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16 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
17 CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
18 UNLIMITED JURISDICTION

19 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA,

20 Plaintiff,

21 vs.

22 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware  
Corporation; RASIER, LLC, a Delaware  
23 Limited Liability Company; RASIER-CA,  
LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company;  
24 and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

25 Defendants.  
26  
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**ELECTRONICALLY  
FILED**  
*Superior Court of California,  
County of San Francisco*  
**08/18/2015**  
**Clerk of the Court**  
BY:WILLIAM TRUPEK  
Deputy Clerk

Case No. CGC-14-543120

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
PERMANENT INJUNCTION, CIVIL  
PENALTIES, RESTITUTION AND  
OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF

Business & Professions Code  
Sections 17200 *et seq.* & 17500 *et seq.*



1 violations of law herein alleged, when these facts are ascertained.

2           6. At all relevant times, each defendant has committed the acts, caused others to commit  
3 the acts, ratified the commission of the acts, or permitted others to commit the acts alleged in this  
4 complaint and has made, caused, ratified, or permitted others to make, the untrue or misleading  
5 statements alleged in this complaint. Whenever reference is made in this complaint to any act of  
6 defendants, such allegation shall mean that each defendant acted individually and jointly with the  
7 other defendants. UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., RASIER, LLC, and RASIER-CA, LLC shall  
8 be referred to collectively as “Uber,” and the term “defendants” wherever used in this complaint  
9 shall mean all named defendants.

10           7. Whenever in this complaint reference is made to any act of any corporate  
11 defendant, such allegation shall be deemed to mean that such corporate defendant did the acts  
12 alleged in the complaint through its officers, directors, agent, employees, and/or  
13 representatives while they were acting within the actual or ostensible scope of their authority.

14           8. Defendants at all times mentioned herein have transacted business within the City and  
15 County of San Francisco, the County of Los Angeles and throughout the State of California. Each  
16 of the violations of law herein described has been committed in whole or in part within and/or  
17 from the City and County of San Francisco. The unlawful business practices alleged herein were  
18 conceived, reviewed, approved and otherwise controlled from Uber’s headquarters in San  
19 Francisco. The misrepresentations and omissions alleged herein were developed in and otherwise  
20 emanated from San Francisco, and they were contained on, among other places, Uber’s website  
21 and smartphone application, which are maintained in San Francisco. When passengers throughout  
22 the State of California used Uber’s services those transactions, including but not limited to the  
23 calculation of the fares, the billing and the payment for those services, were processed on Uber’s  
24 servers in San Francisco. In addition, many of the violations of law herein described occurred, in  
25 part, in each county in California in which Uber does business, including but not limited to the  
26 County of Los Angeles.

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1 parties, and public and private property.

2 12. Through this civil enforcement action, Plaintiff seeks to address Uber’s flagrant and  
3 unlawful business practices, including its practice of: (1) making untrue or misleading  
4 representations regarding the measures it takes to ensure customer safety in order to induce people  
5 to get into a stranger’s car; (2) using the Uber App to calculate fares based upon a measurement of  
6 time and distance without first obtaining the statutorily required approval of the California state  
7 agency charged with ensuring that measuring technology is accurate, reliable, and does not  
8 facilitate fraud; (3) conducting operations at California airports without obtaining authorization  
9 from the airport authorities; (4) charging a fraudulent and misleading “Airport Fee Toll” to its  
10 customers who travel to California airports; and (5) charging a fraudulent and misleading \$1.00  
11 “Safe Rides Fee” to its UberX customers. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief designed to prevent  
12 Uber from engaging in these and similar unlawful acts and practices in the future; civil penalties in  
13 an amount sufficient to deter Uber as well as others who seek to replicate its model from flouting  
14 the law in a bid to grab market share; full restitution for all California consumers who paid any  
15 amount designated as an “Airport Fee Toll” which was not in fact charged by or paid to an airport  
16 authority; and full restitution for all California consumers who paid any amount designated as a  
17 “Safe Rides Fee” prior to November 1, 2014.

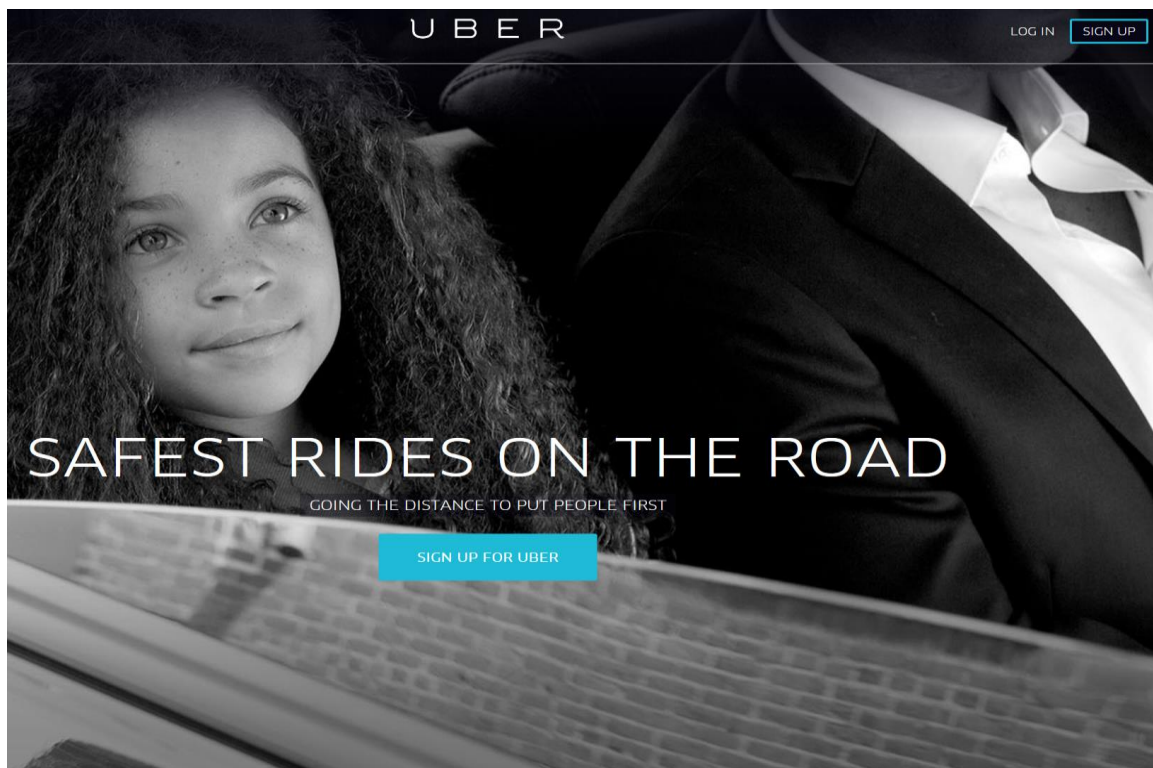
18 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

19 UBER’S REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT SAFETY MEASURES

20 13. Uber’s business model depends upon convincing its customers it is safe to get into a  
21 stranger’s car despite its admission in its terms and conditions through at least April 7, 2015, that  
22 its customers “may be exposed to situations involving third party providers that are potentially  
23 unsafe, offensive, harmful to minors, or otherwise objectionable.” In a successful effort to do so,  
24 Uber makes a number of representations on its webpages, in communications with customers, and  
25 in the media designed to create the impression that Uber does everything it can to ensure its  
26 customers’ safety. The representations about safety contain true statements, false statements of  
27 fact, and statements that are misleading, either on their own, or when viewed in the context of the

1 rest of Uber’s safety representations. Uber’s false and misleading statements are so woven into the  
2 fabric of Uber’s safety narrative that they render Uber’s entire safety message misleading. Viewed  
3 separately or together, the representations are likely to mislead consumers into believing that Uber  
4 does everything it can to ensure their safety and that Uber’s background check process will capture  
5 all of the criminal history of an applicant that would result in that person being disqualified from  
6 driving a for-hire vehicle, whether under the criteria from Uber’s regulator imposed by law, or  
7 under Uber’s own disqualification criteria, or under the most stringent criteria applied by taxi  
8 regulators in any city.

