



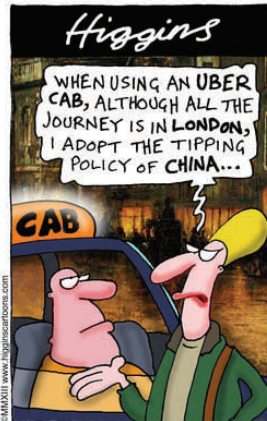
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Serving government administration, revenue, business licensing, regulatory, city clerk and code enforcement officials since 1983

NEWS VOLUME 19 –2 WINTER 2014–2015

WELCOME TO OUR REVISED FORMAT NEWSLETTER

With this new year NBBLO is now known as NBRRO (National Bureau of Revenue and Regulatory Officials). This modification addresses the fact that our organization is significantly more comprehensive than Business Licensing and includes municipal officials with other responsibilities.



We have modified the NBRRO newsletter format so that it can also be mailed. Please let us know if you wish to receive the on-line version, the US mail version or both.

We also plan to have a “Letter to the Editor” section and “Member Articles” section in which your comments and information that you wish to share with others can be presented.

This edition of the newsletter is putting emphasis on Uber, which has become an issue requiring updating state and city laws to facilitate regulation and tax collection.

BECOMING A MEMBER

NBRRO membership enables you access to information regarding business licensing, revenue raising, regulating and code enforcement at the local level of government.

Individual Membership is \$60 per year and entitles you to a discounted annual conference registration and up to two newsletters a year. Entity level membership offers additional benefits. NBBLO also sponsors several national certifications.

For more information go to www.nbrro.org. There are links for membership, certification, and the annual conference.

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Uber ordered to stop operating in South Carolina

WLTX-TV, Columbia, S.C. *January 16, 2015*

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Greenville Ride-sharing service Uber has been [ordered to stop operating](#) in South Carolina until it gets the proper certification by the state.

The Public Service Commission issued a directive Thursday telling the company to cease and desist its service for now.

Commissioners say Uber needed to have gotten a certificate of public convenience and necessity, which is required by law, before it could start its business in the state. That certificate is required for any motor vehicle carrier, including taxi cab services.

"Consumers benefit from, and deserve choices in, the marketplace," the commission wrote. "However, those choices must be consistent with state law intended to protect the public."

According to the commission, Raiser LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Uber, is in the process of applying for the certificate.

San Francisco-based Uber launched in four South Carolina markets — Columbia,

Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Greenville — in July. The service allows users to request a ride through its app, which then allows them to agree on a price, destination and pickup time.

The City of Columbia announced in August that it would not issue work permits for Uber until it got clarification from the Public Service Commission that Uber could be classified as a passenger carrier in the state.

While Uber says they give their drivers extensive background checks, some city and state governments say have concerns about the drivers, including whether they have the proper level of insurance and other requirements.

In December, after being told to cease operations in Portland, Ore., Uber agreed to stop picking up customers for three months as part of an agreement to help the city update its taxi regulations. The city promised Uber it can continue operating in three months, whether regulations have been changed by April or not.

News & Notes

The 2015 Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Savannah, Georgia on July 14-17. This year's theme is "Evaluating Best Practices".

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

GLENDA DOLES is rapidly becoming one of the most requested speakers on the circuit throughout the Southeast United States and delights audiences with her humor and heart!



For more information, registration and sales and sponsorship opportunities visit:

www.nbrro.org/conferences/

Uber still operating in Columbia

Posted: Jan 23, 2015 9:08 PM Updated: Jan 23, 2015 9:08 PM By Chad Mills

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) -

A hearing date has been set to determine whether Uber can legally operate in South Carolina or not.

The rideshare company was told last week to 'cease and desist' its operations in South Carolina.

But WIS has learned that Uber is still operating in Columbia and not one driver has been ticketed.

The Uber drivers WIS' Chad Mills talked to say Uber itself has promised them that it'll pay any tickets or fines they receive.

But they might not be ticketed or fined in the first place.

For Nicholas Matt, driving for Uber is a fun way to meet people.

"The group of people that get in the car vary every night," Uber driver Nicholas Matt said. "I have my own business as well, but this is kind of my main source of income for the moment."

Uber, the company that connects riders with drivers, has been ordered to cease and desist in South Carolina until the Public Service Commission approves the company's application.

But that's not stopping Matt and other drivers in Columbia.

"Obviously, we want to do what's right, you know, by the state and the legality of it all, but we are operating 100%," Matt said.

Matt and others are seeing little resistance.

So far, Columbia Police Department hasn't ticketed any drivers.

The Office of Regulatory Staff, which regulates transportation companies across South Carolina, hasn't written any tickets either.

"We have not written a fine up until now. I hate to say we're not going to issue a fine, but that's not our intention," said Dukes Scott with the Office of Regulatory Staff.

Executive Director Dukes Scott says it's not it's not his office's intention, since Uber is cooperating with the licensing process.

"I don't know of any purpose that would be served by taking a couple hundred bucks out of their pockets," Dukes said.

But Uber drivers like Matt have run into other problems.

He and other drivers say they're being stalked and followed by angry taxi drivers.

"They'll find ways to get behind you. They'll fol-

low you even when they park. They'll stop and wait in the parking lot until you get back in the car and decide to, you know, go on a run. He has run red lights in an effort to get behind us and rolled stop signs," Matt said.

Uber driver Richard Shannon has been tailed by a taxi driver too.

He says it's dangerous, but not enough to stop him.

