

1 [Supporting SB 1749]

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3 **Resolution endorsing Senate Bill 1749, a measure aimed at assisting the MTA in**
4 **collecting greater revenues from minor transit citations, and urging its passage in the**
5 **California State Legislature.**

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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco MTA has proposed, as a local option, to
8 “decriminalize” transit fare evasion and other minor transit infractions (e.g. smoking, eating,
9 expectorating or playing loud music on a bus) currently enforced under Section 640 of the
10 California Penal Code; and,

11 WHEREAS, This change would allow local jurisdictions to adjudicate any or all of the
12 specified violations through administrative review, freeing up court dockets to handle more
13 serious offenses; and,

14 WHEREAS, Senator Carole Migden has introduced Senate Bill 1749, a bill that would
15 empower San Francisco to dispose expeditiously of relatively minor cases and thereby
16 achieve efficient and effective use of limited judicial resources; and,

17 WHEREAS, SB 1749 would also allow fare evaders and other violators to either pay or
18 contest their fines in less confrontational settings while still affording them the right to a full
19 hearing; and,

20 WHEREAS, SB 1749 would help MTA to increase collection of citation revenue now
21 lost in dismissed cases and reduced fines as well as improving collection of fines and
22 consequently, improving compliance with transit fare and conduct rules by transit riders; and,

23 WHEREAS, The current system for enforcing transit infractions is burdensome to the
24 courts and individuals, and creates a situation in which an estimated 85% of offenders pay
25 reduced fines thereby costing the MTA additional citation revenue; and,

1 WHEREAS, Earlier this year, the San Francisco State Legislation Committee voted to
2 endorse SB 1749; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby endorses Senate
4 Bill 1749 and urges members of the California State Legislature to approve this measure; and
5 be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the Board of
7 Supervisors shall transmit copies to members of San Francisco's state legislative delegation.

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