9 14. Under the tagline “SAFEST RIDE ON THE ROAD – Going the Distance to Put  
10 People First” on the prominent “Safety” webpage (www.uber.com/safety) Uber represented,  
11 through the first week of June, 2015, that, “Wherever you are around the world, Uber is committed  
12 to connecting you to the safest ride on the road.” Uber created the “Safety” page in April 2014  
13 following a spate of bad press across the country concerning the criminal histories of Uber drivers.



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Wherever you are around the world, Uber is committed to connecting you to the safest ride on the road. That means setting the strictest safety standards possible, then working hard to improve them every day. The specifics vary depending on what local governments allow, but within each city we operate, we aim to go above and beyond local requirements to ensure your comfort and security - what we're doing in the US is an example of our standards around the world.

1           15. Uber expanded on this theme, explaining below the picture of a young girl riding in  
2 an Uber car, “That means setting the strictest safety standards possible, then working hard to  
3 improve them every day. The specifics vary, depending upon what local governments allow, but  
4 within each city we operate, we aim to go above and beyond local requirements to ensure your  
5 comfort and security – and what we’re doing in the US is an example of our standards around the  
6 world.”

7           16. On the same page (www.uber.com/safety) under the tagline, “RIDER SAFETY,”  
8 Uber introduced the centerpiece of its advertising about customer safety under the heading  
9 “BACKGROUND CHECKS YOU CAN TRUST.” Through the end of October, 2014, Uber  
10 represented to its customers, “Every ridesharing and livery driver is thoroughly screened through a  
11 rigorous process we’ve developed using industry-leading standards. This includes a three-step  
12 criminal background screening for the U.S. — with county, federal and multi-state checks that go  
13 back as far as the law allows — and ongoing reviews of drivers’ motor vehicle records throughout  
14 their time on Uber.”

## RIDER SAFETY

From the moment you request a ride to the moment you arrive, the Uber experience has been designed from the ground up with your safety in mind.

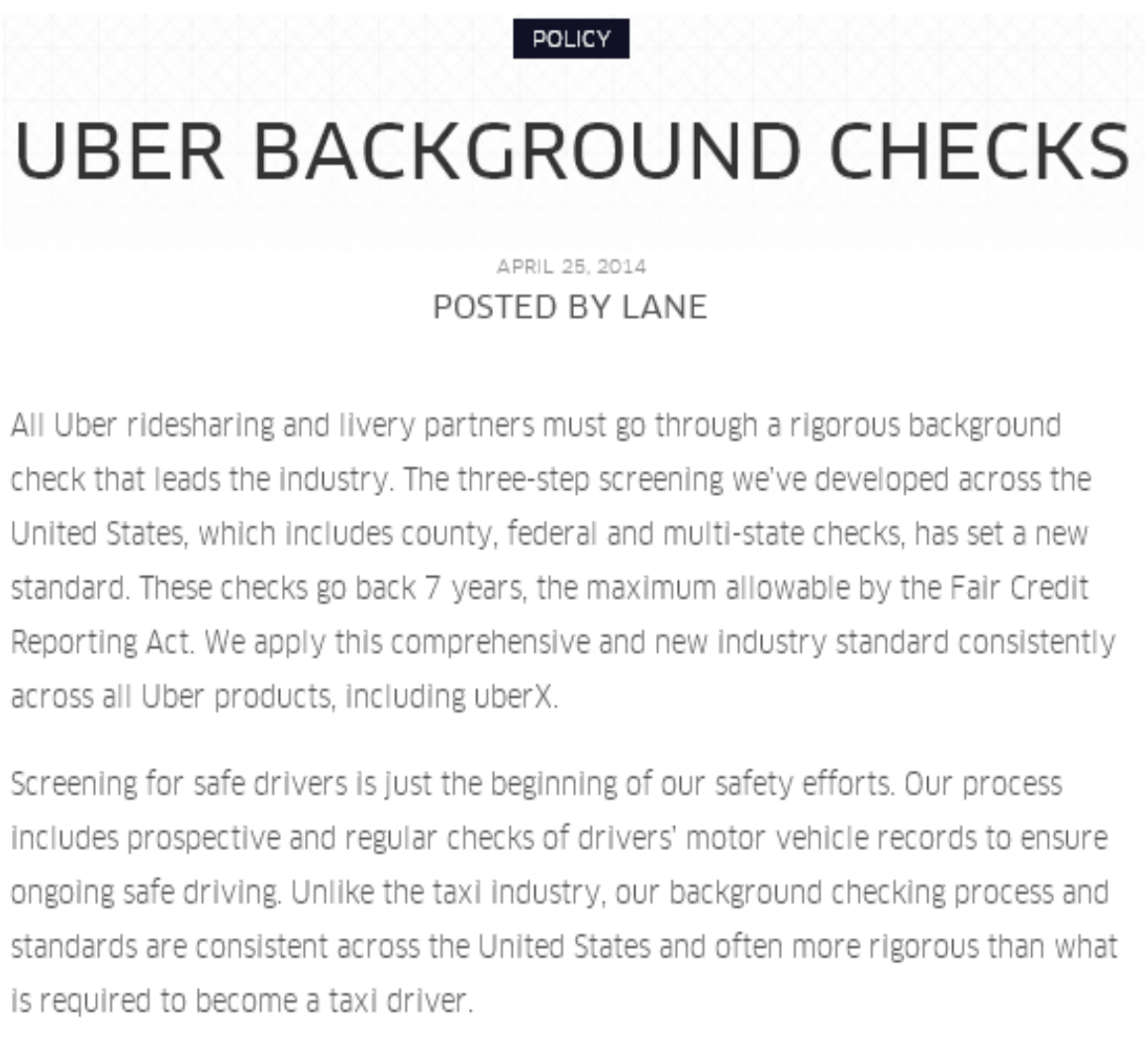


### BACKGROUND CHECKS YOU CAN TRUST

Every ridesharing and livery driver is thoroughly screened through a rigorous process we’ve developed using industry-leading standards. This includes a three-step criminal background screening for the U.S. – with county, federal and multi-state checks that go back as far as the law allows – and ongoing reviews of drivers’ motor vehicle records throughout their time on Uber.

[READ MORE](#)

1           17. The “read more” link on the “BACKGROUND CHECKS YOU CAN TRUST”  
2 segment of Uber’s “Safety” page connected readers to an entry dated April 25, 2014 on the Uber  
3 blog (formerly at <http://blog.uber.com/driverscreening>) in which Lane Kasselmann, Uber’s Head of  
4 Communications for the Americas, expanded further on Uber’s theme. The Kasselmann blog entry  
5 that Uber published through at least December 10, 2014 stated that, “All Uber ridesharing and  
6 livery partners must go through a rigorous background check that leads the industry. . . .Screening  
7 for safe drivers is just the beginning of our safety efforts. Our process includes prospective and  
8 regular checks of drivers’ motor vehicle records to ensure ongoing safe driving. Unlike the taxi  
9 industry, our background checking process and standards are consistent across the United States  
10 and often more rigorous than what is required to become a taxi driver.”





