

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 925 (Wiener) - Combating Street Fencing of  
2 Stolen Goods]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 925 introduced by California**  
4 **State Senator Scott Wiener to combat the fencing of stolen merchandise on San**  
5 **Francisco streets.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, San Francisco neighborhoods like the Mission have long celebrated a rich  
8 street vending culture that has contributed to the vibrancy of the city; and

9 WHEREAS, The City’s sidewalk vending program and the economic opportunities it  
10 brings for permitted street vendors has been threatened by the proliferation of fencing, the  
11 sale of stolen goods on our streets; and

12 WHEREAS, Individuals fencing stolen goods have threatened, extorted and/or  
13 physically assaulted frontline SF Public Works employees, community members and  
14 permitted sidewalk vendors; and

15 WHEREAS, Fencers have also blocked sidewalks, making passage to public transit,  
16 small businesses, and neighborhoods for pedestrians unsafe and inaccessible; and

17 WHEREAS, Prior to 2018, the San Francisco Police Department issued peddler  
18 permits for authorized street vendors and enforced street vending regulations; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2018, California decriminalized sidewalk vending with the passage of  
20 Senate Bill No. 946, the “Safe Sidewalk Vending Act,” effectively barring law enforcement  
21 from enforcing violations related to street vending, but never imagined that criminal operations  
22 would take advantage of this law to sell stolen goods on the sidewalk; and

23 WHEREAS, This legal change required San Francisco to move away from police  
24 enforcement of street vending to exclusively rely on administrative enforcement - even of  
25

1 fencing - by SF Public Works which became untenable as conditions on the streets  
2 deteriorated under the influx of criminal activity; and

3 WHEREAS, Public Works Order No. 208803 stated that Mission Police Station had  
4 “experienced elevated numbers of calls for service associated with the Mission Street Corridor  
5 that can be attributed in part to illegal purchasing and vending (or “fencing”) of stolen property,  
6 particularly around the intersections of 24th and Mission Streets and 16th and Mission  
7 Streets;” and

8 WHEREAS, “...on nearly a daily basis, police officers have observed the fencing of  
9 suspected stolen property on or about the Mission Street Corridor;” and

10 WHEREAS, Overwhelming fencing activity led the City to issue a moratorium on  
11 sidewalk sales along Mission Street between 14th and Cesar Chavez Streets, including sales  
12 by permitted street vendors, undermining the intent of SB 946; and

13 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 925, would allow San Francisco to create permitting  
14 requirements to regulate the sale of items commonly obtained through retail theft and impose  
15 criminal penalties for those that engage in this practice; and

16 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 925, would allow law enforcement officers to address  
17 fencing activities without the presence of SF Public Works employees; and

18 WHEREAS, SF Public Works, which took over issuing street vendor permits in 2022,  
19 would continue to administer a low-cost, accessible sidewalk vending program that preserves  
20 economic opportunities for authorized sidewalk vendors; and

21 WHEREAS, The passage of Senate Bill No. 925 would bring greater safety, order and  
22 opportunities for commercial corridors to flourish; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
24 hereby expresses its strong support for Senate Bill No. 925 and urges the California State  
25 Legislature and Governor to support Senate Bill No. 925; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the  
2 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro  
3 Tempore Mike McGuire, Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas, State Senator Scott  
4 Wiener, Assembly Member Matt Haney, Assembly Member Phil Ting to signify the Board's  
5 endorsement and encouragement for the swift passage and implementation of this critical  
6 legislation.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25