

1 [Urging California State Legislators to Amend or Oppose California State Assembly Bill 650
2 (Low) in Recognition of Negative Impact on Local Transportation Services and Consumer
3 Safety Protection]

3

4 **Resolution urging California state legislators to amend or oppose California State**
5 **Assembly Bill 650 (Low) in recognition of negative impacts on local transportation**
6 **services and consumer safety protection.**

7

8 WHEREAS, California Government Code, Section 53075.5. (a) provides every city or
9 county shall protect the public health, safety, and welfare by adopting an ordinance or
10 resolution in regard to taxicab transportation service which is operated within the jurisdiction of
11 the city or county; and

12 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, the San
13 Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) regulates taxicab transportation
14 services in the City; and

15 WHEREAS, The purpose of taxi regulation by the SFMTA is to improve taxi service to
16 the public and to protect the public health and safety while providing such service; and

17 WHEREAS, Local regulation of taxicab transportation services serves vital interests of
18 the public and of the City and County of San Francisco by, among other regulations, requiring
19 minimum liability insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 providing service to the disabled
20 community through the Paratransit Program, limiting taxi charges by setting maximum rates of
21 fare, and restricting greenhouse gas emissions by taxicab color schemes; and

22 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Evan Low has introduced Assembly Bill 650 (AB 650),
23 which would repeal California Government Code, Section 53075.5 and take away taxi
24 regulation authority from cities and counties and transfer the authority to the California Public
25

25

1 Utilities Commission (CPUC), with the exception of taxicab transportation originating in the
2 City and County of San Francisco or San Francisco International Airport; and

3 WHEREAS, AB 650 would exempt the City and County of San Francisco and San
4 Francisco International Airport, and remove fair and consistent safety and security
5 requirements, including standardized drug and alcohol testing requirements that should also
6 be imposed on transportation services in other cities and counties; and

7 WHEREAS, AB 650 would eliminate the ability of cities or counties to regulate taxis
8 according to their perception of the public's needs, priorities and interests; and

9 WHEREAS, AB 650 also amends California Vehicle Code, Section 21100 to eliminate
10 explicit language granting local entities the authority to regulate motor vehicles for hire, and
11 would also impact their authority to regulate local shuttles; and

12 WHEREAS, The CPUC would inherit taxi regulation everywhere but San Francisco,
13 has shown itself to be ineffective in regulating charter-party carriers (CPCs), including
14 Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and lacks the capacity to perform adequate
15 enforcement against violations of the laws and rules governing CPCs; and

16 WHEREAS, The CPUC, in its regulation of TNCs, has ignored matters of extreme
17 importance to the City and County of San Francisco, and other cities and counties around the
18 State, particularly the provision of transportation service to the people with disabilities; and

19 WHEREAS, AB 650 would remove any limits on the number of taxis which allow
20 unlimited numbers of vehicles to act commercially with no clean air requirement, and ignore
21 environmental and local congestion management goals; and

22 WHEREAS, AB 650 would result in the de facto deregulation of the taxi industry, which,
23 could negatively impact the quality of taxi service and consumer safety; and

24 WHEREAS, Further amendments to the bill, or amendments to the Taxi Transportation
25 Services Act in future years could eliminate San Francisco's special status and bring it in line

1 with the rest of the state, to the detriment of the public and the City and County of San
2 Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, In certain parts of the state, taxi companies and drivers that operate in
4 more than one city are forced to obtain multiple permits and pay multiple fees to provide
5 service across municipal boundaries; and

6 WHEREAS, The need for multiple permits can be greatly reduced if not eliminated by
7 providing that counties, rather than cities, shall have the authority to regulate taxi
8 transportation service; and

9 WHEREAS, Local regulation of taxicab transportation services serves vital interests of
10 the public and of the City and County of San Francisco by, among other regulations, requiring
11 minimum liability insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 providing service to the disabled
12 community through the Paratransit Program, limiting taxi charges by setting maximum rates of
13 fare, and restricting greenhouse gas emissions by taxicab color schemes; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 respectfully urges the California Legislature to amend or oppose AB 650; and, it is

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
17 Board to transmit this resolution to the respective offices of the San Francisco Legislative
18 Delegation and City Lobbyists upon final passage.

19
20
21
22
23
24
25