



Mr. Brian Soublet
Deputy Director and Chief Counsel
Department of Motor Vehicles
2415 1st Ave.
Sacramento, CA

Dec. 20, 2016

Via Email

Re: Witness to Uber's Violations in San Francisco

Dear Mr. Soublet:

I am writing on behalf of Consumer Watchdog, a nonprofit nonpartisan public interest group, to share what we believe is important information as the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Attorney General prepare to take legal action against Uber for operating its self-driving cars on San Francisco's streets without the required permit.

Most attention on Uber's flagrant, willful violation has been focused on the company since it announced on Dec. 14 that it was offering rides in its robot cars to the public. In fact, Uber was operating the cars without a permit – and unsafely – well before that time.

Christopher Koff, who operates a café in San Francisco, reported to Consumer Watchdog on Monday that about three weeks ago he witnessed an Uber self-driving vehicle with an operator behind the wheel talking to a passenger with a laptop. Mr. Koff reports he saw the car drive through a red light and then pull to the side of the road and stop after crossing the intersection. Another vehicle had to brake abruptly to avoid a crash in the intersection, he said. Mr. Koff reports that the man in the driver's seat did not have his hands on the steering wheel when the robot car went through the red light.

This is further proof of Uber's flagrant flouting of the law and its unsafe operation on San Francisco's streets. As you prepare the case against the company and, we hope, its CEO Travis Kalanick, Consumer Watchdog urges you to contact Mr. Koff, who is willing to discuss what he witnessed. Mt. Koff can be reached at (650)-[REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Simpson".

John M. Simpson
Privacy Project Director

