed: April 23, 2024

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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

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 Tel. No. (415) 554-5184 Fax No. (415) 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Phil Ting California State Assembly Member California State Capitol 1021 O Street, Suite 5220 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 212-24

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act), which was enacted on May 3, 2024.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ak

 c. Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eileen F. Mariano, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
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WHEREAS, A diverse, ethical and open local media industry, including community and ethnic media, is necessary for democratic participation, for functional and accountable local government, and for informed and engaged communities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers' allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair compensation; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which requires 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 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated, thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

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

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

Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, 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; and, be it

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



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

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 Tel. No. (415) 554-5184 Fax No. (415) 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Matt Haney California State Assembly Member California State Capitol 1021 O Street, Suite 5740 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 212-24

Dear Assembly Member Haney:

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act), which was enacted on May 3, 2024.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

• One copy of Resolution No. 212-24 (File No. 240356)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

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 Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eileen F. Mariano, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Paul Yoder, Karen Lange, Erica Smith, City Lobbyists - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism Preservation Act]

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers' allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair compensation; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which requires 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 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated, thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

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

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

Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 886 into law, 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; and, be it

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



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

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Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed Mayor 05/03/2024

**Date Approved** 

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Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

05/03/2024

Date