

1 [Urging SFMTA and SFPD to Stop Ticketing Stolen Vehicles and to Share Data Toward
2 Solving Auto Thefts]

3 **Resolution urging the Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to stop ticketing and**
4 **immediately waive tickets to stolen vehicles; and urging the Committee on Information**
5 **Technology (COIT) and Chief Data Officer to work with SFMTA and the Police**
6 **Department (SFPD) to share data toward solving auto thefts.**

7
8 WHEREAS, As of September 24, 2023, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)
9 has received 5,038 stolen car reports, compared to 4,540 last year, an increase of 11%; and

10 WHEREAS, Neighborhood hotspots for auto theft include many of our southern
11 neighborhoods, including the Portola, Mission, Potrero Hill and South of Market where
12 residents are struggling to make ends meet; and

13 WHEREAS, The current practice of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation
14 Agency (SFMTA) is to ticket all vehicles without checking to see whether they have been
15 reported stolen; and

16 WHEREAS, This practice leads to individuals whose vehicles have been stolen
17 receiving multiple tickets and facing severe financial hardship through fines and the cost of
18 recovering or replacing their vehicle; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a report in the San Francisco Chronicle, from May 1, 2023,
20 through September 17, 2023, SFMTA ticketed 411 of approximately 2,000 stolen cars, issuing
21 fines totaling nearly \$70,000; and

22 WHEREAS, 15 years ago, the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) checked for
23 stolen vehicles using a handheld device that matched the plate to the City's stolen car
24 database; and

1 WHEREAS, Sometime after DPT was eliminated to form the San Francisco Municipal
2 Transportation Agency, this effective procedure ended; and

3 WHEREAS, The SFMTA makes it incredibly difficult for a resident to get their citation
4 waived by requiring a full police report within 21 days, rather than just a report number; and

5 WHEREAS, The SFPD's limited staffing has impacted its ability to generate stolen car
6 reports and turn them around to residents; and

7 WHEREAS, An automated system of waiving fines for stolen cars would reduce
8 bureaucracy and assist crime victims; and

9 WHEREAS, The City's COIT and Chief Data Officer are best positioned to help City
10 agencies coordinate and determine best practices for effective data sharing; and

11 WHEREAS, Linking stolen car data with the SFMTA's ticketing system could allow
12 SFMTA to report stolen vehicles to SFPD, leading to quicker recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, Recovering stolen cars quickly would prevent them from being used to
14 commit additional crimes; and

15 WHEREAS, Some of these changes may require approval by COIT and the Board of
16 Supervisors of agencies' surveillance policies; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Municipal
18 Transportation Agency to stop ticketing stolen vehicles and immediately waive tickets issued
19 to stolen vehicles; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Committee on
21 Information Technology and the Chief Data Officer to work with SFMTA and SFPD to develop
22 effective data sharing agreements that could reduce auto thefts.

23
24
25