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SAPOA LYFT (TNC) PUBLIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

SAN ANTONIO, TX— The main focus of any law enforcement officer is public safety. We sacrifice our time, our families, and our well being to ensure the public is protected, safe, and secure.

The San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) recommends the Mayor and City Council take a page out of the law enforcement playbook and ensure Lyft and other Transportation Network Companies (TNC's) offer the highest level of safety possible for its riders and drivers.

It is the recommendation of SAPOA that:

1. A 10-point fingerprint background check is completed for all drivers **prior** to operating any TNC or taxi service. This background check should be completed through the City of San Antonio, or its approved vendor. **We require fingerprint background checks for school bus drivers and taxi drivers.** Allowing a substandard or optional background check needlessly places lives in jeopardy. A Lyft/TNC driver should be held to the same standard and complete the required, minimally invasive background check prior to getting behind a wheel.

Michael Helle, President of SAPOA, had the following statement, "*Background checks are required all over San Antonio for hundreds of occupations. It costs \$43 to complete. It's a small price to pay for the safety of riders and their families. A Lyft driver would recoup their initial cost after a couple of fares. **We cannot allow our citizens to get in a car or taxi without ensuring their safety to the highest standard possible.** That is the number one job of law enforcement and the City of San Antonio. I have one simple question for all riders: **Do you think \$43 is too much to ensure you don't have a felon driving you home at night?** Its not, and we need to ensure the safety of the public through enforcing the rules equally on all public transportation providers."*

SAPOA respectfully requests the Mayor and City Council follow the advice of trained and experienced law enforcement professionals tasked with ensuring the public's safety and security.

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