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18. Kasselmann’s blog entry dated April 25, 2014 also represented to the public that:

**All drivers are screened against:**

- County courthouse records going back 7 years for every county of residence
- Federal courthouse records going back 7 years
- Multi-State Criminal Database going back 7 years
- National Sex Offender Registry screen
- Social Security Trace (lifetime)
- Motor Vehicle Records (historical and ongoing)

**Criteria for drivers to pass through Uber’s screening, going back seven years:**

- No DUI or other drug related driving violations or severe infractions\*
- No Hit and Runs
- No fatal accidents
- No history of reckless driving
- No violent crimes
- No sexual offenses
- No gun related violations
- No resisting/evading arrest
- No driving without insurance or suspended license charge in the past 3 years

\*CA requires no DUI in the past 10 years

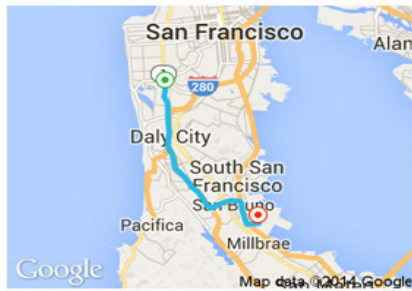
19. Kasselmann’s blog entry ended, “Uber works hard to ensure that we are connecting riders with the safest rides on the road. The current efforts we are undertaking to protect riders, drivers and cities are just the beginning. We’ll continue innovating, refining, and working diligently to ensure we’re doing everything we can to make Uber the safest experience on the road.”

20. Uber reinforced the message about its efforts to ensure customer safety and the quality of its background checks when it charged UberX customers a \$1.00 “Safe Rides Fee,” which is separately itemized on the electronic receipt sent to each customer.

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**\$26.09**

Thanks for choosing Uber,



10:49  
Pickup Location

11:04  
Airport Access Road, San Francisco International Airport (SFO), San Francisco, CA

CAR	MILES	TRIP TIME
uberX	11.48	00:15:17

FARE BREAKDOWN

Base Fare	2.20
Distance	14.92
Time	3.97
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$21.09</b>
SFO Airport Fee Toll (?)	4.00
Safe Rides Fee (?)	1.00
<b>CHARGED</b>	<b>\$26.09</b>
Personal	

21. Beginning with Uber’s April 2014 introduction of the “Safe Rides Fee” through the end of October, 2014, a question mark next to the words “Safe Rides Fee” contained a hyperlink that connected the customer to the following explanation stating that the fee is used to support, among other things, “an industry-leading background check process.”

## What Is The Safe Rides Fee?

From the beginning, we’ve always been committed to connecting you with the safest rides on the road. The Safe Rides Fee is a small fee added to uberX fares on behalf of drivers in cities with uberX ridesharing. This Safe Rides Fee supports continued efforts to ensure the safest possible platform for Uber riders and drivers, including an industry-leading background check process, regular motor vehicle checks, driver safety education, development of safety features in the app, and more. For complete pricing transparency, you’ll see this as a separate line item on every uberX receipt.

In the U.S., the Safe Rides Fee is always \$1 USD. In Canada, it is \$1 CAD.

1           22. In March of 2015, news reports came out about Uber drivers being prosecuted for  
2 raping their customers in Paris, France and Santa Clara, California. Also in March of 2015, Uber  
3 came out with a new advertising campaign, which appears to have been designed to respond to  
4 these reports and to reassure its customers once again that it is safe to get into an Uber. In an email  
5 to California customers on or about March 26, 2015, entitled “Safety By Design,” Uber told its  
6 customers that, “From before the start of your trip until after it’s finished, safety is built into every  
7 step of the Uber experience. Look under the hood and see how.” Uber then represented to its  
8 customers that “Uber prohibits drug or alcohol offenses, severe traffic violations, and sexual  
9 offenses.”



#### **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

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15           Drivers pass federal, multi-state, and county background checks before driving.



#### **EXTENSIVE SCREENING**

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21           Uber prohibits drug or alcohol offenses, severe traffic violations, and sexual offenses.

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23           23. Unlike Uber’s Kasselmann blog post setting forth the time limitations on how old a  
24 conviction can be in order to disqualify an applicant (e.g., conviction for sex offense must be  
25 within 7 years), in this email Uber set forth no time limitation whatsoever, sending the clear and  
26 unequivocal message directly to the inbox of its customers that they can rest assured that they will  
27 not be getting into the car with a person who has committed “drug or alcohol offenses, severe

1 traffic violations,” or “sexual offenses” no matter how old the convictions. In order to reinforce  
2 Uber’s message that its “extensive screening” is robust enough to prevent the possibility that the  
3 customer will get into an Uber car driven by a sex offender, Uber’s March 26, 2015 “Safety By  
4 Design” email included a link to a video of a pregnant woman taking a ride alone with a male Uber  
5 driver while telling the audience all of the reasons she feels safe riding with Uber.



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17 24. Uber eliminated the “read more” hyperlink connecting the Rider Safety Page to the  
18 Kasselman Blog sometime during the second or third week of June, 2015. Uber’s elimination of  
19 the “read more” link created a new misleading impression. The “Background Checks” description  
20 now simply reads:

21 Every ridesharing and livery driver in the U.S. is thoroughly screened through a  
22 process that includes court, federal, and multi-state criminal background  
23 checks that go back as far as the driver’s state’s law allows, and ongoing  
24 reviews of drivers’ motor vehicle records throughout their time driving with  
25 Uber.

26 25. The statement fails to explain any disqualification criteria, leading consumers to  
27 believe that Uber eliminates drivers who have any kind of criminal convictions. The lack of any  
specific time limits in the statement also amplifies the impression that Uber’s background checks  
go as far back as legally possible.

1           26. Systemic failures in Uber’s background check process came to light through the  
2 discovery process in this enforcement action, including the fact that in Los Angeles alone,  
3 registered sex offenders, a kidnapper, identity thieves, burglars, and a convicted murderer had  
4 passed Uber’s “industry leading” background check. They were discovered to be driving for Uber  
5 only after being cited for an illegal airport ride or street hail. Following these revelations, Uber  
6 removed the Kasselmann blog from its website altogether and replaced it with a new blog entry  
7 written by Joe Sullivan, Uber’s new “Chief Security Officer” in the portion of the Uber website  
8 dubbed the “Newsroom.”

9           27. Sullivan’s blog entry (“the Sullivan blog”), dated July 2, 2015, states that Uber’s  
10 background check process consists of running an applicant’s name and address through databases  
11 identified as “the National Sex Offender Registry, National Criminal Search, and several different  
12 databases used to flag suspected terrorists.” The blog goes on to explain that if the database search  
13 identifies a criminal record, then Uber’s background check provider will send someone to the  
14 relevant local courthouse to gather the records. Gathering records at the courthouse, Sullivan  
15 claims, “helps ensure the records match the identity of the potential driver.”

16           28. In addition to listing the National Sex Offender Registry as one of the databases Uber  
17 drivers are screened against, the Sullivan blog further represents that Uber’s background check  
18 process results in, “Disqualification if potential driver appears on the National Sex Offender  
19 Registry . . . .”

20           29. On July 16, 2015, Uber reposted the Sullivan blog’s content to the Uber “Newsroom”  
21 under the heading “Details on Safety.” According to the post, Uber added this content to the  
22 “Newsroom” with the intent that “anyone can easily” see Joe Sullivan’s description of Uber’s  
23 “approach to safety in California.” While Uber made some modifications to the language used in  
24 the Sullivan blog, its content remained virtually unchanged.

25           30. The disqualification criteria listed in the Sullivan blog also changed certain  
26 representations that Uber had made in the past. Uber had previously represented that it  
27 disqualified drivers in California with convictions for driving under the influence going back ten

1 years, but the Sullivan blog represented that Uber’s background check process only looked back  
2 seven years for such convictions. The Sullivan blog also added disqualification criteria that were  
3 missing from Uber’s earlier representations, including convictions for fraud, theft-related offenses,  
4 and any other felony conviction.

