

1 [Urging the California State Legislature and the Governor to Enact SB 223]

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3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature and the Governor to enact SB 223 to**
4 **allow the Board of Supervisors of any county to ask voters to consider restoring its**
5 **vehicle license fee to the 1948-1998 level, giving voters the opportunity to preserve**
6 **local services, public transportation, and critical programs.**

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8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is facing a projected budget deficit
9 of \$380 million for the 2012 fiscal year; and,

10 WHEREAS, The budget deficit will require difficult decisions about whether and how to
11 preserve important local services and programs, such as funding for transportation, fire and
12 police protection, public health, and children, youth and families; and,

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco agrees with Governor Jerry Brown
14 that California voters should have a say in the state’s fiscal future; and,

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco voters deserve to have the opportunity to make important
16 decisions about how to address our local budget deficit, but state law currently limits voters’
17 ability to determine the level at which vehicle license fees are set; and,

18 WHEREAS, From 1948 to 1998, the vehicle license fee on vehicles registered in San
19 Francisco was set at two percent of a vehicle’s market value, but under Governor
20 Schwarzenegger, that fee was reduced to 1.15 percent and is set to decrease further to .65
21 percent later this year; and,

22 WHEREAS, This decrease in vehicle license fees has resulted in a \$6 billion reduction
23 in funding for critical local government programs and services each year; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Counties should have the ability to decide for themselves whether to use
2 vehicle license fees as a part of a comprehensive solution to the current local government
3 budget crises; and,

4 WHEREAS, State Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) has introduced legislation in
5 the California State Senate that would give counties the option to add a Voter Approved Local
6 Assessment (VALA) to the vehicle license fee should the Board of Supervisors approve it with
7 a two-thirds vote and the voters approve it with a majority vote; and,

8 WHEREAS, SB 223 would cap the total cost of any county's vehicle license fee at two
9 percent of the market value of the vehicle, which is the same rate that the State of California
10 established for nearly fifty years; and,

11 WHEREAS, If San Francisco chooses to use this VALA option at a rate of .85 percent,
12 for example, it is estimated that approximately \$44 million could be generated above what
13 San Francisco currently receives, making a significant contribution toward closing the budget
14 deficit and protecting vital services; and,

15 WHEREAS, SB 223 is supported by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and
16 many labor and community organizations, which recognize that the budget deficit cannot be
17 closed entirely through cuts to local programs and services; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California State
19 Legislature to and the Governor to enact SB 223, which would empower San Francisco voters
20 to make important decisions about how to address the City's budget deficit; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
22 to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jerry Brown, Lieutenant Governor Gavin
23 Newsom, Speaker of the California State Assembly John A. Pérez, Democratic Caucus Chair
24 Jerry Hill, Assembly Member Gil Cedillo, Minority Floor Leader Martin Garrick, and the San
25 Francisco state legislative delegation.