[Urging Public Works and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Preserve Ghost Bikes as Memorials and in Support of Vision Zero]

Resolution urging Public Works and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee, other appropriate departments, and advocates to create a plan and procedures permitting Ghost Bikes or other appropriate memorials at locations in and around San Francisco to raise awareness of safety, and to memorialize those killed on San Francisco streets.

WHEREAS, Bicycling and walking are key modes of the City of San Francisco’s “Transit First Policy”, adopted in 1973, and established in the City Charter, Section 8A.115, and

WHEREAS, “The Climate Action Plan” calls on San Francisco to “increase bicycling and walking as an alternative to driving;” and

WHEREAS, The 2009 San Francisco Bicycle Plan declares, “An increase in bicycling is a critical component to improving the future health and prosperity of San Francisco. With limited public investment, the City can improve conditions for bicycling in order to help achieve numerous important goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving energy, improving the health, and physical fitness of residents, mitigating the negative effects of traffic congestion, improving air quality, providing affordable transportation alternatives, and creating more livable neighborhoods;” and

WHEREAS, The Bicycle Advisory Committee is charged by Administrative Code, Article XIV, Section 5.132 with promoting cycling in the City; and

WHEREAS, More than 20 cyclists have been killed in traffic in San Francisco since 2005, including four cyclists killed in 2015, and two to date in 2016; and
WHEREAS, To serve as a stark reminder of tragic bicyclist deaths, advocates and friends and relatives of the deceased have created makeshift memorials or “Ghost Bikes” consisting of bicycles painted white at the locations of fatalities involving cyclists; and

WHEREAS, Every Ghost Bike serves as a reminder to the entire community that safety is not to be taken for granted, that we all have a duty to participate in safety regardless of our choice of means of transportation, and that the consequences of crashes are sometimes the tragic loss of life; and

WHEREAS, A similar resolution was passed unanimously by the Bicycle Advisory Committee on October 24, 2016; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors supports the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s recommendation that an immediate moratorium on the removal of any “Ghost Bike” placed anywhere within the confines of the City and County of San Francisco for at least one year, providing that such “Ghost Bike” is not in violation of any local ordinances that involve public safety, i.e.: no “Ghost Bike” may block egress by pedestrians, wheelchair users, city and county workers, including first responders and privately employed delivery persons, block any roadway, or present any other public safety or health hazard; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, Public Works and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, (SFMTA), work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets, and any other appropriate City agency or advocacy organization deemed necessary, to draft an ordinance for permitting those who wish to place a “Ghost Bike” or other appropriate memorial at locations in and around San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, Within one year’s time, or by October 23, 2017, that the Bicycle Advisory Committee, with the full support of Public Works and SFMTA, and/or any other appropriate City agency of department, jointly report to the Board of Supervisors, said

Supervisors Yee; Kim, Mar
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
recommendations for an ordinance for the permitted placement of "Ghost Bikes" or other memorials by citizens who wishes to do so.
File Number: 161250                Date Passed: November 29, 2016

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November 29, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 161250

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 11/29/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

12/9/16
Date Approved