

U B E R

February 4, 2015

The Honorable Rebecca J. Viagran
San Antonio City Council
PO Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283

Dear Council Member Viagran,

Since our launch in San Antonio last spring, Uber has connected tens of thousands of riders to a safe, reliable ride at the tap of a button. Our smartphone app has changed the way residents and visitors move around the city and represents the type of innovative economic development we know that the city wants to embrace.

The ridesharing option our app facilitates offers more than just a convenient way to get a ride, it is actually changing lives by giving residents of San Antonio more options and by providing a source of income that our partners rely upon to support their families.

Austin and more than 20 other U.S. cities and states have created sensible regulatory frameworks for ridesharing. San Antonio's new ordinance does the opposite - it applies insurance levels significantly higher than what is required of taxis in the city and creates unnecessary hurdles and costs for those who want to make a living using the Uber platform. Worst of all, it is unclear how these added burdens even add to the protection of the safety of riders and drivers.

Dozens of community leaders, hundreds of veterans, and more than 11,000 residents of San Antonio have urged the council to embrace smart regulations for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber. We are bewildered that the city responded by advancing the most burdensome regulations in the state while at the same time issuing public statements that it "welcomes ridesharing."

We have spent the past month examining how these pending regulations will impact our ability to do business in San Antonio when they are implemented on March 1. After much consideration, it is clear that these regulations will cripple Uber's ability to serve drivers and riders in San Antonio. A vote in support of these regulations was a vote against ridesharing, and if the rules remain unchanged, Uber will have no choice but to leave San Antonio.

We support smart regulations that protect riders and drivers. However, the San Antonio ordinance would raise substantial barriers for drivers trying to earn an income on the platform and for riders to have consistent access to a safe and

affordable ride. Expensive fees, excessive insurance regulations, and burdensome processes do not enhance public safety; they will eliminate a safe transportation option.

A recent survey indicated that Uber's presence in a city makes streets safer for everyone by reducing drunk driving. Bexar County had a staggering 2,303 alcohol-related crashes last year, and we know that reducing the number of drunk drivers is a major priority for the city. As one Council Member publicly stated, it is the city's responsibility to protect the people it serves. The city has the power to protect its citizens by choosing to enact smarter rules that support, not kill, innovative new transportation options that could reduce drunk driving and save lives.

We hold firm in our stance that San Antonio needs Uber. Riders are demanding more transportation options, drivers are lining up to supply it, and we are continuing to make ourselves available to work with the city to protect these individuals' access to the Uber platform. However, San Antonio will need to dramatically alter the pending regulations in order for us to continue to operate.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the city to repeal these burdensome requirements and replace them with smart regulations, like those adopted by Austin, that protect public safety while at the same time fostering technological innovations that enhance transportation options and economic development for the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a wavy line and a small peak.

Chris Nakutis
General Manager, Uber Texas