

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 392 (Weber and McCarty) - California Act to
2 Save Lives: Incorporating Police Best Practices]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 392, introduced by Assembly**
4 **Members Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty, co-authored by Assembly Members Chris**
5 **Holden and Mark Stone, and California State Senators Steven Bradford and Holly**
6 **Mitchell, California Act to Save Lives: incorporating policing best practices that**
7 **authorizes police officers to use deadly force only when it is necessary to prevent**
8 **imminent and serious bodily injury or death and to require de-escalation methods**
9 **whenever possible.**

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11 WHEREAS, Under current California law, police officers are authorized to use deadly
12 force regardless of whether or not it is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury; and

13 WHEREAS, Current California law authorizes police officers to use deadly force
14 regardless of whether or not there are viable nonlethal alternatives; and

15 WHEREAS, The California law that determines when a homicide by an officer is
16 “justified” was written in 1872, fails to include current best practices, and authorizes deadly
17 force in a manner that violates the U.S. constitution; and

18 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 392 (California Act to Save Lives)
19 introduced by Assembly Members Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty would bring California
20 law up to date and in line with policing best practices to avoid unnecessary death and ensure
21 community safety; and

22 WHEREAS, Law enforcement is tasked with keeping the public safe—protecting and
23 preserving human life should be a central guiding principle of this role; and

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1 WHEREAS, Current law results in officers killing civilians far more often than is
2 necessary, leaving many families and communities devastated and causing them to distrust
3 those who have taken an oath to protect them; and

4 WHEREAS, The California Act to Save Lives provides a clear definition for when
5 deadly use of force can be used by police officers; and

6 WHEREAS, Incorporating policing best practices, The California Act to Save Lives
7 authorizes police officers to use deadly force only when it is necessary to prevent imminent
8 and serious bodily injury or death – that is, if, given the totality of the circumstances, there was
9 no reasonable alternative to using deadly force, including warnings, verbal persuasion, or
10 other nonlethal methods of resolution or de-escalation; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the California Department of Justice, in 2017 California police
12 killed 172 people, half of whom were unarmed; and

13 WHEREAS, Of the unarmed people California police killed in 2017, three out of four
14 were people of color; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2017, Black people in California were 3.2 times more likely to be killed
16 by police than white people; and

17 WHEREAS, An analysis by the Washington Post and census data found that
18 California police kill people at a rate 37% higher than the national average per capita; and

19 WHEREAS, Nationwide, almost half of people killed by police have a disability or
20 mental illness; and

21 WHEREAS, In a report conducted after the shooting death of Stephon Clark, the
22 California Department of Justice recommended that the Sacramento Police Department
23 update its use of force guidelines to clearly define when force is and is not authorized; and

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1 WHEREAS, The California Act to Save Lives would update police use of force
2 protocols by establishing adequate and constitutional standards to ensure officers avoid the
3 use of deadly force at every possible opportunity; and

4 WHEREAS, This bill takes into account officer safety and specifies that officers can
5 always invoke the self-defense law that applies to the public; and

6 WHEREAS, The California Act to Save Lives reflects policies that policing experts
7 recognize as effective at better preserving life while also allowing officers the latitude needed
8 to ensure public safety; and

9 WHEREAS, Under President Obama, the U.S. Department of Justice helped many
10 cities adopt similar policies, including San Francisco and Seattle; and

11 WHEREAS, Several police agencies and law enforcement organizations outside of
12 California have recommended or already adopted stricter use-of-force standards similar to
13 those proposed under this bill; and

14 WHEREAS, Seattle’s federal monitor determined that the policy change resulted in a
15 marked reduction in serious uses of force without compromising the safety of officers; and

16 WHEREAS, Reforming California law is common sense; officers at agencies with
17 stricter use of force policies kill fewer people and law enforcement in those agencies are also
18 less likely to be killed or seriously injured themselves; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges
20 the California Legislature and Governor Newsom to support and pass California State
21 Assembly Bill No. 392; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of
23 Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this resolution to the California State
24 Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom.