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April 14, 2023

The Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

*Subject: Request for Approval of the renewal of a \$1 Fee Collected by the CA DMV
in support of San Francisco County's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program*

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve the extension and collection of a \$1 fee to offset costs for investigation, noticing and abatement of vehicles or vehicle parts, for a term of ten years, from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2033.

In 1990, Section 22710 was added to the California Vehicle Code to allow counties to establish a Service Authority to administer the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) program. Through the program, abandoned vehicles or vehicle parts that promote blight or constitute a fire or health hazard may be removed from City streets. Section 9250.7 of the Vehicle Code allows the Service Authority to collect a \$1 fee to offset the counties' program costs. The \$1 fee is paid as part of vehicle registration fees collected by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Funds collected are apportioned by the DMV to all participating counties.

Section 9250.7 provides that the AVA fee expires after ten years but may be renewed for up to ten years with approval of the county's board of supervisors by a two-thirds vote. Upon such approval, the Service Authority may impose the AVA fee for an additional period of up to ten years.

In 1992, the Board established a Service Authority for the City and County of San Francisco and designated the members of the Department of Parking and Traffic Commission to serve ex officio as the members of the Service Authority, and approved imposition by the Service Authority of the AVA fee (Ordinance No. 228-92.). The Board designated the SFMTA Board of Directors (SFMTA Board) to serve as the Service Authority in 2008. (S.F. Transportation Code Section 4.4(a).)

In 2013, the Board authorized renewal of the AVA to run from June 1, 2013, until May 31, 2023 (Resolution No. 101-13). In order to continue the program the Board, by a two-thirds vote, must



approve extension of the fee until May 2033, and the SFMTA Board must impose the \$1 AVA fee for an additional ten years.

AVA Program Summary

Most vehicle abatement requests are received from San Francisco residents. SFMTA Parking Enforcement investigates and if the vehicle is parked at the location reported, a warning notice is posted on the vehicle instructing the owner to move the vehicle within the five days (extended from the standard 72-Hour notice). The posted warning gives written notice that the vehicle may be towed. An officer returns five days later and if the vehicle was not moved, the vehicle is towed. Enforcement submits an annual report that is used to complete the AVA submission report.

If, during an investigation, Enforcement suspects that the vehicle in question is being used for vehicular housing and the owner is present, they work with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DHS), the Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) and the City's San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to provide proactive outreach to people living in their vehicles. The primary goal of this work is to connect people living in their vehicles with health care, services, and alternative housing options. In addition, officers mark the vehicle to indicate whether the vehicle is in violation. Vehicles not in violation will have no further action taken.

The number of vehicles investigated, and the number and percentage abated for the last ten fiscal years are listed in the table below.

| Fiscal Year | Number of Vehicles Investigated | Number Abated | Percent Disposed |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| FY2013 | 17,908 | 1,041 | 6% |
| FY2014 | 15,936 | 1,033 | 6% |
| FY2015 | 18,158 | 1,162 | 6% |
| FY2016 | 26,410 | 1,471 | 6% |
| FY2017 | 29,181 | 1,615 | 6% |
| FY2018 | 31,283 | 1,646 | 5% |
| FY2019 | 29,926 | 1,703 | 6% |
| FY2020 | 21,673 | 1,180 | 5% |
| FY2021 | 2,142 | 135 | 6% |
| FY2022 | 17,114 | 672 | 4% |



Funding Impact

The vehicle abatement \$1 fee collected by the DMV offsets the cost to abate abandoned vehicles. Failure to extend collection of the fee would result in higher costs to the City and County for vehicle abatement, as shown the table below:

Costs for the program and amount reimbursed by the fee for the last ten years are listed below:

| Fiscal Year | Program Expenditures* | Vehicle Abatement Fee Distributed | Difference | Cost Recovery by Percentage |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| FY2013 | \$1,122,438 | \$486,882 | \$635,556 | 43% |
| FY2014 | \$1,070,522 | \$505,418 | \$565,104 | 47% |
| FY2015 | \$1,270,647 | \$509,055 | \$761,592 | 40% |
| FY2016 | \$1,311,194 | \$509,871 | \$801,323 | 39% |
| FY2017 | \$1,506,605 | \$515,520 | \$991,085 | 34% |
| FY2018 | \$1,563,597 | \$507,960 | \$1,055,637 | 32% |
| FY2019 | \$1,590,127 | \$511,600 | \$1,078,527 | 32% |
| FY2020 | \$1,935,965 | \$486,839 | \$1,449,126 | 25% |
| FY2021** | \$553,071 | \$498,990 | \$54,081 | 90% |
| FY2022 | \$2,170,393 | \$484,085 | \$1,686,308 | 22% |

Recommendation

To continue to receive funds to offset the costs of investigation, noticing and abatement of abandoned vehicles, the SFMTA recommends approving the extension of the collection of \$1 per registered vehicle fee from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2033.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. Should you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey P. Tumlin'.

Jeffrey P. Tumlin
Director of Transportation