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PEOPLE'S COUNSEL REQUESTS INVESTIGATION OF COMPLIANCE BY UBERX AND LYFT DRIVERS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

BALTIMORE, Md. (August 5, 2014) – Drivers for the increasingly popular uberX and Lyft app-based transportation services are probably not complying with the state licensing requirements, according to formal investigation requests filed today by the Office of People's Counsel (OPC).

Maryland law requires any individual who offers transportation to members of the public for compensation to have a license from the Commission. However, Uber Technologies, Inc. and Lyft Inc. are making no efforts to ensure drivers for their respective uberX and Lyft services have the necessary license. OPC is asking the Maryland Public Service Commission (Commission) to investigate the matter.

“We have every reason to believe that the individuals responding to Uber's and Lyft's requests for drivers to provide these services are not aware that Maryland law requires them to have a license,” said the People's Counsel, Paula Carmody.

“It also is likely that drivers are not familiar with restrictions in their personal automobile insurance policies if accidents occur while using their cars for commercial purposes. The license requirement is there to protect members of the public, but we

also are concerned that individuals responding to these driver solicitations do not realize they need a license and may need other types of car insurance. We have filed these Requests for Investigation so that these individuals and members of the public can be made aware of these requirements and be given an opportunity to comply with them,” Carmody said.

OPC’s actions today are the latest in Maryland to put greater scrutiny on web-based transportation models, which are getting attention nationally. The Commission already is considering whether it has authority to regulate Uber Technologies, Inc. and Lyft, Inc., which use smart phone apps to connect drivers and passengers.

For more information, see the links to the Requests for Investigation at www.psc.state.md.us (Mail log Nos. 157189 and 157192)

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