

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886 (Wicks) - California Journalism
2 Preservation Act]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 886, the California Journalism**
4 **Preservation Act, authored by Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, requiring social media**
5 **companies to remit a journalism usage fee to each eligible digital news publisher,**
6 **equal to a percentage of the social media company’s advertising revenue.**

7
8 WHEREAS, A diverse, ethical and open local media industry is necessary for
9 democratic participation, for functional and accountable local government, and for informed
10 and engaged communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Daily access to factual journalism plays an essential role in California and
12 in the San Francisco Bay Area, with local news organizations providing the public with critical
13 information about their communities; and

14 WHEREAS, News content publishers should receive fair market value for their content
15 that is used by others on digital platforms, in an effort to ensure that smaller local news outlets
16 can help sustain the critical diversity of the industry as a whole; and

17 WHEREAS, Communities without newspapers lose touch with government, business,
18 education, and neighbors, and operate without journalists working to keep them informed on
19 issues that impact their daily lives, confirming factual information, exposing corruption, and
20 reflecting and uplifting common goals and shared experiences; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the past ten years, newspaper advertising has decreased 66
22 percent, and newsroom staff have declined 44 percent; and

23 WHEREAS, Major U.S. newspapers and online investigative outlets have their shrunk
24 newsrooms, laying off hundreds of journalists and copy editors, and one in four local
25 newspapers that operated in 2005 no longer exist; and

1 WHERAS, Social media platforms have used their market power to unfairly redirect the
2 flow of advertising money away from credible news organization and insufficiently
3 compensated them for their content, leading to serious impacts to news outlets' financial
4 sustainability, as well as their ability to maintain or recruit staff; and

5 WHEREAS, Especially hard-hit have been ethnic media outlets, which have long been
6 a distinctive genre of journalism and community communications that inform, engage, and
7 advocate on behalf of communities underserved by both the for-profit and not-for-profit
8 general market media; and

9 WHEREAS, Ethnic, grassroots, and in-language media plays a unique role in
10 upholding the fourth estate in our democracy by facilitating cross-racial and cross-ethnic
11 culturally competent communications which facilitate social integration, promote civic
12 engagement, and address inequities across underserved communities; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to numerous ethnic and local community news
14 outlets that span a wide range of diverse neighborhoods and communities; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco's ethnic and community journalism outlets broadly reflect
16 the City's cultural diversity, including outlets focused on specific neighborhoods, immigrant
17 communities, native languages, religions, sexual orientation, races, genders, bodily abilities,
18 and professions; and

19 WHEREAS, Given the important role of ethnic media, it is critical to advance policy that
20 ensures their publishers are justly compensated for the content they create and distribute; and

21 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 886 (AB 886) (Wicks) would require covered social media
22 platforms to remit a journalist usage fee to eligible digital journalism providers equal to a
23 percentage of the covered platforms' advertising revenue according to the providers'
24 allocation share, and would empower local news organizations to assert their rights to fair
25 compensation; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 supports Assembly Bill 886 (Wicks), the California Journalism Preservation Act, which
3 requires social media companies to remit a journalism usage fee to each eligible digital news
4 publisher, equal to a percentage of the social media company’s advertising revenue, as a
5 mechanism to ensure that local, grassroots and ethnic journalism is fairly compensated,
6 thereby strengthening our local democracy through an informed electorate; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges our State Legislative
8 delegation to support AB 886 and the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin
9 Newsom to sign AB 886 into law; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
11 to send a copy of this Resolution upon final passage to the offices of San Francisco’s State
12 Legislative delegation, Assembly Member Wicks, the City Lobbyist, and the Governor’s Office.