5 31. Uber had previously backed away from other of the representations it had made on  
6 the Safety Page. In September of 2014, after the District Attorneys notified Uber that representing  
7 its background check process as “industry-leading” is false and misleading, Uber changed the  
8 words “industry-leading” under the heading “BACKGROUND CHECKS YOU CAN TRUST” to  
9 “constantly improving.” In October of 2014, Uber changed the description of the background  
10 check hyperlinked to the “Safe Rides Fee” on every UberX receipt by replacing the words  
11 “industry-leading” with “Federal, state, and local.” Sometime in December, 2014, following the  
12 filing of this enforcement action, Uber dropped the claim that its background check “leads the  
13 industry” from the first sentence of the Kasselmann blog. Three months later, on or about March  
14 26, 2015, Uber eliminated its claim to be the “Safest Ride on the Road” and modified the banner  
15 over the picture of the little girl on its Safety Page to read, “Safety By Design,” and then “Safe  
16 Rides Safer Cities – Putting People First.” Uber dropped its claim to be “setting the strictest safety  
17 standards possible, then working hard to improve them every day.” Uber also stopped claiming to  
18 have “BACKGROUND CHECKS YOU CAN TRUST.”

19 32. Although Uber backed away from some of its representations, Uber’s safety  
20 representations continue to be misleading. Since the debut of Uber’s “Safety Page” in April of  
21 2014, Uber has strengthened the impression that it does everything it can to ensure its customers’  
22 safety by incorporating specific misrepresentations of fact into the very impressive sounding  
23 laundry-list of process descriptions and disqualification criteria that Uber communicates to the  
24 public, both in the statements made by Uber on its web-pages described above, and in statements  
25 made by Uber’s spokespeople that are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs. These  
26 misrepresentations include, but are not limited to Uber’s representations that:

27 ///

- 1 • “All Uber ridesharing and livery partners must go through a rigorous background check that leads the industry;”
- 2 • The Safe Rides Fee supports an “industry-leading” background check process;”
- 3 • Uber has “Background Checks that Exceed any Local or National Standard;”
- 4 • Uber’s background check process is “often more rigorous than what is required to become a taxi driver;”
- 5 • Uber’s safety measures “always exceed what is required of local taxi companies;”
- 6 • “Within each city we operate, we aim to go above and beyond local requirements to ensure your comfort and security;”
- 7 • Uber’s background checks “go back as far as the law allows;”
- 8 • Uber’s background checks go back “the maximum allowable by the Fair Credit Reporting Act;”
- 9 • Uber checks the National Sex Offender Registry and disqualifies applicants who appear on the Registry;
- 10 • “Verifying potential criminal records at the source - the courthouse records - helps ensure the records match the identity of the potential driver;”
- 11 • “Uber prohibits drug or alcohol offenses, severe traffic violations, and sexual offenses;”
- 12 • Uber’s background check process includes a “lifetime” disqualification for sex offenders.

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20 *Uber’s Background Check Process Cannot Ensure Its Information Pertains to The Applicant*

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22 33. The centerpiece of Uber’s customer safety assurances — the background check  
23 process Uber touts as “often more rigorous than what is required to become a taxi driver” — does  
24 not use fingerprint identification and therefore cannot ensure the information Uber obtains from a  
25 background check actually pertains to the applicant. Uber’s representations concerning the quality  
26 of its background check process are untrue or misleading. Contrary to Uber’s multiple  
27 representations concerning the superiority of its background check process, including but not

1 limited to representations that it uses a background check process that “leads the industry,” and  
2 that its background check process is “often more rigorous than what is required to become a taxi  
3 driver,” Uber’s background check process does not provide the level of security provided by the  
4 fingerprint-based background check process employed for performing background checks on taxi  
5 drivers in California’s most populous cities.

6           34. Instead of using fingerprints, Uber’s background check process relies upon its drivers  
7 to submit personal identifiers (name, address, driver’s license number and state, and social security  
8 number) through an online webpage. Uber provides this information to a private background  
9 check vendor. One of the vendors Uber uses is Hirease, Inc. (a division of Accurate Background,  
10 Inc.). Another vendor Uber uses is Checkr, Inc. Uber’s process cannot ensure that the information  
11 in the background check report is actually associated with the applicant since it does not use a  
12 unique biometric identifier such as a fingerprint.

13           35. Because of inaccuracies in background check information provided by private  
14 companies, California’s Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies Act requires those  
15 companies to include on the first page of every background check report a notice, in at least  
16 12-point boldface type, setting forth that “the report does not guarantee the accuracy or  
17 truthfulness of the information as to the subject of the investigation, but only that it is accurately  
18 copied from public records, and information generated as a result of identity theft, including  
19 evidence of criminal activity, may be inaccurately associated with the consumer who is the subject  
20 of the report.”

21           36. In fact, the sample report Hirease makes available on its website  
22 (<http://info.hirease.com/consumer-resource>) has a disclaimer stating, “Final verification of an  
23 individual’s identity and proper use of report contents are the user’s responsibility.” Similarly, the  
24 report generated by Checkr has a disclaimer stating, “The report does not guarantee the accuracy  
25 or truthfulness of the information as to the subject of the investigation, but only that it is accurately  
26 copied from public records, and information generated as a result of identity theft, including  
27 evidence of criminal activity, may be inaccurately associated with the consumer who is the subject



1 of the report.”

2 37. By contrast, the taxi regulators in the most populous parts of California require  
3 drivers to undergo criminal background checks processed by the California Department of Justice  
4 (the “CALDOJ”). This process (the “Live Scan/CALDOJ Process”) requires each driver to submit  
5 fingerprints through a technology called “Live Scan,” and the fingerprint images are used to  
6 automatically search against all other fingerprint images in government criminal record databases  
7 maintained by the CALDOJ and the FBI. Taxi regulators in Uber’s home town of San Francisco,  
8 as well as California’s most populous city – Los Angeles, and, at a minimum, the rest of the 10  
9 most populous cities in California, and all 34 cities in Orange County all require Live Scan.

10 38. Live Scan fingerprinting in California occurs at a facility designated by the California  
11 Department of Justice. The fingerprints allow a biometric search of the California Department of  
12 Justice’s criminal history databases and the option to obtain a search of the Federal Bureau of  
13 Investigation’s database of multistate criminal history information. The process of using a  
14 biometric identifier to search government databases through the California Department of Justice  
15 is the gold standard for a background check process in California.

16 39. Fingerprints vary from person to person, and as a result they are an effective way of  
17 verifying a person’s identity. Because of the unique identifying characteristics of fingerprints, the  
18 Live Scan/CALDOJ Process provides assurance that the person whose criminal history has been  
19 run is, in fact, the applicant. This would ensure that a registered sex offender could not use his  
20 law-abiding brother’s identification information to become an Uber driver, and that a convicted  
21 burglar could not borrow his cousin’s identification information to become an Uber driver in order  
22 to case the empty homes of customers he takes to the airport.

23 40. One of Uber’s own background check providers, Hirease, explains why a fingerprint-  
24 based background check process is far superior: “Fingerprinting helps uncover criminal history not  
25 discovered through traditional methods, offers extra protection to aid in meeting industry  
26 guidelines, and helps prevent fraud.” Accurate Background, Inc., which is the parent company of  
27 Hirease, makes the same admission: “Fingerprinting helps uncover criminal history not discovered

1 through traditional methods, offers extra protection to aid in meeting industry guidelines, and helps  
2 prevent fraud.”

3 41. The private background check companies employed by Uber do not conduct finger-  
4 print based checks for Uber. Rather, they search certain databases using personally identifiable  
5 information provided by applicants (“names-based checks”). The use of name-based checks  
6 decreases the accuracy of the information that the checks produce. Name-based checks can result  
7 in false positives because one person may be associated with another person’s records. They can  
8 also result in false negatives. For example, if an individual provides false personally identifiable  
9 information or for some other reason has a criminal history under a different name, such as a  
10 maiden name, the name-based checks can miss the individual’s criminal history.

