



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2014

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

Uber Passenger ‘Kidnapped’ and Taken on High-Speed Chase Through Washington, DC and Virginia

Rockville, MD—Ryan Simonetti, CEO of New York-based Convene, says he was kidnapped by his Uber driver, held against his will, and involved in a high-speed chase across state lines.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, July 8. Simonetti and two colleagues were attempting to take an Uber from downtown Washington, D.C. to the company’s new offices in Tysons Corners, Virginia. As the trio approached the Uber car they witnessed a Washington, D.C. taxi inspector speaking with the driver and the driver handing the inspector some documents. After Simonetti and his colleagues climbed into the Uber vehicle, the driver promptly took off. The inspector began pursuing in his own vehicle.

“It was like an episode of ‘Cops,’” said Simonetti, according to The Washington Post.

Simonetti and his colleagues reportedly began yelling at the driver to slow down and stop. Despite these requests, the Uber driver kept on, narrowly missing hitting other vehicles. At one point, Simonetti says he physically attempted to force the driver’s foot down on the brake, ripping the driver’s pants. Eventually, the driver pulled onto an exit ramp and the inspector used his vehicle to block the Uber driver from progressing further.

According to reports, Uber has responded by “de-activating” the driver.

“This is the second kidnapping story we’ve heard in the past month involving Uber. How can Uber expect us to believe they are properly vetting their drivers?” said Dave Sutton, spokesperson for “Who’s Driving You.”

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) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou](https://www.facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou))

###