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San Franciscan's Hate Google: Protesters toss scooters into street to block tech buses in SF

By Sarah Ravani

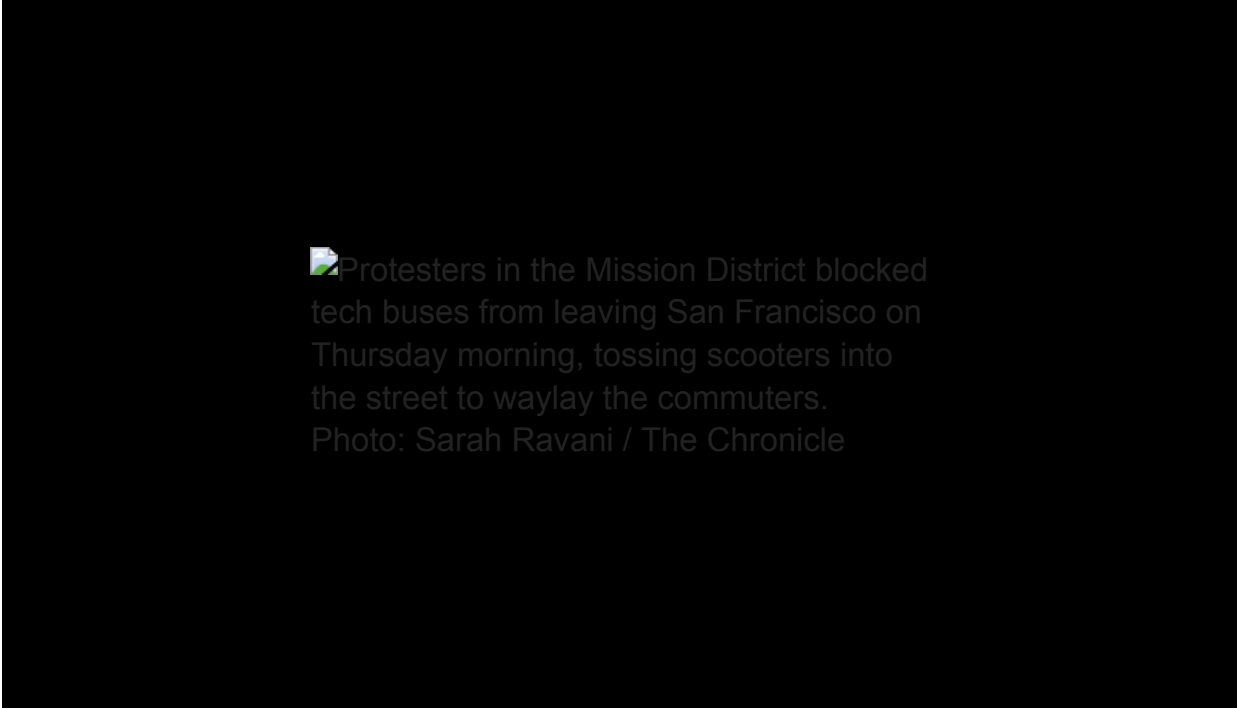


Photo: Sarah Ravani / The Chronicle

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Protesters in the Mission District blocked tech buses from leaving San Francisco on Thursday morning, tossing scooters into the street to waylay the commuters.

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unstoppable, another world is possible,” and carried signs that read “Techsploitation Is Toxic,” and “Sweep Tech Not Tents,” in reference to **the city’s recent efforts to clear homeless encampments.**

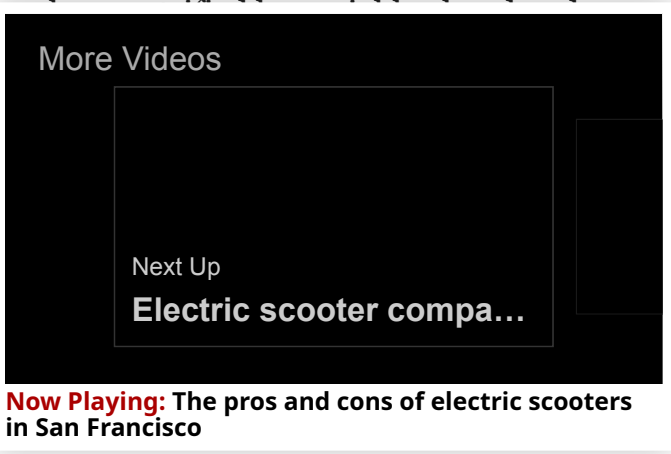
Electric scooters by companies like Lime, Spin and Bird have taken over San Francisco streets and sidewalks. They’re controversial — and we tested one out for a quick ride.

Media: Alix Martichoux / SFGATE

Sam Lew, 23, said she grew up in the Richmond District and has experienced firsthand how the influx of tech workers has displaced residents across San Francisco.

“The city has been very aggressively scooters sitting on the streets. It’s very very clear **human beings**,” she said, referring to the sidewalks on city streets.

State Senator Scott Wiener discussed how and tech employees need to work together



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“We have real problems in San Francisco. We will solve them *only* if we work together,” Wiener tweeted. “Trashing scooters, blocking commuter shuttles so people can’t get to work, & demonizing people because of where they work isn’t how you make positive change.”

This isn’t the first time **activists have targeted Google shuttles.**

In 2013 and 2014, people **protesting** soaring housing prices, gentrification and economic inequality stood in the way of the tech buses to disrupt service.

Kelley Cutler, a human rights organizer for the Coalition on Homelessness, said technology companies, like Google, have a responsibility to communities where their employees live.

“With wealth and power they can make a lot of change,” she said. “Our city right now is dominated by greed and people are suffering and dying because of that.”

