Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 299, authored by Senator Connie Leyva (SD-20) and introduced on February 3, 2021, to remove barriers faced by victims and families of peace officer violence with the California Victim Compensation Board Fund.

WHEREAS, 2020 was a tumultuous year for the United States of America regarding race relations and criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of San Franciscans marched in support of greater accountability for peace officers; and

WHEREAS, Victim compensation is an important pathway for survivors to access support, as it can cover specific expenses such as medical bills, funeral burial expenses, counseling and overall economic devastation; and

WHEREAS, Compensation of these services and support can only be received when a survivor has no other avenue for covering these costs; and

WHEREAS, Existing law requires the California Victim Compensation Board (CALVCB) to verify that a crime occurred based on the police report and denies applications if it finds that the victim was involved in the events that gave rise to the application, which gives significant deference and height to peace officers prior to a thorough investigation; and

WHEREAS, Countless survivors and/or derivative victims are denied access to the California Victim Compensation Board because of this requirement; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 299 (SB 299) would ensure that the definition of “crime” and “victim” for the purpose of compensation presumptively include victims who are seriously
WHEREAS, SB 299 would bar exclusions based on a victim’s alleged actions leading to the injury, or on whether the victim or their family cooperates with police following the crimes and therefore ensuring no survivor is denied coverage for mental healthcare based on these restrictions; and

WHEREAS, SB 299 would prohibit denial of California Victim Compensation based solely on the contents of a police report in cases of peace officer violence; and

WHEREAS, SB 299 would also clarify the California Victim Compensation Board’s decisions regarding compensation eligibility are not admissible in any other civil or criminal proceeding, or, for cases of police use of force, in related employment proceedings; and

WHEREAS, During the height of Black Lives Matter movement, San Francisco State Senator Wiener and Assembly Member Chiu were in the forefront on an unsuccessful push of a similar bill, AB 767 during the 2019-2020 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco District Attorney’s office now allows victims of peace officer violence medical and mental health coverage and funeral burial expenses at the local level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports Senate Bill No. 299 which would ensure that the definition of “crime” and “victim” for the purpose of compensation presumptively include victims who are seriously injured or killed by peace officer use of force, regardless of whether an officer is arrested or charged; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Senate Bill No. 299 and the removal of barriers faced by victims of police violence and other violent crimes with California Victim Compensation Board; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco’s State Legislative Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.
Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 299, authored by Senator Connie Leyva (SD-20) and introduced on February 3, 2021, to remove barriers faced by victims and families of peace officer violence with the California Victim Compensation Board Fund.

April 22, 2021 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED

May 04, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was ADOPTED on 5/4/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor

Date Approved

5/15/2021

05/14/2021

Date