

Joint Committee on Finance and Transportation
Monday, August 21, 2017

Re: Proposed Ordinance: O2016-6465

Chairman Burke, Chairman Beale, members of the Finance and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the proposed ordinance. At a time when Chicago continues to emerge and grow as a tech hub (6th fastest in the world, per KPMG March 2017 study), this ordinance, while well-intentioned, is extremely short-sighted and bad for Chicago's economic future.

Autonomous vehicles are here. It becomes a question of whether Chicago wants the financial and economic investment, and the jobs, that come with it. A number of the largest companies in the world are seeking to invest in any City that is willing to let them safely innovate the future of transportation.

Chicago has always been a transportation innovator. We should not reject the future of transportation as this ordinance proposes to do. If we do, it is certain that some other city will reap the rewards Chicago failed to accept. We will be a second city, and not in a good way.

The benefits go beyond jobs and financial investment in our City. A number of benefits go with this:

- **Safety**- impaired driving causes a third of all road fatalities. And, with the cell phone a part of many people's driving routines, distracted driving continues to be a major safety concern. *AVs will reduce fatalities and improve safety.*
- **Congestion**- while we have a solid transportation infrastructure, anyone who has come in and/or out of the City, knows that congestion and traffic jams continue to be a huge problem, and a drag on people's free-time, productivity, and efficient transportation of goods. *AVs will play a critical role in moving people and goods more efficiently.*

The proposed ordinance would prohibit the future of transportation, and Chicago's place in being a leader in that future. We oppose the proposed ordinance.

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