

Andrea S. Jackson
Chairperson

Chief Gerald R. Reardon
Fire Department
Commission Member

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Commission Member

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CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, First Floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



City of Cambridge

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

FROM: Andrea S. Jackson 
Chairperson, License Commission

DATE: March 6, 2015

RE: Council Order 45 dated February 20, 2015 regarding state level regulations for
Transportation Network Companies

Awaiting Report Order 14-72 dated June 30, 2014, regarding proposed rideshare regulations

Council Order 45 dated February 20, 2015, requests an update on discussions that the City administration and City staff may be having in regard to state level regulations. Awaiting Report 14-72 dated June 30, 2014, requests in part that the License Commission not take further action on the proposed rideshare regulations.

The City Manager's office initiated meetings in conjunction with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) with other neighboring cities and towns to discuss Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). The first planning meeting was held in July 2014 with representatives from MAPC and City staff from various departments. The City Manager's Office subsequently sent out an invitation letter to 12 area cities and towns to discuss a regional approach to TNCs. Several cities and towns responded favorably and subsequent meetings were held in October 2014 and November 2014.

The purpose of the meetings were to discuss TNC and common critical concerns shared by all communities. Those concerns were listed as background checks and who conducts them, adequate insurance and vehicle inspection. It was agreed that the best approach would be a regional/state-wide regulation, rather than each city and town implementing different rules and regulations.

In December 2014, the Registry of Motor Vehicle Division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, published draft regulations regarding TNCs. The License Commission reviewed

and offered comment on the proposed regulations based on the prior regional meetings held with the MAPC.

In January 2015, the City Manager's office was contacted by a representative of Governor Baker's office regarding TNC regulations. The City Manager's office appointed me as the contact person to participate in subsequent conversations and meetings with representatives from the Governor's office. The Governor's office held two meetings at the State House with representatives from Cambridge (License Commission, Police and Law Department), Boston, Somerville, and various state agencies, to discuss drafting statewide legislation regarding TNC regulations.

The Governor's office will follow up with the municipal leadership group to determine if additional information is necessary.