

File No. 250983

Committee Item No. 2

Board Item No. 6

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Public Safety and Ngbh Services

Date: November 13, 2025

Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Date: December 9, 2025

Cmte Board

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislative Digest
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Commission Report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduction Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOU
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Information Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Subcontract Budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contract / DRAFT Mills Act Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Form 126 – Ethics Commission
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Award Letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Correspondence

OTHER

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FYI Referral 100725</u>
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Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: November 25, 2025

Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: November 7, 2025

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

[Police Code - Vehicle Sideshows]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to increase the fine for misdemeanor convictions for sideshow offenses from a maximum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000.

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
Deletions to Codes are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font.
Board amendment deletions are in ~~Arial font~~.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. General Findings.

Under California law, a standard monetary penalty for misdemeanor offenses is \$1,000. The state law addressing sideshows and street takeovers, California Vehicle Code Section 23109, sets the maximum fine at \$1,000. Many other California cities and counties, including Oakland, Fresno, Santa Rosa, and Sonoma County, have set the fine for a violation of their local sideshow ordinance at an amount not to exceed \$1,000. It is in the public interest that San Francisco align the maximum monetary penalty for violations of its local sideshow ordinance with state law and Bay Area municipalities to reflect the seriousness of these offenses.

Section 2. Article 56 of the Police Code is hereby amended by revising Section 5608 as follows:

SEC. 5608. PENALTY.

Any person who violates Sections 5603, 5604, 5605, or 5607 is guilty of a

1 misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed
2 ~~\$500~~1,000, or by imprisonment for a period of not to exceed six months, or by both such fine
3 and imprisonment.

4
5 Section 3. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
6 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
7 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
8 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
9 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
10 the official title of the ordinance.

11
12 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
13 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
14 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
15 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

16
17
18 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
19 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

20 By: /s/ Jen Huber
21 JEN HUBER
22 Deputy City Attorney

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24
25
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BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Yep, Interim Police Chief, Police Department
Brooke Jenkins, District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney
Manohar Raju, Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood
Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 7, 2025

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following Ordinance request, introduced by Supervisor Danny Sauter on September 30, 2025:

File No. 250983

[Police Code - Vehicle Sideshows]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to increase the fine for misdemeanor convictions for sideshow offenses from a maximum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

CC:
Office of Chair Dorsey
Office of Supervisor Sauter
Steven Lopez, Police Department
Sgt Stacy Youngblood, Police Department
Carl Nicita, Police Department
Giannina Miranda, Police Department
Ana Gonzalez, Office of the District Attorney
Eugene Clendinen, Office of the District Attorney
Lily Rapson, Office of the District Attorney
Monifa Willis, Office of the District Attorney



November 12, 2025

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Re: Board of Supervisors ordinance amending the Police Code to increase the fine for misdemeanor convictions for sideshow offenses (Item 250983)

Dear Supervisors,

We write to express our concern with Ordinance 250983 [Police Code - Vehicle Sideshows] and oppose the proposed increase in fines for misdemeanor convictions for sideshow offenses from a maximum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000.¹

While we understand the desire to align San Francisco with jurisdictions like Oakland, Alameda County, San Jose, and Fresno, that have all increased fines to \$1,000, **increased fines in these**

¹ Board of Supervisors Legislation Introduced at Roll Call. 30 Sept. 2025, sfbos.org/sites/default/files/LI093025.pdf.

jurisdictions have not led to a meaningful reduction in the frequency of sideshows or the number of spectators who watch them. While Oakland increased its fines in 2023, sideshows in Oakland are still prevalent. In 2024, the Oakland Police Department’s Special Operations Division stated that violent crimes, such as sideshow incidents had actually increased.² This year, hundreds of spectators still gathered at sideshows,³ and the Oakland Police Department reports that in 2025, OPD has seized more than 170 vehicles connected to sideshow activity in Oakland.⁴ This aligns with well-established research: higher fines do not deter behavior that is social, impulsive, or collective. Instead, financial penalties of this scale fall most heavily on low-income residents, deepening cycles of poverty and punishment rather than improving public safety.⁵ Indeed, “fines, fees, and financial penalties can trap low-income residents in a maze of poverty and punishment and prevent people from succeeding.”⁶

Second, this ordinance would also likely sweep in people who are simply **in the wrong place at the wrong time.**

For example, in Stockton –where the fine is \$1,000 and jail time is authorized—an innocent bystander is still facing legal and professional harm more than a year later. The proposed change risks replicating those harms here in San Francisco⁷.

