

File No. 230851

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 83

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: July 25, 2023

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OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: July 21, 2023

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Urging Social Media Platforms to Enforce Their Community Standards and/or Guidelines to
2 Prevent Violence]

3 **Resolution urging Social Media Platforms to enforce their Community Standards and/or**
4 **Guidelines to prevent and eliminate content promoting guns, violence, racism, hate, or**
5 **any other content that violates the Community Standards and/or Guidelines through**
6 **their platforms on Meta, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, among other products and**
7 **services.**

8
9 WHEREAS, Social Media Platforms are interactive technologies that facilitate the
10 creation and sharing of information, ideas, interests, and other expression through virtual
11 communities and networks; and

12 WHEREAS, The term ‘social’ in regard to ‘media’ suggests that platforms are user-
13 centric and enable communal activity and as such, social media can be viewed as online
14 facilitators or enhancers of human networks—webs of individuals who enhance social
15 connectivity but unfortunately can also be a space where violence can spread in communities
16 resulting in life or death consequences; and

17 WHEREAS, Meta Platforms, Inc., doing business as Meta, is one of the biggest social
18 media companies with the largest user base, and formerly named Facebook, Inc., and
19 TheFacebook, Inc., is an American multinational technology company based in Menlo Park,
20 California that owns and operates Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp, among
21 other products and services; and

22 WHEREAS, Additional Social Media Platforms with a large user base not under Meta
23 include YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest, Reddit, LinkedIn, and Twitter which, each have
24 similar Community Standards and/or Guidelines to regulate violent content; and

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1 WHEREAS, According to Meta, the Community Standards for Facebook state: “The
2 goal of our Community Standards has always been to create a safe place for expression, but
3 we recognize the internet creates new and increased opportunities for abuse.”;

4 WHEREAS, Facebook’s policy rational aims to prevent potential offline harm that may
5 be related to content on Facebook and has stated that they remove language that incites or
6 facilitates serious violence along with removing content, disabling accounts and working with
7 law enforcement when Facebook believes there is a genuine risk of physical harm or direct
8 threats to public safety; and

9 WHEREAS, Facebook also has Community Standards on violence and criminal
10 behavior, safety, objectionable content including hate speech or sexual solicitation, integrity
11 and authenticity including guidelines on fake accounts, respecting intellectual property, and
12 content-related requests and decisions from users; and

13 WHEREAS, Instagram’s Community Guidelines include wanting “...Instagram to
14 continue to be an authentic and safe place for inspiration and expression; Help us foster this
15 community; Post only your own photos and videos and always follow the law. Respect
16 everyone on Instagram...”; and

17 WHEREAS, Instagram states that it “is not a place to support or praise terrorism,
18 organized crime, or hate groups; Offering sexual services, buying or selling firearms, alcohol,
19 and tobacco products between private individuals, and buying or selling non-medical or
20 pharmaceutical drugs are also not allowed,” and

21 WHEREAS, Instagram has stated that it will remove content that contains credible
22 threats or hate speech, content that targets private individual to degrade or shame them,
23 personal information meant to blackmail or harass someone, and repeated unwanted
24 messages... and that “it’s never OK to encourage violence or attack anyone based on their
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1 race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious
2 affiliation, disabilities, or diseases...”; and

3 WHEREAS, According to Instagram, “serious threats of harm to public and personal
4 safety aren't allowed; This includes specific threats of physical harm as well as threats of theft,
5 vandalism, and other financial harm; We carefully review reports of threats and consider many
6 things when determining whether a threat is credible”; and

7 WHEREAS, According to TikTok, the company does not allow any violent threats,
8 incitement to violence, or promotion of criminal activities that may harm people, animals, or
9 property... if there is a specific, credible, and imminent threat to human life or serious physical
10 injury, [they] will report it to relevant law enforcement authorities; and

11 WHEREAS, Both Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and other Social Media Platforms have
12 options for users to report content if it violates the Community Standards or Guidelines but the
13 process of removing the flagged content is not transparent and often flagged content in
14 violation continues to stay on the respective platforms for long periods of time or are never
15 removed; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the Community Standards and Guidelines, Facebook, Instagram,
17 TikTok, and other Social Media Platforms continue to allow people to post content promoting
18 guns, eliciting violence, and spreading hate among other content that threatens the safety of
19 individuals or groups; and

20 WHEREAS, In some cases, when content in violation of Community Standards and/or
21 Guidelines are removed, it is too late and the damage in real life consequences have already
22 happened; and

23 WHEREAS, Content that is violation of Community Standards and Guidelines but
24 remain posted on the respective platforms have real life consequences resulting in increased
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1 violence in communities, including in some cases, gun violence between individuals and
2 groups resulting in homicides; and

3 WHEREAS, This type of content has led to homicides across the Bay Area including
4 cities like San Francisco, Vallejo, Antioch, Oakland, and across the state and country, and has
5 even caused the death of famous people; and

6 WHEREAS, While both Facebook and Instagram encourages users that “many
7 disputes and misunderstandings can be resolved directly between members of the
8 community,” this does not stop the violence between community members outside of the
9 platform; and

10 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Street Violence Intervention Program, Latino
11 Task Force, Young Community Developers, United Playaz, San Francisco Black Wallstreet,
12 local governing entities, public defenders, and law enforcement leadership across the state
13 and country support Social Media Platforms to enforce their own Community Standards
14 and/or Guidelines to ensure that violence does not spread into shootings, homicides, and
15 retaliation in the community; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all Social Media
17 Platforms to regulate and eliminate any content that promotes guns, elicits violence, and
18 spreads hate; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all Social
20 Media Platforms to enforce their Community Standards and Guidelines and address user
21 generated reports on their Social Media Platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Threads,
22 Whatsapp, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest, Reddit, LinkedIn, Twitter and other
23 products and services, on a timely manner to prevent any violence, especially gun violence,
24 from transcending outside of social media into real life; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all Social
2 Media Platforms to partner with local governing entities and law enforcement to prevent
3 violence from spreading on their Social Media Platforms posted by users; and

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
5 the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Meta, Facebook, Instagram,
6 YouTube, WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest, Reddit, LinkedIn, and Twitter, the top
7 largest Social Media Platform companies currently in operation.

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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):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: