



# Internet Association

January 21, 2014

The Honorable Buddy Dyer  
Mayor of Orlando  
Orlando City Hall  
P.O. Box 4990  
Orlando, FL 32802-4990

Dear Mayor Dyer,

The Internet Association is dedicated to advancing public policy solutions that strengthen and protect Internet freedom, foster innovation and economic growth, and empower users. We represent the interests and shared fundamental values and principles of nearly 30 companies that make up the backbone of the Internet economy, including Uber, Lyft, and Sidecar.

As the unified voice of the Internet economy, we write to express our serious concerns with the recently enacted Ordinance 2014-64. The ordinance, which was designed to create a regulatory framework for Transportation Network Companies in Orlando, codifies into law minimum fares and onerous permitting fees that serve no practical purpose other than to limit transportation competition in Orlando. In supporting this legislation, Orlando is setting a dangerous precedent that entrenched interests, such as existing taxi operations, can use public policy to prevent competition in the City.

Typically, measures designed to specifically allow ridesharing in a community are a cause for celebration. Ridesharing services have won the hearts and minds of their users, and have improved the way we move around our communities. The enacted ordinance, however, serves as a cautionary example of how ridesharing regulation can go wrong.

Minimum fares and excessive vehicle and driver permit fees are bad for Orlando, harming its voters and drivers who rely on ridesharing for transportation and income. In the case of minimum fares, the City is demanding that consumers *must* pay 30 to 50 percent more per ride than they would in other locations. Vehicle and driver permit fees are another cause for alarm. This ordinance looks to treat ridesharing platforms the same as taxis, but ridesharing is different. Ridesharing partner drivers often work part time, which is in stark contrast to the extended utilization of a taxi. It stands against reason that ridesharing companies should be required to pay Orlando licensing fees that amount to double the cost to operate in the State of Colorado.

Orlando should be a place that embraces innovation, competition, and consumer choice in transportation. The Internet Association urges you and the City Council to amend this misguided ordinance and, in doing so, reaffirm that Orlando is a place that embraces economic growth, consumer choice, and innovation.

Sincerely,

Michael Beckerman  
President and CEO