11 42. In the July, 2015 Sullivan blog, Uber attempted to diffuse the impact of several  
12 matters raised by the District Attorneys in this case. One was the fact that Uber’s background  
13 check process cannot ensure the information Uber obtains actually pertains to the applicant.  
14 Uber’s response in the Sullivan blog was to double-down on its misleading representations by  
15 asserting that its background check process does, in fact “ensure the records match the identity of  
16 the potential driver” because Uber’s “background check provider sends someone to review the  
17 record in-person at the relevant courthouse or, if possible, pulls the record digitally.” This  
18 representation is untrue or misleading. Obtaining records at a courthouse does not verify the  
19 identity of the applicant. If an applicant provides Uber with incorrect identifying information, then  
20 Uber will search for the wrong name in the databases it searches and never go to the correct  
21 courthouse. Even if Uber went to a courthouse to obtain records, it would request the wrong  
22 records because it would have the wrong name.

23 43. In light of the fact that Uber does not use fingerprint identification, and therefore  
24 cannot ensure the information Uber obtains from a background check actually pertains to the  
25 applicant, Uber’s factual representations described above, when viewed separately or together, are  
26 false or misleading. For instance, Uber cannot ensure that “all drivers are screened against”  
27 county courthouse records going back seven years for every county of residence, because Uber’s

1 background check process cannot ensure that Uber actually learns of every county where a driver  
2 may have been convicted during the past seven years while living under an alias that the driver has  
3 not given to Uber. Furthermore, Uber cannot ensure that “all drivers are screened” for criminal  
4 histories because applicants who provide inaccurate or false information are effectively not  
5 screened at all.

6 *Uber’s Background Check Process Does Not Access Complete Criminal Record Repositories*

7 44. The private background check companies employed by Uber do not have access to  
8 the CALDOJ and federal databases of criminal history repositories. Rather, the background check  
9 companies employed by Uber search for criminal convictions in commercial databases that do not  
10 index their records by unique biometric identifiers.

11 45. By contrast, the criminal records in government criminal record databases contain  
12 unique numerical identifiers associated with a unique biometric identifier, such as a person’s  
13 fingerprints. These numerical identifiers allow for the tracking of individuals who use aliases or  
14 who, for other reasons, have criminal records associated with different names, different addresses,  
15 or different social security numbers. The use of a numerical identifier associated with a unique  
16 biometric identifier, enables database searches to capture all criminal history of the subject even if  
17 the subject gives untruthful or inaccurate identifying information.

18 46. The private background check companies employed by Uber cannot search their  
19 databases using a unique identifier associated with a person’s fingerprints to identify criminal  
20 history information that otherwise might have been missed if the person was convicted under an  
21 alias name, or gave a false date of birth or social security number. The private databases are  
22 inferior to the government databases because the background check companies must rely upon the  
23 truthfulness and accuracy of the information given to them by the subject of the search.

24 47. In order to bolster public perception about its own background check system, Uber  
25 affirmatively mischaracterizes the accuracy of the Live Scan/CALDOJ background check process.  
26 Uber’s Sullivan blog represents that the Live Scan/CALDOJ process relies on databases that  
27 include arrest records for people who were never charged or convicted of crimes. According to

1 Uber, the Live Scan/CALDOJ process therefore flags innocent people and impacts minorities in  
2 particular. These representations are untrue or misleading. They are also irrelevant in light of the  
3 fact that Uber does not – and cannot by law in California – disqualify drivers based on arrests that  
4 did not result in convictions.

5 48. If a background check processed by the CALDOJ includes a record of arrest with no  
6 corresponding disposition, the CALDOJ is required by law to make a “genuine effort” to  
7 determine the disposition. The CALDOJ may contact the law enforcement agency who made the  
8 arrest, the district attorney’s office that prosecuted the case, and the relevant court. The CALDOJ  
9 completes the records for out-of-state and federal arrests, as well as in-state arrests. Only after  
10 completing the record will the CALDOJ disseminate the results of the background check.

11 49. In fact, the July 2013 report of the National Employment Law Project (“NELP”),  
12 which Joe Sullivan and other Uber employees and officers misleadingly cite to criticize the  
13 accuracy of the Live Scan/CALDOJ Process, specifically praises California’s process as follows:  
14 “California Tracks Down Problem FBI Records to Ensure Fair Access to Jobs and Occupational  
15 Licenses.” More specifically, the NELP report states that the CALDOJ “timely ensures that the  
16 completeness and accuracy of records that are requested for employment and licensing decisions.”

17 50. In light of the fact that Uber does not access complete criminal record repositories,  
18 and therefore cannot ensure Uber obtains all of an applicant’s criminal history, Uber’s factual  
19 representations described above, when viewed separately or together, are false or misleading. For  
20 instance, Uber cannot ensure that it screens out all drivers who have disqualifying criminal  
21 histories, because Uber cannot ensure that it actually obtains complete or accurate criminal history  
22 information.

23 *Uber’s Background Check Process Does Not Go Back As Far As The Law Allows*

24 51. The information available to taxi regulators using the Live Scan/CALDOJ Process is  
25 unlimited in duration. Uber, in contrast, limits its background check to criminal convictions going  
26 back seven years. On Uber’s “Safety” webpage and in the Sullivan blog, Uber represents that state  
27 or federal law bars it from considering convictions older than seven years. This representation is

1 untrue or misleading.

2 52. Federal law allows criminal convictions to be reported indefinitely. The Fair Credit  
3 Reporting Act cited by Uber does not have time limitations on reporting criminal convictions for  
4 employment purposes.

5 53. California's Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies Act ("ICRAA"), Civil Code  
6 section 1716.18, allows Uber's background check providers to report criminal convictions of a  
7 driver that are older than seven years, so long as the date of release or parole is no more than seven  
8 years before the date of the background check report. Thus, the law allows Uber's background  
9 check provider to report a driver applicant's 1995 murder conviction when he was released on  
10 parole in 2014. Yet, Uber's background check process does not report or identify that conviction.

11 54. Uber's regulator, the CPUC, requires Uber to disqualify, "any person who has been  
12 convicted, within the past seven years, of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, fraud,  
13 sexual offenses, use of a motor vehicle to commit a felony, a crime involving property damage,  
14 and/or theft, acts of violence, or acts of terror." These disqualification criteria established by the  
15 CPUC set a floor, not a ceiling, for Uber's background checks and do not prohibit Uber from  
16 utilizing a background check process that goes back as far as allowed under California's  
17 Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies Act. Rather than going "above and beyond local  
18 requirements to ensure your comfort and security" as Uber claims to do, Uber instead chooses to  
19 apply disqualification criteria that meet the bare minimum durational requirements imposed by its  
20 regulator.

21 55. San Francisco has a Fair Chance Ordinance that bars employers from basing hiring  
22 decisions on convictions older than seven years. However, this ordinance only applies to  
23 employees who must work eight or more hours per week in San Francisco. Uber does not require  
24 that its drivers work in San Francisco for any amount of time, so the Fair Chance Ordinance is  
25 inapplicable.

26 56. Another matter raised by the District Attorneys in this case was that Uber's  
27 background check process does not, as represented, go back "as far as the law allows." Rather

1 than correct this false statement, Uber’s Sullivan blog repeats the untrue and misleading claim that  
2 California law limits private background check companies to a “lookback” period of seven years,  
3 and claims that this period of time “strikes the right balance between protecting the public while  
4 also giving ex-offenders the chance to work and rehabilitate themselves.”

5 57. In the Sullivan blog, Uber cites two California laws that it claims limit its ability to  
6 consider convictions older than seven years. AB 218 is a “Ban the Box” law that prevents public  
7 employers – not private employers like Uber – from asking applicants to disclose certain criminal  
8 history information on applications prior to an initial interview. SB 530 prevents private  
9 employers from considering arrests that did not result in convictions, as well as convictions that  
10 were subsequently dismissed or expunged. Neither law has anything to do with Uber’s ability to  
11 consider convictions older than seven years.

