

418-09

FILE NO. 091215

RESOLUTION NO.

1 [Urging SFMTA to implement AB 144 in order to curb abuse of disabled placards.]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to implement**
4 **California Assembly Bill 144 to curb abuse of disabled placards.**

5 WHEREAS, Abusers of disabled placards cause hardship for disabled persons with valid
6 placards by preventing them from finding accessible parking, and

7 WHEREAS, Abusers of disabled placards undermine the legitimate needs of people truly in
8 need of disabled placards, and

9 WHEREAS, placard abusers prevent law-abiding drivers from parking legally by using the
10 placard to park for free without time restrictions, and

11 WHEREAS, There are 23 million registered drivers in the State of California and over 2.3
12 million of them have disabled placards; between 1997 and 2007 there was a 131% increase in the
13 number of disabled placards issued in California and a 121% increase in the number of disabled
14 placards issued and registered in San Francisco with only a 17% increase in the number of cars
15 registered in San Francisco, and

16 WHEREAS, There have been 1,234 improperly used placards confiscated in San Francisco
17 between September 2007 and September 2008, and

18 WHEREAS, disabled parking placards are issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
19 with no local input or oversight and with broad guidelines for medical practitioners who authorize the
20 issuance of placards, and

21 WHEREAS, The DMV does not regularly investigate medical practitioners who authorize an
22 unusually high number of placards making enforcement the primary effective mechanism available to
23 San Francisco in the effort to curtail abuse of disabled parking privileges, and
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1 WHEREAS, SFMTA needs more tools to minimize the number of disabled placards in use,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma has introduced Assembly Bill 144 to address the
4 problem of disabled parking placard abuse, and

5 WHEREAS, AB 144 amends the California Vehicle Code to authorize a penalty of up to
6 \$1,000 for parking in a blue zone without a valid license plate or placard or for the misuse of a special
7 license plate or placard and increases the maximum allowed fine for parking in a blue zone from \$500
8 to \$1,000, and increases the maximum allowed fine for using an invalid placard, or for misuse of a
9 valid disabled parking license plate or placard from \$100 to \$1,000, and

10 WHEREAS, AB 144, once in effect on January 1, 2010, will allow San Francisco Parking
11 Enforcement Officers to enforce abuses of disabled parking privileges through the issuance of a non-
12 criminal parking citation to a vehicle and SFMTA will be required to take steps in training and
13 resource allocation to implement AB 144 locally, now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco urges SFMTA to take the appropriate
15 steps to implement AB 144 locally in order to curb the abuse of disabled placards.
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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 091215

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to implement California Assembly Bill 144 to curb abuse of disabled placards.

October 27, 2009 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell, Mirkarimi

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 27, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

11/6/09

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom