The report speaks of an autonomous vehicle crash and more specifically a crash involving a Tesla Model S. The crash took place in Culver City located in Los Angles, California on Monday, January 22, 2018, at 8:40 am.

The Tesla was driving on the left shoulder in a HOV lane of the highway with Autopilot mode enabled and was following a large utility vehicle/pickup. A fire truck was parked diagonally on the same lane. After the vehicle in front of the Tesla overtook the fire truck the Tesla accelerated and hit the fire truck at a speed of 31mph (the speed limit of this lane was 65mph). There were no injuries.

The Tesla driver was a 47-year-old man licensed in 1997 with no history of traffic violations. Although he had activated Autopilot mode, he said he had taken some safety measures including keeping the ignition on the steering wheel while putting his hand on his knee. However, he said he was distracted by the car's radio. However, a witness who was traveling next to the Tesla said that before the accident, the Tesla driver "appeared to be looking at a cell phone or other device he was holding in his left hand." Although the driver did not call or text at the time, it is conceivable that he is still manipulating his phone.

The driver had owned the Tesla for about 6 months and had paid for a complete mechanical overhaul of the vehicle. The driver described the autopilot technology as reliable and appears to have used it regularly.

The Tesla appears to have been the most affected by the accident as it sustained damage that extended from the front bumper to the dashboard while the fire truck suffered slight damage to the rear deck and left rear corner.

It is specified that the Tesla was equipped with various automated systems such as: the autopilot system, forward collision avoidance, lane assist, speed assist and auto parking.

The vehicle's data was investigated and revealed that the driver only held the wheel for 78 seconds out of the 29 minutes and 4 seconds of the trip. In addition, it appears that the autopilot system issued several alerts shortly before the crash. However, in the last minutes before the accident, the system did not detect the steering wheel torque applied by the driver.

Thus, the investigation concluded that if the driver had taken care of the driving task, he could have taken evasive measures to avoid or mitigate the collision.