



Mayor Stephanson
Wall Street Building
2930 Wetmore Avenue
Suite 10-A
Everett, WA 98201

Everett City Council
Wall Street Building
2930 Wetmore Avenue
Suite 10-A
Everett, WA 98201

August 17, 2017

Dear Mayor Stephanson and Members of the Everett City Council,

Lyft is very appreciative of your willingness to work with us over the past several months to build a strong future for the drivers and passengers who have come to rely on Lyft as a transportation option in Everett.

We are happy to have made progress on some very important issues, including your willingness to match insurance levels with those set by the state. Based on our past conversations, we share a common desire to see consistent regulations throughout Washington that benefit drivers and passengers alike.

Our hope is that a driver or passenger who uses Lyft in Everett can expect the same level of service and regulatory requirements that they will encounter in Seattle or Tacoma or any of the more than 350 major cities across the nation where they can get a Lyft. People like Lyft and use it because they know what they are going to get -- whether it's a quick ride to the Park and Ride station, a longer ride to SEA-TAC, or a ride home after a fun-filled night on the town.

Unfortunately, the current regulations inadvertently create an entirely new set of ridesharing regulations that would place additional burdens exclusively on drivers picking up passengers in Everett. These regulations produce requirements that are unique among all Washington jurisdictions. The additional burdens and costs placed on drivers will make it impossible for Lyft to continue serving its customers in Everett.



185 Berry Street
Suite 5000
San Francisco, CA 94107

For example, under the Everett ordinance, drivers who want to drive in Seattle and its surrounding cities have to get a \$78 business license and separate vehicle inspection to pickup riders in Everett on top of three licenses and an inspection they have to get in King County. It does not make sense for drivers to have to have their vehicle inspected or pay close to \$100 in each of the 50 cities in the Puget Sound region.

Additionally, given the large number of variables involved we are unable to attest to the current, real time status of each individual driver's business license. Further, the Everett ordinance imposes additional background checks on drivers that are duplicative to the checks they are already required to pass and at odds with the stated goal of city council members to eliminate repetitive requirements.

The Lyft driver community is made up of retirees, single moms, students, folks trying to get around and families simply trying to make ends meet. At the public hearings on the ordinance, you heard directly from Lyft drivers who believe that the ability to earn extra income driving for Lyft has been a lifesaver. In fact, 82% of Lyft drivers drive part time, and every penny counts to our drivers. Requiring additional licenses and inspections for Lyft drivers creates an undue burden on them.

We appreciate staff's recent efforts to work through our issues. However, it has become clear that absent legislative change, we will be unable to continue to provide service in Everett. We would like to continue to work with you to make the changes necessary to enable us to comply, however, we cannot put our drivers in harm's way and risk enforcement against them.

I hope to hear from you soon to find a way for Lyft drivers to continue to ensure there are safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options in Everett. We also request a conversation to discuss when additional talks may take place, or, if that is not possible, when and how the City of Everett plans to begin enforcing current regulations against drivers so that we can alert the driver community and pause pickups to prevent harm.

Sincerely,

Laura Bisesto, Lyft