



2020-09

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS  
RIDESHARE AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR DRIVERS AS A MEANS TO  
CURB IMPAIRED DRIVING**

**WHEREAS**, across the nation, an estimated 30 people die every day from alcohol related impaired driving and roughly 16% of crashes involve drugs other than alcohol<sup>1</sup>, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that impaired driving costs the US \$44 billion annually<sup>2</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, NHTSA reports that most impaired driving incidents happen during evenings and weekends, further reporting "...the rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2017 was 3.6 times higher at night than during the day..." and 28% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes on weekends were alcohol-impaired, compared to 15% during the week<sup>3</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade, the largest police agency in Southeastern US, among other agencies, reported in 2018 that DUI arrests were down 65% in part because of ridesharing<sup>4</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, one ride hailing company's annual economic survey found that 71% of riders are less likely to drive substance impaired due to the availability of rideshare, that 91% of its drivers drive less than 20 hours per week, and 96% say a flexible schedule is very or extremely important to continue driving on its platform<sup>5</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, approximately 150 million workers in North America and Western Europe work as independent contractors, such as rideshare drivers, in what is known as the 'gig economy,'<sup>6</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, the McKinsey Global Institute issued a report, Independent work: Choice, necessity, and the gig economy, finding that between 20 to 30 percent of the working-age population engage in some form of independent work and that the growing prevalence of independent work could have tangible economic benefits, such as raising labor-force participation, providing opportunities for the unemployed, or even boosting productivity<sup>7</sup>, and;

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving#alcohol-abuse-and-cost-5091>

<sup>3</sup> <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812630>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article215758380.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lyftimpact.com/stats/national>

<sup>6</sup> <https://hbr.org/2018/03/thriving-in-the-gig-economy>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/employment-and-growth/independent-work-choice-necessity-and-the-gig-economy>

**WHEREAS**, according to BIA/Kelsey, the total U.S. transaction value (annual fees paid by consumers) of the on-demand [gig] economy grew from \$22 billion in 2015 to \$57 billion by the end of 2018, that in 2015, the agency estimated the total U.S. on-demand transaction value — the fees paid by consumers — at \$22 billion, that in 2016, estimated the total market value for the local on-demand industry was worth \$34 billion in the United States, or 5.1 percent of the addressable market of \$660 billion in household services and that the U.S. on-demand spending was estimated at \$57 billion in 2017<sup>8</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, in one rideshare company, a four year review of statistical data in Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, San Diego and Madison demonstrates a rise in rideshare volume and a subsequent fall in DUI incidents in these cities, supporting the findings from academic studies<sup>9</sup>;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Sheriffs' Association supports the rideshare industry and its independent driver contractors, a part of the "gig" economy, as a means to curbing impaired driving on our nation's roadways, particularly in unincorporated areas where alternative means of transportation remains a challenge.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://blog.biakelsey.com/index.php/2017/02/01/sizing-the-local-on-demand-economy-2016-2017/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://medium.com/sharing-the-ride-with-lyft/theres-no-excuse-for-driving-impaired-38c37ce29c92>