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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 15, 2016

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## **Maryland Hearing Will Require Uber, Lyft to Prove Their Background Checks are as Effective as Fingerprinting**

### **However, Arrest of Uber Felon Charged with Trying to Murder Maryland Police Officers Indicates Otherwise**

**(ROCKVILLE, Md.)**—By state law, Uber and Lyft must submit their drivers to fingerprint-based criminal background checks conducted by Maryland law enforcement and the FBI beginning Dec. 15, 2016. This is unless the companies persuade the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) their private background checks are an acceptable alternative.

Uber and Lyft have petitioned the Maryland PSC—the agency which regulates the companies, taxicab companies, and limousines—for permission to continue using the companies' controversial private background checks to screen their drivers. The Maryland PSC has scheduled an evidentiary hearing beginning Nov. 17 to address this issue.

Complicating matters will be the case of a local Uber driver with a felony record who has been charged with attempting to murder two Montgomery County, Maryland police officers.

On May 18, 2016, Uber driver Jonathan Hemming was arrested for the attempted murder of two police officers in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Hemming allegedly pointed a homemade gun, capable of firing, at the police officers' heads and unsuccessfully attempted to fire it. According to [news reports](#), Hemming was a convicted felon in three states. Prior to this arrest, Hemming's extensive criminal record included an armed-robbery conviction, along with arson, burglary and theft charges.

The local news reporter who broke the story [dramatically rolled out](#) Hemming's 20-foot criminal history. Local news reporters were incredulous that Uber's background checks would approve a felon with such an extensive criminal record, especially when they were quickly able to access his extensive criminal history using their own means. Uber did not respond to repeated queries about how the company's background checks could miss such an obvious criminal record.

"How did Jonathan Hemming pass Uber's background check? Uber's private background checks can't fully and reliably access and report out an individual's criminal history," said Dave Sutton, spokesperson

for 'Who's Driving You?' "This dangerous felon would *never* have passed a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by state law enforcement and the FBI. The evidence is already clear: Uber cannot be trusted to self-regulate when it comes to safety."

**ABOUT US:**

'Who's Driving You?' is a public-safety campaign designed to promote for-hire vehicle safety and educate the public about the dangers of Uber and Lyft. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, a non-profit trade association of and for the private passenger transportation industry whose extensive membership spans the globe to include 1,000 taxicab companies, executive sedan and limousine services, airport shuttle fleets, non-emergency medical transportation companies, paratransit services, and industry vendors. For more information, visit [www.WhosDrivingYou.org](http://www.WhosDrivingYou.org), follow us on Twitter ([@WhosDrivingYou](https://twitter.com/WhosDrivingYou)) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou](https://facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou))

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