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Beverly Hills Joins Prestigious Stanford AV Research Center

Beverly Hills, CA – Beverly Hills is the first city in the nation to join the Center for Automotive Research at Stanford (CARS), a prestigious organization devoted to the research and development of autonomous mobility. The membership, approved by the Beverly Hills City Council and CARS, is the latest step in the City's plan to provide the community with safe and convenient transportation options using the latest technology.

"Joining CARS signals our commitment to the future of mobility," said Mayor John Mirisch. "As we develop our autonomous vehicle (AV) program, we will have access to the brightest minds and the latest research in urban mobility, which will ensure that the safest, most reliable self-driving vehicles are operating on Beverly Hills roadways."

"With the increased presence of automation in transportation and the adoption of new mobility models, communication between the public sector and the research community is ever more important," said Stephen M. Zoepf, Ph.D., Executive Director of CARS. "We're excited to have the City of Beverly Hills as part of the conversation at the Center for Automotive Research at Stanford."

CARS is the home of the highly successful Stanford Solar Car Project, which every two years fields a team of students who participate in a competition to drive solar vehicles across the Australian Outback. Areas of research at CARS include understanding how people will interact with automated vehicles, the impacts of vehicle automation from policy to ethics to law and advances in sensing, decision-making and control.

Phase 1 of the City's AV program calls for Beverly Hills to develop partnerships with manufacturers and work with policy makers on changing the regulatory environment to allow testing and deployment of systems for both public and privately owned AVs. In addition, the City is proposing a Municipal Autonomous Shuttle System (MASS), to address "first and last mile" issues for those who wish to use regional public transportation and to provide citywide on-demand, point-to-point transportation. For more information, contact Beverly Hills Information Technology, (310) 285-2590.

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