We are additionally concerned that enforcement will fall disproportionately on Black and Brown communities. In Alameda County, the Public Defender has seen exactly this pattern in sideshow-related prosecutions.⁸ And since SFPD has a documented history of racially disproportionate traffic enforcement, and only recently has the City taken steps to curtail pretext stops, increasing fines in this context risks undoing recent progress and worsening racial disparities.

² Oakland Police Department Special Operations Division. “OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA.” *Oaklandca.gov*, 11 Apr. 2024, www.oaklandca.gov/files/assets/city/v/1/public-meetings/police-commission/2024/opc-regular-meeting-4.11.2024.fin.pdf.

³ <https://www.ktvu.com/news/500-appear-oakland-sideshow-police-union-complains-about-staffing>

⁴ [You Can Run, But You Can’t Hide: OPD Seizes 170+ Sideshow Vehicles | City of Oakland, CA](#)

⁵ National Institute of Justice. “Five Things about Deterrence.” *Office of Justice Programs*, U.S. Department of Justice, May 2016, www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/247350.pdf.

⁶ The Financial Justice Project San Francisco. “Homepage.” *Financial Justice Project*, 26 Aug. 2024, www.sfgov.org/financialjustice/#whats_new. Accessed 15 Oct. 2025.

⁷ Madisen Keavy. “Many Vehicles Seized from Stockton Sideshow Bust Still Impounded a Year Later.” *Cbsnews.com*, 4 Feb. 2025, www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/san-joaquin-county-sideshow-bust-one-year-later-many-vehicles-still-seized/

⁸ Flores, Jessica. “Alameda County Law That Would Criminalize Watching Sideshows Advances.” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 28 June 2023, www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/alameda-county-sideshow-ordinance-spectators-18175117.php.

Rather than escalating ineffective punishments, San Francisco should focus on environmental and community-based prevention. Oakland’s Department of Transportation has begun installing bollards, steel plates, and curb extensions to disrupt intersections commonly used for sideshows, and nearby residents have already reported a decrease in activity.⁹ Roadway design, youth engagement, and investment in community-based programming are evidence-based strategies that promote safety without exacerbating inequality and racial disparities in the criminal legal system.”¹⁰

Finally, sideshows are already illegal, imposing even harsher penalties by increasing the fines for misdemeanor sideshows is ineffective, and fails to solve the problem while creating additional inequitable outcomes for Black and Brown communities who are already overpoliced and underserved.

A more effective and equitable solution would focus on education and community-based initiatives that promote youth employment, education, and engagement, as well as road safety infrastructure.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote no on Ordinance 250983.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Northern California
Secure Justice
San Francisco Public Defender’s Office
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Young Women’s Freedom Center
Community Forward
Homeless Youth Alliance
CAIR- SF Bay Area
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
National Harm Reduction Coalition
Anti-Police Terror Project
Indivisible- SF
League of Women Voters of San Francisco
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
HIV Advocacy Network
3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic
Critical Resistance
Support Life Foundation

⁹ Bailey, Crystal. “Oakland’s Sideshow Deterrent Measures Are Working Neighbors Say.” *KTVU FOX 2 San Francisco*, KTVU FOX 2, 24 July 2025, www.ktvu.com/news/oaklands-road-changes-deterring-sideshows-neighbors-say

¹⁰ City of Oakland. “Sideshow Prevention Efforts.” *Oaklandca.gov*, 2024, www.oaklandca.gov/Public-Safety-Streets/Transportation-Projects-Reports/Sideshow-Prevention-Efforts. Accessed 28 Oct. 2025.

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☒ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- ☐ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- ☐ 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor _____ inquires..."
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request
- ☐ 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No. _____
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No. _____
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on _____

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- ☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission ☐ Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Sauter; Mandelman, Sherrill, Dorsey

Subject:

[Police Code - Vehicle Sideshows]

Long Title or text listed:

Ordinance amending the Police Code to increase the fine for misdemeanor convictions for sideshow offenses from a maximum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: _____

