



Internet Association



State Privacy and Security Coalition, Inc.

May 2015

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

The below developers and organizations write to express our concern over the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission's proposed FHV Dispatch Application Rules.

New York City is facing an important choice about how to approach its future as a global hub of innovation: whether to encourage and harness developments that create more opportunity for more New Yorkers, or to slow the pace of progress and discourage investment in our city.

Over the past decade, New York City has transformed itself into a global center of tech innovation with Silicon Alley in Manhattan, DUMBO in Brooklyn and Long Island City in Queens becoming anchors of their communities and diversifying New York's economic engine. Homegrown companies have become international success stories, while companies from further afield have established major presences here.

We are troubled by the substance of the draft, which appears to indicate a significant departure from this administration's policy of encouraging innovation, one that risks undermining New York's progress and status as a global leader.

The draft would prohibit use of any build of an application not inspected and approved by the TLC, giving an agency tasked with regulation of taxis and for-hire vehicles veto authority over software updates. It would also impose an arbitrary \$1,000 fee on any developer wanting to offer their software; a cost bearable to established players but not to new market entrants. While we do not develop software for transportation providers, we are gravely concerned by the unprecedented decision to subject software available around the world to pre-release review by a city agency.

City agencies can and should encourage innovation and new entrants to the market. We strongly encourage you to reconsider these rules, and to invite leaders from the New York software community to participate in a more deliberate consultation process. The choice we face is an important one, and we look forward to working with you to elevate New York's place as a global technology leader.

Sincerely,

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Expedia, Inc.

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Travel Tech (The Travel Technology Association)

Techstars

Application Developers Alliance

Consumer Electronics Association

Internet Coalition

New York Tech Meet-Up

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