

Cassinelli & Associates

Bob Cassinelli

(415) 578-0114

Bob@CassinelliAndAssociates.com
496 B Street, Suite D, San Rafael, CA 94901

2413 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0703
(202) 225-3661

59 ELM STREET
SECOND FLOOR
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510
(203) 562-3718

DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD/MIDDLETOWN
(860) 344-1159

WEBSITE: [HTTP://DELAURO.HOUSE.GOV](http://DELAURO.HOUSE.GOV)



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

March 9, 2015

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES
RANKING MEMBER
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

Mr. Travis Kalanick
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Uber Technologies, Incorporated.
1455 Market Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103

Logan Green
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Lyft, Incorporated
548 Market St #68514
San Francisco, California 94104

Sunil Paul
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Sidecar Technologies, Incorporated
360 Pine Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Kalanick, Mr. Green, and Mr. Paul:

As Members of Congress whose constituents may employ the services of Uber, Lyft, or Sidecar, we write to you to express our concern regarding sexual assaults and potential gaps in the screening process for your drivers. While we understand your companies conduct private background checks when vetting potential drivers, you should take additional steps to increase the safety of your customers. Specifically, we urge you to adopt comprehensive fingerprint-based background checks for new and existing drivers.

With rapidly expanding operations in the United States, your companies have become part of the daily lives of many Americans. Following multiple instances of sexual assault by drivers hired to work in your industry, it is clear that there is an urgent need to improve screening standards currently in place. In Boston, there were numerous reports of passengers being sexually assaulted, including one instance where a driver allegedly kidnapped and strangled a customer. Drivers have been accused of violent attacks or groping passengers in several other cases in the past year including in San Francisco, Los Angeles, the District of Columbia, and Chicago. By using comprehensive fingerprint-based background checks, your companies can each do their part to reduce the likelihood of similar crimes from occurring in the future.

We appreciate that your companies currently take steps to screen drivers; however we believe that the current screening standards do not utilize all of the available tools to ensure passenger

safety. Your companies should implement fingerprint-based background checks right now. This would match screening standards for taxicab services that are already required by many of the largest state regulators across the United States.

While no screening method is perfect, we believe that the most rigorous and comprehensive screening methods available should be used. We also believe that consumers have the right to know that drivers you employ have been properly vetted before they are allowed to pick up customers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to improve the screening of your drivers and improve the safety of your passengers.

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress


LOUISE M. STAUGHTER
Member of Congress


NIKI TSONGAS
Members of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBALL-ALLARD
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress


CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress


JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

safety. Your companies should implement fingerprint-based background checks right now. This would match screening standards for taxicab services that are already required by many of the largest state regulators across the United States.

While no screening method is perfect, we believe that the most rigorous and comprehensive screening methods available should be used. We also believe that consumers have the right to know that drivers you employ have been properly vetted before they are allowed to pick up customers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to improve the screening of your drivers and improve the safety of your passengers.

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress


LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress


NIKI TSONGAS
Members of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBALL-ALLARD
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress


CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress


JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



TNC Background Checks Put Passengers in Harm's Way

July 2, 2015

A fingerprint can't be faked.

That's why, in most major cities in the United States, taxicab drivers are required to pass fingerprint-based background checks conducted by state or local authorities. When a Live Scan fingerprint check is used, it can cost an applicant between \$60-\$90 dollars. The scan crosschecks through official Department of Justice and FBI databases.

In contrast, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) use a less than \$20 dollar, private company background check on applicant names and social security numbers that access public records through the internet. Time and time again, [felons have been proven to be behind the wheel of TNC vehicles](#) owing to these inferior checks.

How inadequate are the background checks done by Uber and Lyft? A recent [peer-reviewed study](#) by a team of law enforcement experts found that name-based background checks are **43 times more likely to have errors** than fingerprint-based checks.

Conducting thorough criminal background checks on drivers who transport passengers is crucial to keeping passengers safe. Passengers are frequently alone with these drivers in their vehicle, and being exhausted, inebriated or traveling in a strange city makes them even further vulnerable.

[Los Angeles and San Francisco are suing Uber](#), stating the company's claims to keep passengers safe through their criminal background checks are false and misleading.

Uber's application process, including its criminal background checks, is conducted entirely online. Drivers do not appear in person, and are not fingerprinted. The importance of using fingerprint-based checks is to definitively identify that the applicant is who he claims to be.

[For example](#), the City of Houston conducted a fingerprint-based criminal background check on an Uber driver approved by the company's private screening company, Hirease, who turned out to have 24 alias names, five listed birth dates, 10 listed social security numbers and an active warrant for arrest. Meanwhile, in Florida, an Uber driver has been arrested on his [fourth charge of drunk driving](#).