"I have kids, and I have a family to support, so I'm going to keep doing what I do to support my family" Shannon said.

WIS' Chad Mills spoke to the owner of Party Cab and he does admit to following Uber drivers.

He says it's his duty as an American to report a crime when he sees it.

He compared Uber to crack cocaine and said even though some people might like it, it's still illegal.

He says he doesn't break traffic laws following Uber drivers to report them.

And he says if state and agencies don't start writing Uber drivers tickets, then cab companies like his will start ignoring laws and regulations too.

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Upcoming Events in 2015

| Association | Dates | Website |
|---|------------|--|
| Georgia Association of Tax Officials-Athens | May 11-14 | www.gataxofficials.com |
| Florida Association of Business Tax Officials-Lake Buena Vista | May 26-29 | www.fabto.org |
| Code Officials Association of Alabama-Guntersville State Park | June 16-19 | www.coaa.com |
| Florida Association of Code Enforcement-Naples | Jun 23-26 | www.face-online.org |
| National Bureau of Revenue and Regulatory Officials-Savannah,GA | Jul 15-17 | www.nbrro.org |
| Alabama Municipal Revenue Officers Association-Tuscaloosa | Jul 28-31 | http://www.amroa.org |
| Utah Business Licensing Association-Logan | Sep 16-18 | www.utahbusinesslicenseassociation.com/ |
| Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia-Savannah | Oct 5-8 | www.coag.info |
| California Association of Code Enforcement Officers-Anaheim | Oct 6-9 | www.caceo.us |
| California Municipal Revenue & Tax Association-Anaheim | Oct 9-11 | www.cmrrta.org |
| SC Business Licensing Officials Association-Hilton Head Island | Oct 13-16 | www.masc.sc |

Uber's Fight Of California Data-Sharing Rule Highlights Its Bumpy Road **Reuters** | **By Sarah McBride** Updated: 12/18/2014 10:59 pm EST

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 18

(Reuters) - Uber argued Thursday that it should not have to turn over ride data in a California regulatory standoff that shows how the transportation service is falling afoul of officials who could threaten its expansion.

The issue, which is being heard in a California administrative court and whose outcome will not be known until next year, pits Uber against the California Public Utilities Commission. The CPUC's approval of new ride-sharing services last year carried the condition that the companies make de-

tailed data about their rides available to the commission.

The regulator needs the data, which it plans to keep confidential, to monitor the effect of new ride services on traffic flow, it says. Competitors Lyft and Sidecar have made their statistics available to the CPUC.

If you observe any errors in this publication, please let us know via email to: Moderator@nbrro.org

A lawyer for Uber, Rob Maguire, of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, said the company had substantially complied with the request by handing over information such as the Zip codes where Uber had picked up and dropped off passengers.

The hearing comes as Uber faces setbacks to its legal status all over the world, begging the question of what the company can do to regain momentum.

Just this month, officials in Delhi banned the service after a passenger accused an Uber driver of rape. Another rape allegation surfaced Wednesday in Boston. Also this month, Uber drew bans in France, Spain and the Netherlands.

On Thursday, Uber announced it would temporarily halt operations in Portland, Oregon, where city officials had argued it was operating illegally. It will pause service from Sunday night until April.

"Suddenly there's an awakening to the fact that Uber has a winner-take-all attitude," said James McQuivey, an analyst at Forrester Research, who said he thought the attitude was contributing to actions that curb Uber's activities around the world. "It turns hearts and minds against them, which puts them on dangerous ground."

An Uber spokeswoman did immediately respond to a request for comment.

In California, potential penalties outlined by the CPUC for Uber's failure to turn over data range from fines to a revocation of Uber's permit to operate in the state, though analysts say revocation is unlikely.

Maguire, the Uber lawyer, argued that the data at issue - including time and date of every ride requested in California, the miles traveled, and the fare paid - was "highly confidential and sensitive information."

Uber's refusal to turn over the numbers comes weeks after the company itself came under fire for a privacy misstep: using a feature it calls "God View" to track customers' rides. It now says it will curtail use of the feature.

Taxi drivers say the withholding by Uber is just the latest in the company's flaunting of local laws in areas ranging from commercial licenses to insurance.

"Their business plan is not to be in compliance with regulatory requirements," said William Rouse, president of the Taxicab Paratransit Association of California. "I think we would all have a difficult time identifying one jurisdiction anywhere in the world where they obeyed the letter of the law."

Uber has countered that the taxi industry is corrupt and does not serve customers efficiently.

In the decision in Portland, Oregon, affecting Uber, the city said it would create a task force to craft regulations around ride services. The task force will report findings by early April and the city will drop a lawsuit to stop Uber from operating in Portland, a city spokeswoman said.

Despite bad press in recent weeks, Uber remains the market leader in the United States. Uber provides seven times the rides of competitor Lyft, data from investment advisory firm FutureAdvisor shows.

In a blog post this week, Uber's head of global safety, Philip Cardenas, said that Uber had delivered 140 million rides this year globally.

To restore credibility with detractors, Uber should stick with a focus on safety, adding features such as the ability to record all conversation during a ride, McQuivey said. The company should then mount a campaign to publicize its benefits to a community, for example highlighting drivers who are making more money than previously thanks to driving for Uber, he added.

(Reporting by Sarah McBride; Editing by Leslie Adler)



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For more information, please visit our website, www.NBRRO.org or

contact Ken Musgrave, our Membership Manager at confmgr@nbrro.org

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