



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ray Stephanson
Mayor

September 6, 2017

Lyft, Inc.
Laura Bisesto
Public Policy Manager
185 Berry Street, STE 5000
San Francisco, CA 94107

Uber Technologies, Inc.
Caleb Weaver
Uber Public Affairs
100 2nd Ave. STE #1300
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Ridesharing Services in Everett

Dear Ms. Bisesto and Mr. Weaver,

The City values, and recognizes that its residents value, the ridesharing services that Lyft and Uber and other transportation network companies (TNCs) bring to Everett. Therefore, the City Council would like to understand the remaining concerns surrounding the for-hire ordinance that Lyft and Uber feel are impeding their services in Everett.

City Council gave considerable thought and discussion in establishing regulations that would require for-hire businesses to be accountable and safe. As you know, the Council considered comments and suggestions by Lyft and Uber during the process and incorporated those comments and suggestions that Council felt promoted the goals of the ordinance.

Since the City's passage of its new for-hire ordinance (Ordinance No. 3553-17) on June 7, Lyft and Uber have pressed the City to change or clarify certain provisions of the ordinance. Staff has worked to resolve these issues through a Clerk's Rule – a rule clarifying or implementing adopted regulations in a manner not inconsistent with the ordinance. The Clerk's rule addressed the following issues:

- It requires the City Clerk to notify a company in the event that the City has revoked one of its driver's business license. This rule was drafted to resolve concerns that a TNC would not know that a driver had fallen out of compliance with the ordinance.
- It clarifies that the scope of a search for registered sex offenders means a search of national and state *publicly available* sex offender databases. This rule was drafted to eliminate concerns that a search for an offender was much broader than the prevailing norm across the state.

- It clarifies that a vehicle passing the King County vehicle inspection program is in compliance with the City's inspection requirements. The rule notes that all vehicles must still have outstanding recalls corrected if the recall creates a life-safety issue. This rule was drafted to resolve a concern that Everett's inspection program could require vehicles to obtain a second Everett specific inspection.
- It clarifies the purpose of requiring outstanding vehicle recalls to be corrected is to protect the public from life-safety issues (those likely to cause death or severe injury) and that minor recalls do not need to be corrected. Further, a statement from a mechanic to this extent is sufficient to comply with this requirement. This rule was drafted based on concerns that recalls are often issued for minor non-life-threatening reasons and online databases tracking recalls are not always accurate and up-to-date.
- Outside of the Clerk's Rule, the City also updated its attestation based on concerns that it required that a TNC attest that drivers are in **and will remain** in compliance with the for-hire ordinance, which may be difficult for the TNC to know in some instances. The updated application does not include the **and will remain** language.

In comments to the media, Lyft and Uber have raised additional concerns regarding business licenses and the implementation of zero tolerance policies. With the work that the City did to alleviate the TNCs concerns, it is has become more and more difficult to know what changes to the City's regulations Lyft and Uber feel are essential to continue services in Everett.

Therefore, the Mayor and City Council request that Uber and Lyft jointly submit in writing, for Council's consideration, the proposed changes to the City's recently adopted for-hire ordinance and Clerk's Rules that the TNCs feel are essential to operate in Everett and in compliance with Everett's for-hire regulations. Once the City has received your written comments, they will be reviewed and you will be contacted to discuss next steps.

As stated, the City values the services TNCs like Lyft and Uber bring to Everett. In the spirit of our mutual aims, we would appreciate your cooperation in working with us to bring about a timely satisfactory resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Stephanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Stephanson, Mayor
City of Everett

Cc: City Council