With so many criminals slipping behind the wheel, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon characterized the TNC's name-based criminal background checks as ["completely worthless."](#)

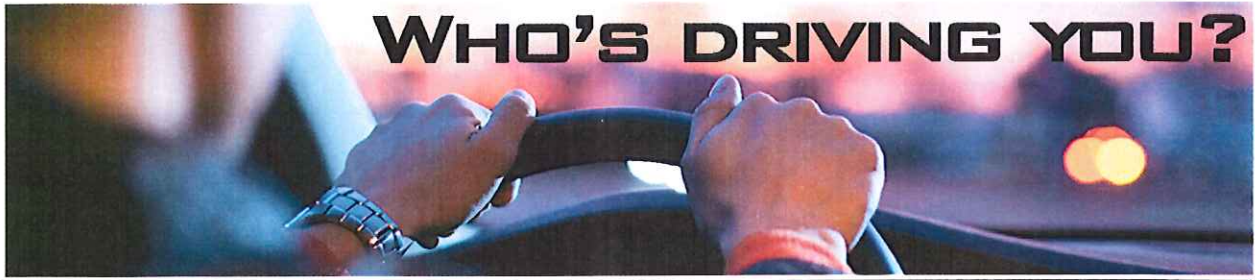
Even Hirease itself—the company Uber pays to run name-based checks on its drivers—[acknowledges that fingerprint-based criminal background checks are more secure](#) because “fingerprinting helps uncover criminal history not discovered through traditional means, offers extra protection to aid in meeting industry guidelines, and helps prevent fraud.”

Cities and states simply *must* retain the right to decide how they wish to screen drivers in order to keep their own citizens safe. Uber and Lyft, meanwhile, want to cut corners, put as many drivers on the road as fast as they can, and increase revenues for their Wall Street investors. It's a dangerous direction to travel.

They want profit. Public safety demands fingerprints.

'Who's Driving You?' is a public safety initiative designed to educate the public about the dangers of unlicensed transportation services. It was launched by the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, an international non-profit trade association whose membership consists of 1,100 regulated transportation companies. For more information,

visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter (@WhosDrivingYou) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou](https://www.facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou))



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT:
Dave Sutton
dsutton@melwoodglobal.com
(301) 873-2393

Former Uber Driver Sentenced as ISIS Sympathizer, FBI Believes A Second Uber Driver Sought to Sell Military Weapons in Syria, Iraq and Jordan

ROCKVILLE, Md. – According to news reports, federal indictments allege former Dallas Uber driver, [Talal Ali Chammout](#), a felon now accused of sexually assaulting an Uber passenger, previously attempted to purchase stolen rocket launchers and technical specifications for anti-tank weapons and Stinger ground-to-air missiles in 2005 and 2006. The FBI believed Chammout intended to sell this weaponry to groups in Syria, Iraq and Jordan, according to [reports](#).

Chammout's case was discussed in the [2012 book](#), *Iran's Revolutionary Guard: The Threat That Grows While America Sleeps* by Steven O'Hern.

A second former Uber driver, [Miguel Moran Diaz](#), was arrested by the FBI for plotting to kill residents on behalf of the terrorist group, ISIS. Diaz was recently [sentenced to 10 years](#) in federal prison. According to reports, Diaz called himself a "Lone Wolf" for ISIS and intended to kill Miami residents with a sniper rifle using ISIS-engraved shell casings.

Both Chammout and Diaz were felons driving for Uber.

Alonzo R. Pena is a former Deputy Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement which is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In a July 28, 2015 [letter](#) to the San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor and the San Antonio City Council, Pena stated that given the recent rise of "self-styled religious terrorists in this country it is imperative for every city to have a system that verifies the identity of all public transportation providers."

Pena's letter further states: "Use of name only background checks such as the Immigration Services 'e-verify' and I-9 verification is insufficient. It leads to abuse of the system, presentation of fraudulent documents and no system of independent verification. This is exactly the type of system criminal organizations and terrorist groups look for. They can provide their members with false identities and have them sign up as drivers for companies such as Uber and Lyft who do not use law enforcement background checks."

"Biometric fingerprinting undertaken by police departments, also known as 10 print, is in my opinion the only viable method of screening individuals to confirm their identity and determine if the individual has any prior criminal history," Pena writes. "Private companies who perform this same fingerprint or background check, unlike a City police department, do not have access to law enforcement data bases. Consequently critical information regarding past criminal history is omitted."

Alonzo Pena, president and founder of DMEP Strategic Consultants, is available for interviews.

ABOUT US:

'Who's Driving You?' is a safety and awareness campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of unlicensed transportation companies. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, an international non-profit trade association whose membership consists of 1,100 licensed transportation companies. For more information, visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter (@WhosDrivingYou) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou)

July 28, 2015

Mayor Ivy Taylor and Members of the City Council of San Antonio:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Alonzo "Al" Peña. I retired as Deputy Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement which is a part of the Department of Homeland Security in December of 2010. I was with ICE since its creation and before that I served 16 years US Customs. I began my law enforcement career with the Texas Department of Public Safety in 1982.

During my career in law enforcement I have had numerous opportunities to see how Cartels and other similar groups infiltrate their operations into the United States. One of the preferred methods is falsification of identifications. I have seen how Cartels have utilized forged passports and driver's licenses to provide cover for their members.