12 58. Uber may have decided that seven years is the proper limit for achieving a balance  
13 between rehabilitation and opportunity for former offenders. The law, however, imposes no such  
14 limit on Uber. If Uber has decided on its own to limit its background checks to seven years in  
15 order to provide employment opportunities for former offenders, such efforts do not give Uber  
16 license to make false or misleading statements to its consumers which prevent them from making  
17 an informed decision about using Uber’s services.

18 59. In light of the fact that Uber’s background check process is limited in duration and  
19 does consider criminal convictions going back as far as the law allows, Uber’s factual  
20 representations described above, when viewed separately or together, are false or misleading. For  
21 instance, Uber cannot ensure that it screens out all drivers who have disqualifying criminal  
22 histories going back as far as the law allows, because Uber does not gather information concerning  
23 the date that an offender was released from prison or the date that an offender was released from  
24 parole.

25 *Uber’s Background Check Process Cannot Uncover Many Categories of Sex Offenders*

26 60. While Uber’s background check process will only identify applicants whose sex  
27 offense convictions occurred within the past seven years, the Live Scan/CALDOJ process used by

1 the taxi regulators in California’s most populous cities identifies all sex offense convictions  
2 regardless of when they occurred. To bolster its claims that its background check process “leads  
3 the industry” despite this critically important difference, Uber has undertaken a campaign to  
4 convince the general public, its existing customers, and various regulators that its screening would  
5 disqualify all applicants who are registered as sex offenders anywhere in the United States no  
6 matter when the conviction occurred.

7         61. The campaign began with factual representations in the Kasselmann blog that were  
8 likely to lead a reasonable California consumer to believe that Uber’s background check process is  
9 robust enough to prevent the possibility that the customer will get into an Uber car driven by a sex  
10 offender. Kasselmann represented that all drivers “are screened against” county courthouse records  
11 going back seven years for every county of residence, federal courthouse records going back seven  
12 years, and a purported multi-state criminal database going back seven years.

13         62. On top of these supposedly comprehensive checks, the Kasselmann blog also  
14 represented that all drivers “are screened against” a “National Sex Offender Registry screen.” This  
15 reinforces the message that Uber’s background check process enables Uber to identify any  
16 registered sex offender, since the “National Sex Offender Registry” (NSOR) is a government sex-  
17 offender registry maintained by the FBI’s National Criminal Information Center (NCIC).

18         63. Uber’s General Counsel, Salle Yoo, repeated Uber’s messaging about sex offenders  
19 in a June, 2015 Marie Claire Magazine article questioning the efficacy of Uber’s background  
20 check process. The article discussed 14 reported instances of Uber drivers assaulting passengers in  
21 Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., London, and Paris. It also discussed  
22 charges of kidnapping and rape brought against a New Delhi Uber driver, and charges of sexual  
23 assault brought in early April against an Uber driver in Houston. The Marie Claire article quoted  
24 General Counsel Yoo as trotting out the company’s public-relations script message that Uber’s  
25 safety measures “always exceed what is required of local taxi companies.”

26         64. Uber’s public-relations machine often repeats this refrain. In an Uber blog entry  
27 dated January 5, 2015 and entitled “Uber Chicago Team Unveils New Safety Team Initiatives,”

1 Uber spokesperson “Chris” represented that Uber has “Background Checks that Exceed any Local  
2 or National Standard.” In other local blogs, such as the Uber “Newsroom” blog for Pittsburgh and  
3 for Chicago, Uber represents that its background check process, which is “consistent” throughout  
4 the country, includes a “lifetime” disqualification for sex offenders.

5 65. Uber’s statements that it searches the National Sex Offender Registry are false. The  
6 NSOR is a database available to law-enforcement personnel only. Uber kept the Kasselmann blog  
7 visible to consumers on its website through June 30, 2015.

8 66. The publicly-available government websites that allow private parties to search for  
9 registered sex offenders do not list all registered sex offenders. The Dru Sjoedin National Sex  
10 Offender Public Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice (the “NSOPW”),  
11 omits approximately one quarter of the registered sex offenders in California. The list of  
12 registered sex offenders NOT included on NSOPW include certain California offenders convicted  
13 of:

- 14 • child pornography offenses where the victims are between the ages of 16 and 18,
- 15 • sexual exploitation of a child,
- 16 • employment of a minor for sexual exploitation,
- 17 • misdemeanor child molestation,
- 18 • felony sexual battery, and
- 19 • sex offenses against a grandchild, child, stepchild or sibling not involving  
20 penetration.

21 67. Under California law, offenders convicted of these offenses may apply for an  
22 exemption from being reported on the publicly-available website of sex-offenders maintained by  
23 the California Department of Justice, the “Megan’s Law Website.” According to the California  
24 Department of Justice, there are more than 30,000 registered sex offenders who have received this  
25 exemption and, therefore, do not appear on the Megan’s Law Website. This category of registered  
26 sex offenders will also not appear on the NSOPW because, for California registered sex offenders,  
27 NSOPW simply reports the information available on the Megan’s Law Website.



1           68. Moreover, other sex offenses do not require registration at all. For instance, an Uber  
2 driver convicted of misdemeanor sexual battery, Penal Code § 243.4, or engaging in lewd conduct  
3 in a public place, Penal Code § 647(a), would not have to register as a sex offender - and a search  
4 of the NSOPW would not disclose the convictions.

5           69. Because Uber's background check process only identifies sex offense convictions less  
6 than seven years old, and must rely upon publicly-available sex-offender data sources that omit  
7 30,000 registered sex offenders in California, Uber's process will miss any one of the more than  
8 30,000 registered sex offenders who fall into this category and whose conviction is more than  
9 seven years old, and Uber's process will miss them 100 percent of the time. This means, for  
10 example, that Uber's background check process will NEVER disqualify a registered sex offender  
11 who applies to become an Uber driver in 2015 who was convicted in 2007 for molesting his  
12 daughter or for committing felony sexual battery on a stranger, so long as the applicant had  
13 successfully petitioned to have his name removed from the public website.

14           70. And, because Uber's background check process does not use fingerprints or other  
15 biometrics to verify the identity of the applicant, it will miss a registered sex offender who applies  
16 by using the identifying information of someone with a clean criminal history and driving record  
17 100 percent of the time. This means, for example, that Uber's background check process will  
18 NEVER disqualify a registered sex offender who was convicted of rape in 2007 and released from  
19 prison in 2015 just weeks before he applied to Uber by using the identifying information of  
20 someone with a clean criminal history and driving record.

21           71. By contrast, the Live Scan/CALDOJ background check process used by taxi  
22 regulators in California's most populous counties will identify that same applicant as a registered  
23 sex offender by: (1) revealing all convictions, including convictions for sex offenses, regardless of  
24 when the conviction occurred and (2) ensuring the applicant has not avoided detection as a  
25 registered sex offender by using someone else's identifying information.

26           72. Uber's misleading representations present a special danger to public safety in light of  
27 the well-documented phenomenon of parents sending their teenage children unaccompanied in

1 Uber vehicles. Parents' increasing reliance on Uber to shuttle their children from school to sports  
2 practice, music lessons and after-school activities has been reported in national news-media  
3 articles such as the Washington Post's March 10, 2015 article, "Harried Parents Embracing Uber  
4 To Move Kids Around Town," the Wall Street Journal's December 17, 2014 article, "Uber Is the  
5 New Family Chauffeur - Teens Gain Independence; Parents Track the Rides," and the New York  
6 Times' April 17, 2015 article, "For Some Teenagers, 16 Candles Mean It's Time to Join Uber."

