

MOTION

The last decade has seen continued improvements to autonomous vehicle (AV) technologies. While these technologies have continued to gain permission to operate on public streets, the recent decision by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow significant expansion of operations to include autonomous taxi services in San Francisco raises concerns regarding the rate of expansion and need for thoughtful integration of new technologies to prioritize the safety of people that use roads.

Concerns have been expressed that autonomous vehicles are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, which could potentially compromise the safety of passengers and other road users by behaving erratically and/or crashing. They have also shown to experience challenges resulting in inoperability when local 5g networks are stressed in dense urban environments, particularly near large events. Additionally, while autonomous vehicles can process large amounts of data to make quick decisions in standard operating conditions, they lack human judgment and intuition that is critical for navigating urban environments. For example, an AV may not be able to anticipate the actions of people, walking, bicycling, driving, or using the road in another way, leading to collisions.

BB

On August 10, 2023, the CPUC granted Waymo LLC and Cruise LLC the ability to offer driverless autonomous vehicle service within San Francisco and parts of San Mateo County. On September 11, 2023, San Francisco City Attorney David Chui filed two formal requests to the California Public Utilities Commission asking for a rehearing on the resolutions allowing Cruise and Waymo to expand their paid-passenger services to limit the expansion of operations by autonomous vehicles.

Considering that on September 20, 2023, Waymo announced their plan for expanding autonomous taxi services in Los Angeles in the coming months, and the DMV's announcement on October 24, 2023 that Cruise LLC must cease all operations on public roads in California, our City must join San Francisco's call to state regulators to reign in autonomous operations in urban contexts and identify benchmarking standards to inform how to expand operations in a thoughtful and careful manner.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST the City Attorney to work with San Francisco City Attorney in support of the application for re-hearing on the California Public Utilities Commission's decisions on Resolution TL-19145 and TL19144.

PRESENTED BY:

HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ
Councilmember, 13th District

NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

HEATHER HUTT
Councilmember, 10th District

ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY:

OCT 25 2023