

1 [Urging the California State Legislature to Adopt Legislation Allowing Local Jurisdictions  
2 Greater Flexibility to Amend the Fire Code]

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4 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to adopt legislation allowing local**  
5 **jurisdictions flexibility to amend local fire code street width standards in order to**  
6 **maximize pedestrian and bicyclist safety goals.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a dense, built out urban environment; and  
9 WHEREAS, Pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities are an epidemic on the city's  
10 streets; and

11 WHEREAS, Poor street design, including wide avenues and thoroughfares that induce  
12 high vehicular speed, is partly responsible for San Francisco's high pedestrian and bicyclist  
13 injury rates; and

14 WHEREAS, Narrower streets reduce the exposure of pedestrians crossing the street,  
15 which is especially important for seniors and the disabled; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a Transit First City with various policies, initiatives, and  
17 implementation projects aimed at enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

18 WHEREAS, Maximizing life safety for all, including pedestrians, cyclists, and residents  
19 in their homes and businesses is a top policy priority for the City; and

20 WHEREAS, The State Fire Code elevates the life safety concerns of those in buildings  
21 over those walking or riding on our public streets; and

22 WHEREAS, The State Fire Code, adopted by reference in San Francisco, establishes  
23 a minimum 20 feet of unobstructed street width on all streets; and

24 WHEREAS, Many of San Francisco's existing streets do not meet this standard; and  
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1           WHEREAS, Certain street safety improvements can be made that reduce street width  
2 to less than 20 feet without precluding emergency vehicle access; and

3           WHEREAS, Any attempt to implement pedestrian and bicyclist safety enhancements  
4 that reduce street width to less than 20 feet is non-compliant with the State Fire Code; and

5           WHEREAS, The State Fire Code precludes local jurisdictions from balancing conflicting  
6 needs in order to maximize life safety for all; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State legislature to  
8 adopt legislation to allow local jurisdictions to reduce the minimum street width standard in  
9 their local fire code.

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