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Important Notice to Passengers and Drivers Lyft's "Ride Share" Service is Unauthorized

In light of the recent announcement from the smartphone application Lyft that they plan to offer free rides in Brooklyn and Queens starting on July 11th at 7:00 PM, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) reminds its licensees and the public that Lyft's "ride share" service is unauthorized in New York City. Lyft has not complied with TLC's safety requirements and other licensing criteria to verify the integrity and qualifications of the drivers or vehicles used in their service, and Lyft does not hold a license to dispatch cars to pick up passengers. In keeping with the TLC's priority of protecting public safety and consumer rights, the agency will be conducting enforcement operations to ensure compliance with the City's rules and laws.

The public is reminded that they should not get into a vehicle without a TLC license, because it has not undergone the rigorous safety and emissions inspections conducted by the agency to ensure its safety and fitness for transporting passengers, and its driver has not been subject to the TLC's required drug and background checks. TLC licensees are also monitored on an ongoing basis for both criminal violations and convictions, as well as for traffic-related violations. Unsuspecting drivers who sign-up with Lyft are at risk of losing their vehicles to TLC enforcement action, as well as being subject to fines of up to \$2,000 upon conviction for unlicensed activity.

TLC-licensed drivers are reminded that the New York City Administrative Code and TLC Rules prohibit them from accepting a for-hire trip that isn't dispatched by a licensed base that is held accountable for the actions of its drivers and affiliated vehicles. TLC-licensed drivers who accept trip assignments from Lyft – which is not a licensed entity -- are likewise at risk of losing their TLC driver licenses and vehicles to TLC enforcement action, as well as being subject to fines of up to \$2,000 upon conviction for unlicensed activity.