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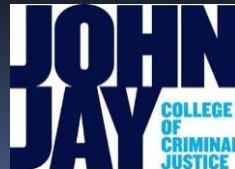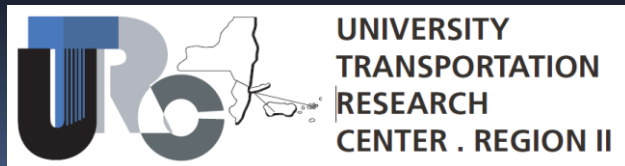
THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI MEDALLION SYSTEM & FOR-HIRE SERVICES IN A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORLD

SUNY GLOBAL CENTER - 116 EAST 55th STEET, NEW YORK

June 23, 2015   10:30 AM -11:15 AM

"ONE STANDARD FOR ALL"

Safety, Effectiveness & Best Practices for Taxi, For-Hire & TNC Driver Criminal Background Checks

ONE STANDARD FOR ALL

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR TAXICAB, FOR-HIRE, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY (TNC) DRIVERS

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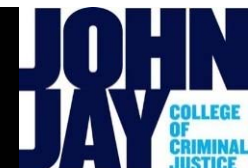
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ISSUE

There have been questions raised regarding the accuracy, reliability, and adequacy of the public safety requirements that are imposed on for-hire drivers, especially with regard to the transportation networks providers (TNCs).
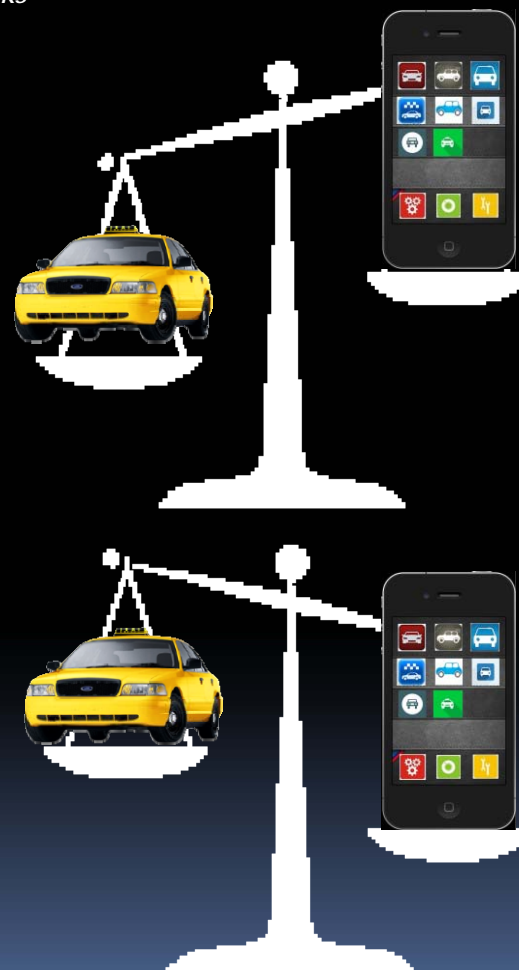
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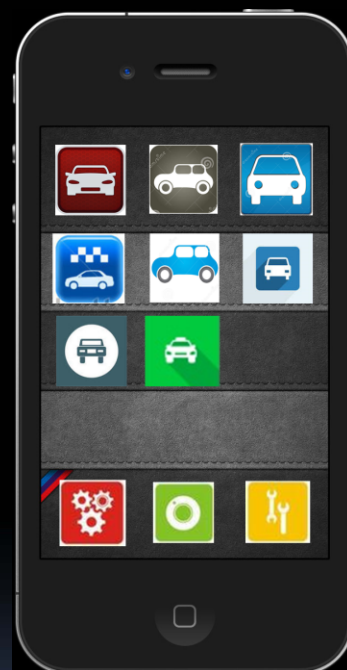
ISSUE

- This is not an issue for NYC alone

- In fact, NYC uses the same type of background checks for all FHV drivers

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ISSUE

Other jurisdictions have created separate rules for TNCs

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ISSUE

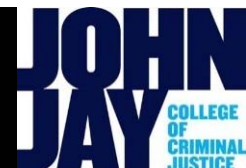## …and some have no rules for TNCs

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Provide a comprehensive understanding of available background checks and then examine the types of checks in use to create best practices.

