



2021-10

THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF RIDESHARING PROGRAMS TO PENALIZE THE IMPERSONATION OF A RIDESHARING DRIVER FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, as Transportation Network Companies (TNC) have increased in popularity, the impersonation of rideshare drivers has become a problem in communities across the country, demonstrating two needs to combat this issue: 1) education around how to safely use rideshare, and 2) penalties for those that impersonate rideshare drivers; and,

WHEREAS, access to safer transportation plays a critical role in the everyday lives of those in our communities. Across the country, the growth and popularity of Lyft and other on-demand ridesharing services have expanded access to safer, reliable, affordable transportation, thereby increasing communities' access to safety, economic empowerment, education, commerce, art, and culture, and creating safer roads for healthy, vibrant communities; and,

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association proactively has partnered with Lyft to educate drivers and riders about safety and features available on the TNC platform; and,

WHEREAS, states like North Carolina and South Carolina have demonstrated a need for the federal government to work with TNC's to ensure that those who are attempting to impersonate rideshare drivers, are punished, specifically with similar legislative language as:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to impersonate a transportation network company (TNC) driver, by a false statement, false display of distinctive signage or emblems known as a trade dress, trademark, branding, or logo of the TNC, or any other act which falsely represents that the person has a current connection with a transportation network company or falsely represents that the person is responding to a passenger ride request for a transportation network company. A violation of this section is a Class H felony if the person impersonates a TNC driver during the commission of a separate felony offense. Any other violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor."

WHEREAS, Transportation Network Companies such as Lyft have demonstrated efforts to address domestic violence, human trafficking, and impaired driving by offering transportation support for victims of crime with its grants program offered through the National Sheriffs' Association's Domestic Violence and Crime Victim Services Committee and their work with the

Lyft Safety Advisory Council, and by offering in-app features allowing for safer means of travel, thus reducing opportunities for victimization; and,

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association believes that a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to include legislative efforts—that includes providing equitable access to alternative modes of transportation, reducing opportunities for victimization, and curbing victimization through a safer platform—is necessary to improve the safety and quality of life in our communities; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports legislation that criminalizes the impersonation of a TNC driver to commit other criminal offenses and thereby fosters safer TNC platforms and safer communities and reduces opportunities for victimization.