7 73. When confronted through the discovery process in this enforcement action with the  
8 fact that Uber's background check process has systemic deficiencies that prevent Uber from  
9 identifying a large number of sex offenders, Uber made assertions designed to mislead consumers  
10 into believing that Uber's process is as comprehensive as the Live Scan/CALDOJ Process. The  
11 Sullivan blog continues to lie to the public and assert that Uber searches the National Sex Offender  
12 Registry. The Sullivan blog also falsely claims that not every registered sex offender appears on  
13 the California Department of Justice's registry of sex offenders, and thus creates the implication  
14 that the Live Scan/CALDOJ Process will also, like Uber's process, miss approximately 25% of  
15 registered sex offenders in California. The CALDOJ/Live Scan background check process  
16 identifies all convictions, including sex offenses, without time limitation.

17 *Drivers With Disqualifying Criminal Histories Pass Uber's Background Check*

18 74. Since the filing of the original Complaint eight months ago, the People have received  
19 records of Uber drivers who were issued citations by airport police at San Francisco and Los  
20 Angeles International Airports and the Los Angeles Police Department's Bandit Cab detail. From  
21 this small sample, the People have identified drivers with disqualifying criminal histories or  
22 driving records who nonetheless passed Uber's background check. The criminal histories include  
23 convictions for murder, sex offenses, kidnapping, assault, robbery burglary, fraud, and identity  
24 theft. The individuals' driving records include convictions for driving under the influence, driving  
25 with a suspended license, and reckless driving, as well as individuals who had more than three  
26 DMV points within the preceding three years. What follows is a sample of the drivers who passed  
27 Uber's background check process despite having criminal histories and driving records that are

1 disqualifying under Uber's own representations, PUC rules and regulations, and/or the rules and  
2 regulations applied by local taxi regulators.

3           75. Uber Driver # 1 was convicted of second degree murder, a felony, in Los Angeles in  
4 1982. After spending 26 years in prison, he was released on parole in 2008. He applied to drive  
5 for Uber using a different name than the name appearing on the court records relating to his  
6 murder conviction. A background report generated by Hirease on November 10, 2014 states that  
7 Driver # 1 had no known aliases. The background report shows no criminal history for Driver # 1.  
8 In November of 2014, less than seven years after being released from prison, he became an Uber  
9 driver. Uber Driver #1 drove for Uber in Los Angeles until May 28, 2015 and provided 1,168  
10 rides to consumers. California law allowed Hirease to report Uber Driver #1's criminal history to  
11 Uber, since he was released from prison within seven years of the Uber background check. Uber's  
12 background check process did not identify Driver #1's murder conviction because Uber's process  
13 (a) does not utilize a unique biometric identifier, (b) does not access criminal record repositories  
14 that allow for the tracking of individuals using aliases, and (c) does not actually go back as far as  
15 the law allows. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would  
16 have identified Driver # 1's criminal history.

17           76. Uber Driver # 2 was convicted of committing lewd or lascivious acts against a child  
18 under 14, a felony, on July 25, 1999. He is required to register as a sex offender in the State of  
19 California. He applied for, and was granted, exclusion from the California Megan's Law Website.  
20 And his name does not appear on the NSOPW. In February of 2014, he applied to drive for Uber.  
21 A background report generated by Hirease on February 17, 2014 did not uncover Driver # 2's  
22 conviction for lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14, or the fact that he is a registered sex  
23 offender. Driver # 2 drove for Uber until May of 2015. He provided 5,697 rides to Uber  
24 passengers, including unaccompanied children. Uber's background check process did not identify  
25 Driver # 2's conviction or his status as a registered sex offender because Uber's process (a) does  
26 not access criminal record repositories of unlimited duration and (b) does not access databases  
27 with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the

1 same limitations and would have identified Driver # 2's criminal history.

2 77. Uber Driver # 3 was convicted of felony sexual exploitation of children in Wyoming  
3 on November 7, 2005. According to publicly available court records, he was found to be in  
4 violation of his probation in April 2011. He was not released from probation until March 2013.  
5 He registers as a sex offender in the State of California. In August 2013, he applied to drive for  
6 Uber. A background report generated by Hirease on August 19, 2013 did not uncover Driver # 3's  
7 conviction for felony sexual exploitation of children, his status as a registered sex offender, or the  
8 fact that he was on probation until just five months earlier. He drove for Uber in Los Angeles until  
9 May 22, 2015 and provided 3,173 rides to consumers, including unaccompanied children.  
10 California law allowed Hirease to report Driver # 3's conviction to Uber because he was released  
11 from probation within seven years of the background check. Uber's background check process did  
12 not identify Driver # 3's conviction or his status as a registered sex offender because Uber's  
13 process (a) does not access databases with complete criminal history information, (b) does not  
14 access criminal record repositories of unlimited duration, and (c) does not actually go back as far  
15 as the law allows. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would  
16 have identified Driver # 3's criminal history.

17 78. Uber Driver # 4 was convicted of felony kidnapping for ransom with a firearm on  
18 November 21, 1994 in Los Angeles, and he was sentenced to a term of eight years to life in prison.  
19 He has earlier convictions for a variety of crimes including felony robbery with a firearm, felony  
20 sale of cocaine, and driving under the influence in San Bernadino and Pomona. He was released  
21 from prison in 2013, and he remains on parole. He applied to drive for Uber in March of 2015. A  
22 background report generated by Checkr on March 18, 2015 did not uncover Driver # 4's extensive  
23 criminal history. The Checkr report indicates that a county-level check was only performed in San  
24 Bernadino, California and Middlesex, Massachusetts, but not in Los Angeles where Driver # 4 had  
25 been convicted of kidnapping. California law allowed Checkr to report Driver # 4's conviction to  
26 Uber because, within seven years of the background check, he was released from prison after  
27 serving a prison sentence for a violent crime. Uber's background check process either failed to

1 identify Uber Driver # 4's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless.  
2 Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 4's conviction for kidnapping because  
3 Uber's process (a) does not access databases with complete criminal history information, (b) does  
4 not access criminal record repositories of unlimited duration, and (c) does not actually go back as  
5 far as the law allows. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and  
6 would have identified Driver # 4's criminal history. Upon learning of Driver # 4's criminal  
7 history, Uber temporarily deactivated his account. Uber subsequently reactivated his account, and  
8 Driver # 4 continues driving for Uber in Los Angeles at this time.

9           79. Uber Driver # 5 was convicted on December 14, 1999 of assault with a firearm in Los  
10 Angeles. Publicly available court records show he was sentenced to 14 years in state prison.  
11 Under California law, Driver # 5 was required to serve 85% of his sentence and was therefore  
12 released from prison no earlier than mid-2011. Upon his release from prison, he became an Uber  
13 driver. Uber Driver # 5 drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. California law allowed Hirease  
14 to report Driver # 5's conviction to Uber because he was released from prison within seven years  
15 of the background check. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver #  
16 5's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
17 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 5's conviction for assault  
18 because Uber's process (a) does not access databases with complete criminal history information,  
19 (b) does not access criminal record repositories of unlimited duration, and (c) does not actually go  
20 back as far as the law allows. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations  
21 and would have identified Driver # 5's criminal history.

22           80. Uber Driver # 6 was convicted of felony assault with a firearm in 1994. In 2000, he  
23 was convicted of residential burglary, and he was sentenced to 13 years in state prison. Under  
24 California law, Driver # 6 was not eligible for release from prison until 2010. On information and  
25 belief, he drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. California law allowed Uber's background  
26 check provider to report Driver # 6's conviction to Uber because, within seven years of the  
27 background check, he was released from prison after serving a sentence for a violent crime.

1 Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 6's criminal history, or  
2 identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background  
3 check process did not identify Driver # 6's conviction for residential burglary because Uber's  
4 process (a) does not access databases with complete criminal history information, (b) does not  
5 access criminal record repositories of unlimited duration, and (c) does not actually go back as far  
6 as the law allows. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would  
7 have identified Driver # 6's criminal history.

