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SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS
- Local 798 -

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Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

June 18, 2015

Joanne Hayes White
Chief, San Francisco Fire Department
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
698 Second Street
San Francisco CA 94107

Dear Chief,

It is with the utmost concern for the safety and welfare of the members of Local 798 that we write to you regarding proposals for traffic safety on the streets of San Francisco. The fact that the Fire Department has potentially approved and is considering further approval of proposals made by the Department of Public Works that will require our members to knowingly drive into oncoming traffic when not driving in a code 3 emergency situation is very troubling. The act of driving our fire apparatus into oncoming traffic is potentially dangerous to the public, to our members and is a violation of the California State Vehicle Code Sec. 21650.

The safety of our members as well as the safety of the public that we serve is of the utmost importance to the members of Local 798. Our drivers and officers currently face many challenges while navigating our increasingly congested streets. That being the case, it is our position that any projects that propose the addition of any obstacles to our already busy streets should be immediately rejected and stopped. We further assert that any and all obstacles that have already installed should completely removed on the basis that they are a danger to public safety, to our members and to the integrity of our apparatus and finally as violation of the California State Vehicle Code.

We here at Local 798 support the vision of pedestrian safety wholeheartedly but it is our belief that this vision should not knowingly impact the overall safety of the citizens of San Francisco as well as our members. We welcome your thoughts on this matter at you earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. O'Connor Jr., President
San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798

cc: San Francisco Fire Commission