

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Dave Cortese
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 915 (Cortese): Local Government: Autonomous Vehicles
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Cortese:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in strong support of your SB 915, which enhances public safety and ensures local governments have the ability to establish ordinances for the deployment of self-driving autonomous vehicles (AV) within their jurisdictional boundaries.

Currently, only the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) authorize and govern AV services, not local governments. As a result, Robotaxis and other AV services are operating in California communities without input from local government, concerned residents, or emergency responders.

There have been numerous incidents of autonomous vehicles causing traffic jams, blocking emergency response vehicles, and creating safety hazards for residents. While the City of Palo Alto encourages technological advancements to improve transportation deliverability, the City also wishes to see additional safeguards implemented at the local level to ensure our local streets and roads are regulated to protect the public's safety.

SB 915 restores local control by allowing local municipalities to consider several policies that reflect the local communities' priorities. SB 915 strikes a balance between technological advancement, local control, and public safety.

Thank you for your strong leadership and commitment on this important policy topic. For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support SB 915.

Sincerely,



Greer Stone
Mayor, City of Palo Alto