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June 22,2023

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California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Provisional Authorizations for Waymo & Cruise for Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service

President Reynolds and Commissioners,

I am writing to you on behalf of the men and women of the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Police Officers Association, to reconsider the agenda items on your June 29th consent agenda. The items I am specifically referring to are items 6 & 7 that have to do with the application for autonomous vehicles. I, as well as the members I represent believe strongly that the application should not be approved until further research is done to help understand the impact these vehicles have to the safety of not only other vehicles on the roadway but pedestrians as well.

Look no further then the recent mass shooting that occurred in San Francisco, in the Mission District, when emergency vehicles were trying to respond to the scene to render aid to multiple victims. An autonomous vehicle was blocking the avenue of approach for emergency vehicles trying to get to the scene. This impacts our police response times, as well as those of the fire department and emergency medical services.

While we all applaud the advancements in technology, we must not be in such a rush that we forget the human element and the effects such technology unchecked can create dangerous situations. Delays of even seconds in our line of work can be a matter of life or death. The time that it takes for an officer or any other public safety employee, to try and interact with an autonomous vehicle is frustrating in the best-case scenario but when they can not comprehend our demands to move to the side of the roadway and are stopped in the middle of the roadway blocking emergency response units, then it rises to another level of danger, and that is unacceptable.

So today I, along with many other public safety employees, as well as local city leaders and local government leaders ask you to not approve the application for autonomous vehicles until more research is done that shows autonomous vehicles do not pose a danger to the public by delaying our response times.

Thank you,


Tracy McCray

SFPOA President