

1 [Urging Changes to California State Law Regarding Side Shows and Stunt Driving]

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3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to amend the State Vehicle Code to**
4 **impose harsher penalties for side shows and stunt driving.**

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6 WHEREAS, In recent years, San Francisco has seen a rise in “motor vehicle stunt
7 driving,” which includes reckless driving, vehicle speed contests, and/or exhibitions that
8 involve stunts and tricks with vehicles; and

9 WHEREAS, The various stunts and tricks featured during motor vehicle stunt driving
10 are extremely dangerous, and imperil both willing spectators and uninvolved bystanders, as
11 well as participants; and

12 WHEREAS, In the San Francisco Bay Area, the use of vehicles for stunts and tricks
13 has caused serious injuries and death to not only participants and spectators but also to
14 bystanders; and

15 WHEREAS, Stunt driving events have occurred over the last few decades but have
16 been becoming increasingly prevalent and they are occurring in neighborhoods that have not
17 typically seen them; and

18 WHEREAS, A side show occurred at Main and Harrison Streets on Sunday October 2,
19 2022; this event caused a serious noise disturbance to the residents nearby, many of whom
20 are families and seniors; at this event a person was struck by vehicle; and

21 WHEREAS, Several side shows have occurred at the intersection of Main and Harrison
22 Streets and also at 6th and Harrison Streets; and

23 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to not have officers
24 enter into a side show or stunt driving event to break it up because participants may be armed
25 and violence may escalate to a level far beyond the impacts of stunt driving itself; and

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department operates a specialized Stunt
2 Driving Response Unit, or SDRU, to prioritize the City’s police response to reported incidents;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed legislation mandating
5 removal and impoundment of vehicles used in side shows or violations under state law for no
6 less than 14 days for the first incident, no less than 15 days for the second, and no less than
7 29 days thereafter (Ordinance No. 212-20); and

8 WHEREAS, State law places limitations on how long a vehicle can be impounded,
9 which unpaid fines prohibit vehicle registration, and when a person’s license can be revoked;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco can only hold vehicles for 30 days,
12 can not institute barriers to car registration, and can not suspend licenses until 2025; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State Legislature to
15 amend several state laws that would affect San Francisco’s ability to impose harsher penalties
16 on stunt driving participants; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State
18 Legislature to amend California Vehicle Code, Section 22651 to extend the number of days a
19 car can be impounded from 30 to at least 180; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State
21 Legislature to amend California Vehicle Code, Section 40000 to make the renewal of the
22 vehicle registration contingent upon payment of any future fines imposed by the City and
23 County of San Francisco; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State
25 Legislature to reevaluate enacting AB 3 before its current date of 2025; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to draft legislation that
2 will strengthen the penalties that can be levied upon stunt driving participants; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
4 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco’s state legislative delegation and
5 the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly.

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