



West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

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<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

**TO THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO:**

Whereas state law requires that all vehicles come to a complete stop (with no forward motion) at stop signs;

Whereas Supervisor Avalos' proposed ordinance concerning bicycle behavior at stop signs is related to state law governing traffic;

Whereas changing the requirements for bicycles at stop signs in San Francisco will result in bicycle behavior in traffic that is unpredictable and unsafe, especially to people walking and driving who do not live in San Francisco;

Whereas the proponents of legislation to allow bicycles to yield at arterial stop signs quote the success of the law in Idaho as reason to implement a similar law in San Francisco. The 2014 – 15 population of Idaho is about 1.5 million. The largest city in the state is Boise, with a population of less than 250,000 and an area of 80 square miles. The next largest cities in the state are less than 100,000. The population density of Boise is 2,600 per square mile. The population density of San Francisco is 17,000 per square mile. Therefore, quite a different traffic situation exists in San Francisco, with a population four (4) times and population density seven (7) times the largest city in Idaho;

Whereas the proposed ordinance assumes that bicycle riders will drive safely;

Whereas if bicycles are allowed to just yield at stops signs you could not be sure that an intersection would be safe to drive through even with stop signs for crossing traffic; and

Whereas everyone who uses the roads must follow the same rules so that traffic behavior is predictable.

Therefore be it resolved: The West of Twin Peaks Central Council opposes Supervisor Avalos' proposed legislation to allow bicyclists to treat arterial stop signs as yield signs and to make ticketing cyclists who merely yield at stop signs, instead of coming to a full stop, the San Francisco Police Department's lowest enforcement priority.

Bicycles must follow the same rules of the road that everyone else does and the laws must be enforced. We urge the Board of Supervisors to oppose this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Ritter
President, West of Twin Peaks Central Council
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