NYC COUNCIL MAJORITY LEADER SHUTS DOWN WAYMO LOBBYING PUSH: 'NOT INTERESTED'

NEW YORK — Autonomous vehicle giant Waymo faced a sharp rebuff at New York City Hall after attempting to roll out the red carpet for city officials.

According to sources familiar with the matter, representatives acting on behalf of the Alphabet-backed self-driving unit offered to cover hotel accommodations for municipal leaders as part of an aggressive lobbying push to introduce driverless taxis to the five boroughs.

However, the effort hit a wall when the New York City Council Majority Leader rejected the offer outright, issuing a blunt response: "Not interested."

The refusal comes amid mounting tension between autonomous vehicle developers and New York City lawmakers. While Waymo has aggressively expanded its commercial operations in cities like Phoenix, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, the tech firm has encountered persistent pushback in New York. City leaders, backed by labor unions and taxi driver advocates, have expressed strong resistance over concerns surrounding public safety, job preservation for licensed drivers, and city regulatory control.

The Majority Leader’s swift rejection underscores the uphill political battle Waymo faces in the nation's largest ride-hailing market, signaling that tech-industry hospitality won't easily sway City Hall's skepticism toward driverless vehicle technology.

