



Self-Help for the Elderly

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Providing strength, hope and empowerment to seniors since 1966

November 24, 2021

CPUC Industry Division
California Public Utilities Commission
Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Re: Response by Self-Help for the Elderly to Cruise AL 0001

Dear California Public Utilities Commission Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Self-Help for the Elderly in support of Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application. Throughout our organization's history, we have been committed to protecting the dignity and autonomy of seniors in our communities. The wide-scale adoption of commercial driverless vehicle services, like Cruise, will be a giant step forward in providing our community additional mobility independence and allow organizations such as ours the ability to expand our service offerings including our meal delivery program and senior escort services.

Our home-delivered meals bring nutrition right to the doorstep of seniors who may have difficulty leaving their residence. The ability to utilize Cruise's driverless vehicles for this program would help us reach more BIPOC populations in high-need neighborhoods that are currently underserved. We also see a future where our senior escort workers could utilize Cruise AVs to take seniors to appointments where there may be limited transit options or very long travel and transfer times. With driverless vehicles, our community can also have full autonomy over their transportation options and travel in comfort.

Furthermore, if Cruise's zero-emission driverless vehicles are able to transport passengers, then fewer people will rely on fuel-burning cars, leading to less pollution and healthier air quality. Their driverless vehicles would make streets safer as well, as its vehicle tests in San Francisco have proven that their sensors are more adept at sensing and reacting to surrounding obstacles than human drivers.

Cruise is making its mark in the San Francisco community by engaging with neighborhood groups like ours and discussing how its vehicles can operate to best serve our residents and businesses. We believe that if they're able to expand commercially to the rest of the state, they'll do the same with local communities wherever they go.

We encourage the CPUC to grant Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application so that all Californians can share the benefits commercial driverless zero-emission vehicles would provide.

Thank you,

Anni Chung
President and CEO

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