



**City of Everett**  
Office of the Mayor  
**Carlo DeMaria, Jr.**  
484 Broadway  
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday, April 10, 2017**

### **MA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES RELEASES STATISTICS ON BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR RIDE SHARING DRIVERS**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities recently releases statistics regarding background checks for ride-sharing drivers. The reports show thousands of drivers failed to meet the legal requirements based on driving civil and/or criminal history.

Mayor DeMaria stated "This past fall there were two very disturbing criminal incidents in Everett involving out-of-town Uber drivers. These statistics show clearly that passengers were potentially at risk before regulations took effect. I met with the State Department of Public Utility's commissioners and requested that DPU immediately implement state background checks that were included in a new ride share law."

In September, Mayor DeMaria met with company officials at Uber and separately with Commissioners of the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), who regulate transportation network companies, to advocate for enhanced background screening of Uber drivers. Mayor DeMaria arranged for these meetings following the arrest of two Uber drivers for sexual assault in Everett last month.

The meetings took place on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and followed Mayor DeMaria's call for the fingerprinting of drivers for transportation network companies and the expedited implementation of state regulations required under a new law to improve background checks across the industry. Mayor DeMaria also wrote a letter to Uber's CEO, Travis Kalanick, requesting a discussion of ways that the city could partner with Uber to use its resources to better protect public safety.

Mayor DeMaria said, "I am extremely pleased the Baker administration expedited these background checks. Our primary responsibility as public officials is to protect the safety and well being of our residents. These statistics are showing that this new law is effective in ensuring that ride sharing is safe for everyone. Ride-sharing is an important means of transportation for many residents and that is why I fought to have these new policies and procedures implemented as quickly as possible to better screen out drivers."

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