WHO'S DRIVING YOU?

Report: Fingerprint-Based Criminal Background Checks Are 43 Times More Accurate Than Name Checks

Study by Law Enforcement, Criminalists, Security Officials and Academics Casts Doubt on Uber and Lyft Background Checks

ROCKVILLE, Md.— A new study prepared by experts with deep experience in law enforcement and approved by an all-volunteer expert panel of law enforcement, criminalists, security officials and academics emphasizes that fingerprint-based criminal background checks are 43 times more effective than the name-based checks currently used by Uber and Lyft.

The extensive 113-page study was designed to determine best practices for ensuring the safety of passengers when using for-hire vehicles.

The report found:

1. **Biometric electronic fingerprints are preferred over name check (or social security number) searches, with the FBI reporting that the current technology for biometric checks has a less than 1 percent error rate, while name-based background checks can have a potential error rate of 43%.**

2. **FBI fingerprint criminal background searches are highly preferable to name-based background checks conducted by private third-party commercial companies**.

3. **Government regulatory agencies—not private companies—should apply uniform licensing standards** to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft, as well as to taxicab and limousine companies, and make the decisions on whether drivers pose a public safety risk.

4. **Drivers screened by self-regulated TNCs may be deprived of their civil rights** because there is no procedure or guarantee of an anti-discrimination review. Drivers should have the opportunity to be heard and present evidence as part of licensing procedures evaluating criminal convictions.

5. **Having a different set of criminal background checks for TNCs than for taxicabs and limousines is likely unconstitutional** and an unfair legislative act, which is not only bad policy, but endangers the public and fosters unfair competition.

"Against the backdrop of Uber seeking to convince states that its driver screening methods are acceptable, this expert report conclusively states that fingerprint-based criminal background checks are substantially safer," said Rebecca Walls, spokesperson for the 'Who's Driving You?' campaign. "This report emphasizes that it's the job of government to protect people, and this is particularly true when it comes to screening drivers of for-hire vehicles. Such responsibility should not be abdicated by government or usurped by a private corporation."

Study authors and review panel
The study was authored by Professors Matthew W. Daus of The City College of New York and Pasqualino "Pat" Russo of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. It was peer-reviewed by the Hon. Michael A. L. Balboni, former New York State Deputy Secretary for Public Safety; Professor William J. DiVello of John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Professor Lawrence Kobilinsky of John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and Professor Philip Zisman of the Association of Inspectors General.

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)

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