Biometric fingerprinting undertaken by police departments, also known as 10 print, is in my opinion the only viable method of screening individuals to confirm their identity and determine if the individual has any prior criminal history. Private companies who perform this same fingerprint or background check, unlike a City police department, do not have access to law enforcements data bases. Consequently critical information regarding past criminal history is omitted. Additionally, use of police departments to conduct the fingerprinting can serve as a deterrent against drivers with prior convictions, or individuals with false identities from applying and thereby adding a further level of security to the process.

Use of law enforcement database fingerprint search avoids any possibility of falsifying identities and misidentification of individuals. When the fingerprint check is performed by a city police department, a police officer or certified technician is personally supervising the fingerprinting process and signs the fingerprint card attesting to having been present during the fingerprinting process. In a private setting there is no verification as to how the process is conducted or whether the fingerprints submitted for analysis are those of the individual being screened.

Use of name only background checks such as the Immigration Services "e-verify" and I-9 verification is insufficient. It leads to abuse of the system, presentation of fraudulent documents and no system of independent verification. This is exactly the type of system criminal organizations and terrorist groups look for. They can provide their members with false identities and have them sign up as drivers for companies such as UBER and Lyft who do not use law enforcement background checks.

Given the recent rise of organized criminal activity and self-styled religious terrorists in this country it is imperative for every city to have a system that verifies the identity of all public transportation drivers. These individuals travel the streets of our cities daily. It would be very easy for any cartel such as MS-13 or religious fanatic groups to hide in

plain sight posing as a driver for these companies knowing that the true identity of the driver is unknown to law enforcement officials because the identification documents used are false and the screening system was not designed to verify the authenticity of such documents.

As a career law enforcement officer at the State and National level, I recommend that any background check of any transportation company operating on city streets be subject to a fingerprint check performed by a City police department or other law enforcement agency to ensure the accuracy of the screening and provide law enforcement with an accurate data base of transportation drivers in the city.

Sincerely

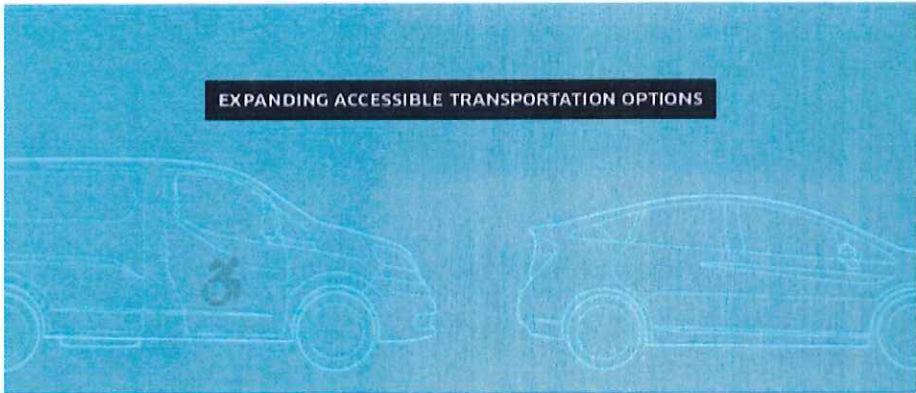


Alonzo R. Peña
President & Founder

SFO Congestion August 2015



Wheelchar Accessible Rides With Uberwav



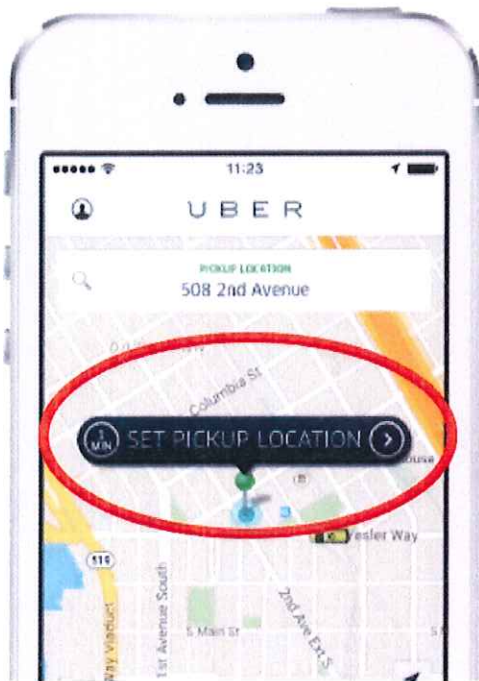
February 1, 2015 | Posted by Travis



The Uber app is built to expand access to transportation options for everyone, including people with disabilities, and we are constantly innovating our platform and operations to meet that demand. Did you know that you have the ability to request a wheelchair accessible vehicle? Read on to find out how!

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Open up your Uber app
2. Select uberT in the slider at the bottom of the app
3. Tap the WAV option
4. Set your location and request





UBER

PICKUP LOCATION
601 Union Street

This is the phone number for
Seattle Yellow Cab

NO VEHICLES AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL (206) 622-6500

Seattle

SEATTLE WATERFRONT

DOWNTOWN

FIRST HILL

Google

For Hire

WAV

uberX

SELECT

BLACK CAR

SUV

For Hire