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City of Memphis Orders Uber and Lyft to 'cease and desist' Operations Immediately

Rockville, MD— The city of Memphis, Tenn., sent cease and desist letters to so-called “ridesharing” companies Uber and Lyft for operating without proper city permits. The city claims that if the companies continue to operate despite the orders, they could face fines, citations and possibly court action.

“We have seen this happen in multiple cities throughout the country,” said Dave Sutton, spokesperson for the ‘Who’s Driving You?’ campaign. “Uber and Lyft force their way into markets without taking the proper steps to ensure the safety of the public. Part of their business model is based on stress-testing rules and regulations and seeing if a city will simply rollover and allow them to ply their illegal services as an unlicensed taxi company. Memphis is clearly fighting back in order to protect its citizens.”

Despite their city-wide launch in April, neither Uber nor Lyft have applied for a permit to operate legally in Memphis.

Local taxi operators said they were upset that a double standard was being applied in which their own businesses are regulated on issues such as insurance, background checks, and service requirements, while Uber and Lyft insisted they should be completely self-regulating.

Ham Smythe IV, President of the Yellow Cab Co. Memphis and Checker Cab Company, [told local media](#) that “all we're asking is that these people be properly licensed.”

ABOUT US:

‘Who’s Driving You?’ is a public safety campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of unlicensed transportation services. 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](https://twitter.com/WhosDrivingYou)) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou)

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