

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies, proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency, must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2024, Senator Dave Cortese, introduced California Senate Bill 915 that empowers local communities, maintains safety for pedestrians, passengers, and other vehicles, and establishes a community-centered approach in the decision to deploy autonomous vehicle services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 915 would empower local governments to determine how autonomous vehicles operate in a given area, as well as enforce traffic laws on autonomous vehicle companies by enacting new local ordinances, as needed, in real-time; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 915 allows each local government to set up its own rules for self-driving vehicles based on the community's unique needs. Local governments will be able to govern fares on robotaxis, the number of autonomous vehicles on the road, and demarcate potential areas of special or restricted operations. This will manage traffic and reduce the potential for injuries, especially as autonomous driving technology is in the early stages of public operational roll-out; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 915 has the support of the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, California Conference Board of the Amalgamated, Transit Union, California League of Cities, and California Labor Federation; and

WHEREAS, Peter Finn, Teamsters Western Region International Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 856 was reported saying, "Our streets should not be private laboratories for untested technology. SB 915 is the common-sense measure to ensure autonomous vehicles don't operate in a regulatory vacuum, putting lives at risk. Local communities deserve a say in how these vehicles operate on their streets."; and

WHEREAS, according to Senator Dave Cortese, "City councils and county boards of supervisors adopt ordinances on any given week, nimbly and with local accountability. SB 915 returns control to the local communities who know their streets best. The emergence of autonomous vehicles is an exciting technological development with massive potential upsides for safety and convenience. We must ensure this innovative technology rolls out safely. SB 915 strikes the right balance between responsible technology deployment and public safety. Under SB 915, the rules of the road will continue to be established and enforced by the people who live there"; and

WHEREAS, Over the last year, driverless vehicles have delayed transport and medical care, blocked emergency vehicles, and interfered during active firefighting and crime scenes. Forcing first responders to relocate their emergency vehicles because of wayward autonomous vehicles; and

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WHEREAS, many communities have expressed concerns over the number of driverless vehicles allowed to operate on their local streets; hours allowed for service/operation; locations of vulnerable populations (e.g. schoolyards) or substandard conditions like our hillside communities; and damage to local streets and roads with heavier than average displacement; and

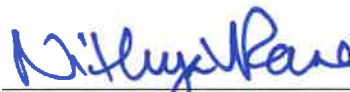
WHEREAS, these events have sparked a backlash in communities in recent months following a series of traffic snarls and crashes. In one incident, a person walking was run over and dragged by a Cruise vehicle after she was struck by another car. The DMV only took disciplinary action, suspending Cruise's deployment permit, after it became clear that Cruise misled California regulators about the severity of the event; and


WHEREAS, by allowing each city, county, or city and county that adopts a policy for entry into the business of providing autonomous vehicle services which must include and consider: maximum rates for passenger fares (robotaxi), establishment of vehicle caps, establishment of data transparency, establishment of interoperability for emergency responders, a process of ensuring ADA accessibility, annual inspections for health and safety. SB 915 will go a long way towards repairing the flawed approach that governs the deployment of robotaxis and similar services in California;

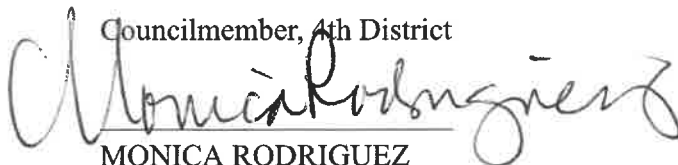
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023 - 2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 915, "The Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act", which would prioritized local control in the decision to deploy autonomous vehicle services.

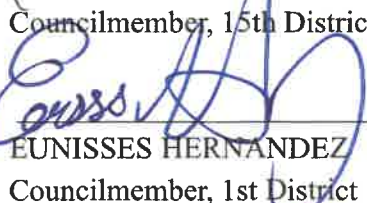
PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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