

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill 916 (Wiener) - Vehicle Burglary]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 916, authored by Senator Scott**
4 **Wiener and co-authored by Assembly Members David Chiu and Phil Ting, to expand**
5 **the definition of vehicle burglary to include any forced entry.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco is experiencing an epidemic of auto break-ins; and

8 WHEREAS, More than thirty thousand auto break-ins were reported to the San

9 Francisco Police Department last year; and

10 WHEREAS, Auto break-ins have been rising in every police district in San Francisco,
11 some by as much as 86 percent; and

12 WHEREAS, Victims of auto break-ins include visitors to San Francisco who often rent
13 cars and often do not return to testify; and

14 WHEREAS, In September 2017 the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 201-
15 17 a copy of which is on file with the Board of Supervisors in File No. 161065 which requires
16 rental car companies to provide written notice and post signage in the vehicle and rental car
17 office educating drivers about how to prevent break-ins; and

18 WHEREAS, Auto break-ins are increasingly impacting local San Francisco residents
19 who are hit with hundreds of dollars in costs to replace smashed windows and stolen property;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Under current state law, a prosecutor must prove the car's door was
22 locked prior to the break-in in order to establish guilt; and

23 WHEREAS, This current standard does account for the reality that most auto break-ins
24 occur by smashing a window or other forced entry making it difficult to hold auto burglars
25 accountable; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s District Attorney has also identified this legal standard as
2 a barrier to effectively deterring and prosecuting these crimes; and

3 WHEREAS, On January 22, 2018, Senator Scott Wiener introduced Senate Bill 916
4 which expands the definition of vehicle burglary to include any forced entry, so that
5 prosecutors can prove an auto burglary occurred by either showing the car door was locked or
6 forced entry was used; and

7 WHEREAS, This change will make it clear prosecutors can prove an individual
8 committed an auto burglary if they broke a vehicle’s window; and

9 WHEREAS, We need every tool at our disposal to combat and deter auto break-ins in
10 San Francisco to instill confidence in residents and visitors that they can park their car on the
11 street without fear that the window will be shattered and the contents of their cars stolen; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby
14 urges the California State Legislature and the Governor to pass Senate Bill 916; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the
16 Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the resolution to the Governor of California, the California
17 State Senate, and the California State Assembly.

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