

2017-04

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION DEMONSTRATES THE BENEFITS OF RIDESHARING THROUGH ONGOING SUPPORT FOR RIDESHARING PROGRAMS SUCH AS LYFT

- **WHEREAS,** according to the US Department of Transportation, in 2010, there were 32,999 people killed, 3.9 million people injured, and 24 million vehicles damaged at a cost of \$242 billion in motor vehicle crashes in the United States.
- **WHEREAS**, countering the rise in traffic deaths and injuries is of paramount importance to the office of sheriff and law enforcement agencies across the country.
- WHEREAS, Lyft is improving public safety. Studies have shown the availability of services like Lyft in a community reduce alcohol-related driving arrests by up to 51% (Dills & Mulholland), reduce assault and disorderly conduct arrests by up to 42% (Dills & Mulholland), and reduce DWI deaths by more than 10%. (UT Austin).
- **WHEREAS,** in addition to the issue of traffic safety, urban, rural, and unincorporated areas of our nation currently lacks adequate infrastructure and resources to address the transportation issues of disenfranchised individuals, such as victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- **WHEREAS,** the safety of our communities is top priority for law enforcement. Lyft has demonstrable policies and features that protect both drivers and passengers, a rigorous and thorough criminal background check and a driving record check, including a social security number trace, enhanced nationwide criminal search, county court records search, federal criminal court records search, and a U.S. Department of Justice 50-state sex offender registry search for each driver.
- WHEREAS, expert background checks are conducted in real time from up-to-date court records and does not rely on fingerprint based background checks as these show incomplete and delayed FBI and federal data.
- **WHEREAS,** age-related declines in vision and cognitive functioning (ability to reason and remember), as well as physical changes, may affect some older adults' driving abilities and access to transportation plays a key role in the lives of older adults

and those who care for them as for older adults who no longer drive, the risk of poor health outcomes, food insecurity, and social isolation is significant. Ridesharing provides older adults continued independence and dignity while reducing the burden on family members.

- WHEREAS, in 2014, more than 5,700 older adults were killed and more than 236,000 were treated in emergency departments for motor vehicle crash injuries. This amounts to 16 older adults killed and 648 injured in crashes on average every day. By rapidly expanding safe, affordable, and welcoming rides to older adults (65+), on-demand ridesharing provides older adults with an alternative to driving for maintaining an active and independent lifestyle while making roads safer for everyone.
- **WHEREAS,** the National Sheriffs' Association believes that a coordinated multidisciplinary approach—that includes alternatives to driving while impaired, maintaining safe speeds while on the roadways, eliminating distracted driving, providing equitable access to alternative modes of transportation for older adults, and curbing victimization—is necessary to improve the safety of motorists and crash victims and improves the quality of life in our communities.
- WHEREAS, access to 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 safe, reliable, affordable transportation, thereby increasing communities' access to economic empowerment, education, commerce, art, and culture, and creating safer roads for healthy, vibrant communities.
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the National Sheriffs' Association strongly supports the important role of Lyft and ridesharing efforts in promoting safer roads, healthier cities, and more vibrant communities.