Mayor Ed Lee  
City Hall, Room 200,  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Via email

Jan. 30, 2017

Dear Mayor Lee,

I am writing you on behalf of Consumer Watchdog, a nonpartisan nonprofit public interest group, in regard to Uber’s just announced plan to bring some of its autonomous vehicles back to San Francisco’s streets. The scofflaw company claims that it will be using its robot cars only for mapping and gathering data, not for testing the cars’ self-driving technology.

Based on Uber’s past performance when they flouted California law and put their robot cars on the road without the required permits from the DMV, there is absolutely no reason to trust the company now. You’ll remember that Uber’s robot cars were observed driving through red lights when they were first deployed and that Uber disingenuously blamed the human test driver. You simply cannot take Uber’s current claim that its robot cars will not be in self-driving mode, only gathering data and that the robot cars will be under human control at all times at face value.

We call on you to ask San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott to have the police department closely monitor the activities of Uber’s robot cars and to vigorously enforce all laws that apply to this renegade company’s vehicles.

Sincerely,

John M. Simpson  
Privacy Project Director

Cc: Chief Bill Scott