

1 [Urging City Departments to Release Data to Help Prevent Towing]

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3 **Resolution urging City departments to release data that would enable the development**
4 **of applications and other tools to help San Francisco residents and visitors avoid**
5 **getting towed.**

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7 WHEREAS, Approximately 150 private vehicles are towed in San Francisco each day,
8 at a cost of more than \$450 per tow, not including storage fees; and

9 WHEREAS, Being towed is one of the most frustrating experiences for San Francisco
10 residents and visitors who drive; and

11 WHEREAS, Towing should always be considered as an unfortunate means to a
12 necessary policy end, such as ensuring safety or clearing an extra travel lane during peak
13 periods to ease traffic; and

14 WHEREAS, Though the fees charged to motorists to be towed must be limited to the
15 recovery of the City's towing-related expenditures, exorbitant City costs result in extremely
16 high towing fees; and

17 WHEREAS, City government should use technology to help motorists avoid being
18 towed; and

19 WHEREAS, Temporary towing restrictions such as those for special events can be
20 particularly irksome to San Franciscans, many of whom do not move their vehicles every day
21 because they take transit or bike or walk to work or school, and therefore may not see a 72
22 hour notice of a temporary tow away zone; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2011, numerous City officials called for the release of data sets,
24 including all temporary towing restrictions, to encourage the development of an application

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1 that could help notify motorists that their vehicle is parked in a location that could result in a
2 tow; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite repeated inquiries, little progress has been made toward the
4 release of such data since 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, Such an application or tool would not necessarily require a smartphone,
6 but could work with only a license plate and any mobile telephone with texting functionality;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, City Departments such as the Municipal Transportation Agency the
9 Department of Public Works, and the Police Department and their contractors possess data
10 that would help application developers create apps and other tools that could help people
11 avoid being towed; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges relevant City departments to release
13 data as soon as possible that will aid in the creation of applications and other tools to help
14 San Francisco residents and visitors avoid being towed.

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