PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

In the State of California, the operation of autonomous vehicles (AVs) is regulated by the State. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates the safety of commercial passenger services, for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and Autonomous Vehicles (AVs), while the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regulates AV testing and other AV non-passenger related services, including how AVs are cited for moving violations, how they interact with first responders and traffic officers, and how manufacturers manage the deployment of their fleets in an emergency.

As the number of AVs and TNCs on local streets in the City grows, it is important to understand how emergency communications can be optimized to respond to crises in a timely manner, including protocols for determining when the operation of these vehicles should be limited in certain areas of the City during an emergency, storms (e.g. El Nino), unforeseen climate events, and major events, if those vehicles should be required to temporarily suspend service for a limited period of time, if vehicles should immediately disburse from an area, or if pick up and drop off locations should be relocated. The DMV's rules indicate that local authorities have the ability to issue emergency geofencing directives to AV manufacturers and require AV manufacturers to direct their fleets to leave the identified areas to limit conflicts with AVs during active emergency situations. Ridehailing services also provide the unique communication opportunity to disseminate important roadway information during an emergency to fleets of drivers who are already connected to a phone app.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Emergency Management Department, Department of Transportation, Police Department, and Fire Department in collaboration with the City Attorney, BE DIRECTED to report with an overview of existing protocols for coordinating with autonomous vehicles and ride-hailing services during an emergencies, natural disasters, or large scale special events, and an outline of local authority to regulate the operations during a declared local emergency.

PRESENTED BY: Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7TH District

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SECONDED BY: Heather Hutt

ORIGINAL

OCT 0 9 2026