



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

National Sheriffs' Association General Letter of Support for Ridesharing

Sheriffs have a distinctive relationship with the public in their counties and are directly accountable to their communities and charged with keeping them safe. All law enforcement officers are aware of the importance in reducing motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities and that there is a long way to go to address this nationwide challenge.

Many urban, rural, and unincorporated areas of our nation lack adequate infrastructure and resources to address transportation issues, including victims of domestic violence and the mobility of aging adults. Human traffickers also use our roadways to transport victims and promote their activities. The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) sees an opportunity to explore ridesharing options as a way to address these crimes and transportation issues and further increase safety in our communities.

Ridesharing plays a critical role in the everyday lives of people by increasing access to safe, affordable, and reliable transportation. These ridesharing services are changing the way people travel in their community and improving public safety.

This is why the NSA has partnered with the ridesharing company Lyft and why we strongly encourage ridesharing. Lyft serves over 6 million riders each week in 300+ American cities. Lyft is also dedicated to making a positive impact on roadway safety and improving the quality of life in communities.

Studies on ridesharing have shown it helps reduce alcohol-related driving arrests. A University of California Davis Institute of Transportation study documents substantial decreases in impaired driving once rideshare was introduced - from 14% to 37% in cities studied ([UC Davis Institute of Transportation Study](#)). The University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine study showed similar findings with decreases of up to almost 60% of impaired driving incidents ([University of Pennsylvania Study](#)).

Other studies document a reduction in assault and disorderly conduct arrests by up to 42% ([Dills & Mulholland](#)), and a reduction in impaired driving deaths by more than 10% ([UT Austin](#)). Also, 88% of Lyft passengers already reported they were less likely to drive drunk because of the availability of Lyft ([2019 Lyft Economic Impact Report](#)).

The National Sheriffs' Association and its Traffic Safety and Domestic Violence/Crime Victim Services Committees are excited that ridesharing is contributing to the safety and quality of life in our communities. We encourage lawmakers and regulators to support comprehensive legislation, policies, and rules to promote ridesharing.

We thank Lyft for being a great traffic safety partner and for their work to keep our nation's roadways safe and our communities a better place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Whetsel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and "W".

Sheriff John Whetsel (Ret.)
Oklahoma County, OK
Chair, NSA Traffic Safety Committee