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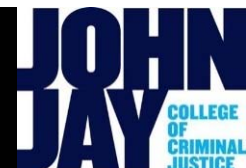*Criminal Background Checks*

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BEST PRACTICE

Government must make the licensing decision.

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BEST PRACTICE

Government (directly or through a certified channeling agency) is responsible for fingerprinting.

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CASE STUDY

- On April 7, 2015, an Uber driver from Houston is arrested for sexual assault for the alleged rape of a passenger in January 2015.

- Even though the driver passed the Uber background check, it was reported that he was a convicted drug dealer, and had only been released from federal prison to a halfway house in November 2012.

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BEST PRACTICE

Biometric fingerprints
are preferred.

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CASE STUDY

- On November 24, 2014, an Uber driver was charged with battery, stemming from an alleged fight with a passenger.

- Even though Uber stated in the public reports that the driver passed its background checks, it was reported that the driver had a 2009 marijuana-selling conviction, and a 2012 charge for selling cocaine.
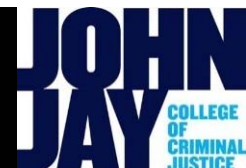
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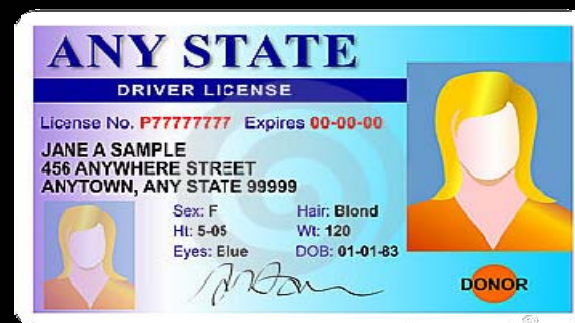
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BEST PRACTICE

Electronic fingerprinting is preferred.

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BEST PRACTICE

Specific criminal
convictions can be a
bar to licensure.

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BEST PRACTICE

Licensing decisions should be based on specific standards that may apply to any misdemeanor or felony conviction.
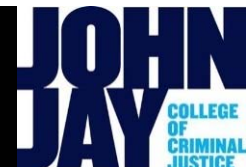
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PROPOSED TEXAS TNC BILL

- There were questions as to the recordkeeping of any background checks

- The bill provided for driver-related issues to result in a denial of a license application, but the list was not exhaustive
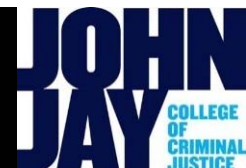
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BEST PRACTICE

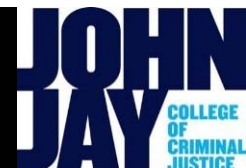Compliance with anti-discrimination laws must take place.

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BEST PRACTICE

Drivers should have the opportunity to be heard and present evidence as part of licensing procedures evaluating criminal convictions.

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BEST PRACTICE

Rap-back service preferred to monitor licensed driver conduct.

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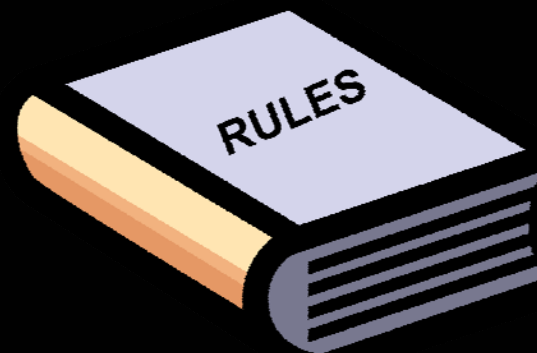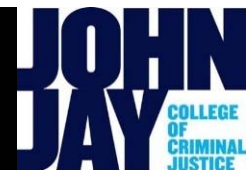"ONE STANDARD FOR ALL"
Safety, Effectiveness & Best Practices for Taxi, For-Hire & TNC Driver
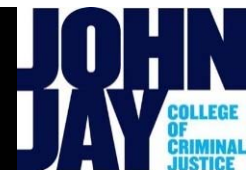*Criminal Background Checks*

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BEST PRACTICE

"One standard for all drivers" in conducting and evaluating criminal backgrounds of taxi, limo, and TNCs applicants.

Questions & Discussion

Thank You!