8 81. Uber Driver # 7 was convicted in 2010 of 29 felony counts of theft, grand theft, filing  
9 false or fraudulent real estate trust deeds, and money laundering. Court records show that he  
10 victimized nine people – three of whom were elderly or disabled – and that he stole \$3 million.  
11 The victims were only able to recover \$1 million. On information and belief, he drives for Uber in  
12 the Los Angeles area. California law allowed Uber's background check provider to report Driver  
13 # 7's conviction to Uber because he was convicted within seven years of the background check.  
14 Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 7's criminal history, or  
15 identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background  
16 check process did not identify Driver # 7's conviction for assault because Uber's process does not  
17 access databases with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process  
18 does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver # 7's criminal history.

19 82. Uber Driver # 8 was convicted of felony robbery on July 5, 2006. He was sentenced  
20 to serve a term of two years in prison. He was subsequently convicted of driving on a suspended  
21 license in 2009 and again in 2010. Also in 2010, Driver # 8 was convicted of a felony for being an  
22 ex-felon in possession of a gun. Uber Driver # 8 began driving for Uber in June 2013 in Los  
23 Angeles. In March 2014, he was arrested for residential burglary. He was convicted of that crime  
24 in August 2014. And he is currently in state prison serving his sentence for this offense. Uber did  
25 not deactivate his account until June 2015. California law allowed Hirease to report Driver # 8's  
26 criminal history to Uber because he was convicted of robbery and being an ex-felon in possession  
27 of a gun within seven years of the background check. Uber's background check process either

1 failed to identify Uber Driver # 8's convictions for residential burglary or being an ex-felon in  
2 possession of a gun, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
3 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 8's conviction for robbery  
4 because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal history information. The  
5 Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver  
6 # 8's criminal history.

7 83. Uber Driver # 9's criminal history includes convictions for misdemeanor identity  
8 theft in 2008, as well as for felony identity theft in 2012. On information and belief, he drives for  
9 Uber in the Los Angeles area. California law allowed Hirease to report Driver # 9's criminal  
10 history to Uber because he was convicted of multiple disqualifying offenses within seven years of  
11 the background check. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver #  
12 9's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
13 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 9's convictions for identity theft  
14 because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal history information. The  
15 Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver  
16 # 9's criminal history.

17 84. Uber Driver # 10 was convicted of 14 counts of felony identity theft in 2011. After  
18 his release from incarceration, he applied to work for a commercial transportation company but  
19 was rejected after undergoing a fingerprint-based background check. He began driving for Uber in  
20 February of 2013 in Los Angeles, and his account was deactivated on March 25, 2015. California  
21 law allowed Uber's background check provider to report Driver # 10's criminal history to Uber  
22 because he was convicted of a disqualifying offense within seven years of the background check.  
23 Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 10's criminal history, or  
24 identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background  
25 check process did not identify Driver # 10's conviction for identity theft because Uber's process  
26 does not access databases with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ  
27 Process does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver # 10's criminal

1 history.

2 85. Uber Driver # 11 was convicted of felony welfare fraud in 2009 and felony burglary  
3 in 2011. On information and belief, she drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. California law  
4 allowed Uber's background check provider to report Driver # 11's criminal history to Uber  
5 because she was convicted of multiple disqualifying offenses within seven years of the background  
6 check. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 11's criminal  
7 history, or identified the history and passed her nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's  
8 background check process did not identify Driver # 11's convictions for welfare fraud and  
9 burglary because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal history  
10 information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have  
11 identified Driver # 11's criminal history.

12 86. Uber Driver # 12 was convicted of multiple felonies on February 26, 2007, including  
13 burglary, identity theft, access card fraud, and receiving stolen property. Court records show that  
14 on May 25, 2007, he was sentenced to a term of two years in prison, but the court suspended the  
15 sentence. Court records show that on June 29, 2009, the court became aware that a new and  
16 unrelated criminal case had been filed against Uber Driver # 12. He was subsequently found in  
17 violation of his probation. On August 17, 2009, he was ordered to serve the two-year prison  
18 sentence, which had been suspended. On information and belief, Uber Driver # 12 drives for Uber  
19 in the Los Angeles area. He received a citation on March 3, 2015 while driving for Uber at Los  
20 Angeles International Airport. He was driving a car that was not registered to him, but rather to  
21 somebody else with no criminal history. California law allowed Uber's background check  
22 provider to report Driver # 12's criminal history to Uber because he was released from prison  
23 within seven years of the background check. Uber's background check process either failed to  
24 identify Uber Driver # 12's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless.  
25 On information and belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 12's  
26 multiple convictions for fraud and theft offenses because Uber's process does not utilize a unique  
27 biometric identifier and does not access databases with complete criminal history information.



1 The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have identified  
2 Driver # 12's criminal history.

3 87. Uber Driver # 13 was convicted in 2007 of felony taking a vehicle without consent.  
4 In August 2008, he was convicted of being an ex-felon with a gun. On information and belief, he  
5 drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. California law allowed Uber's background check  
6 provider to report Driver # 13's criminal history to Uber because he was convicted of multiple  
7 disqualifying offenses within seven years of the background check. Uber's background check  
8 process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 13's criminal history, or identified the history and  
9 passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background check process did not  
10 identify Driver # 13's convictions because Uber's process does not access databases with complete  
11 criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations  
12 and would have identified Driver # 13's criminal history.

13 88. Uber Driver # 14 was convicted in 2011 of two theft-related felonies: filing a forged  
14 power of attorney and filing a forged real estate grant deed. He was ordered to pay \$47,500 in  
15 restitution, which he had unlawfully obtained from the victim of his crime. According to publicly  
16 available court records, he failed to pay the court-ordered restitution, and the court then imposed a  
17 two-year prison sentence. On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area.  
18 California law allowed Uber's background check provider to report Driver # 14's criminal history  
19 to Uber because he was convicted of multiple disqualifying offenses within seven years of the  
20 background check. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 14's  
21 criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief,  
22 Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 14's conviction for two theft-related  
23 felonies because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal history  
24 information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have  
25 identified Driver # 14's criminal history.

26 89. Uber Driver # 15 was convicted of misdemeanor driving under the influence in 2007.  
27 He drove for Uber in the Los Angeles area. Uber terminated his driving privileges in January of

1 2015 after a well-publicized incident in which he was accused of sexually assaulting a passenger.  
2 Uber has represented that it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence  
3 going back 10 years. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 15's  
4 criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief,  
5 Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 15's conviction for driving under the  
6 influence because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal history  
7 information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and would have  
8 identified Driver # 15's criminal history.

9 90. Uber Driver # 16 was convicted of misdemeanor driving under the influence and  
10 driving with a suspended license in 2010. On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los  
11 Angeles area. Uber has represented that it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under  
12 the influence going back 10 years, and currently represents that it disqualifies drivers with  
13 convictions for driving under the influence going back seven years. Uber's background check  
14 process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 16's criminal history, or identified the history and  
15 passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background check process did not  
16 identify Driver # 16's conviction for driving under the influence because Uber's process does not  
17 access databases with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process  
18 does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver # 16's criminal history.

19 91. Uber Driver # 17 was convicted of misdemeanor driving under the influence in 2011.  
20 On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. Uber has represented that it  
21 disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence going back 10 years, and  
22 currently represents that it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence  
23 going back seven years. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver #  
24 17's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
25 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 17's conviction for driving  
26 under the influence because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal  
27 history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and

1 would have identified Driver # 17's criminal history.

2           92. Uber Driver # 18 was convicted of misdemeanor driving under the influence in 2006.  
3 On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. Uber has represented that it  
4 disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence going back 10 years, and  
5 currently represents that it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence  
6 going back seven years. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver #  
7 18's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
8 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 18's conviction for driving  
9 under the influence because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal  
10 history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and  
11 would have identified Driver # 18's criminal history.

12           93. Uber Driver # 19 was convicted of misdemeanor driving under the influence in 2013.  
13 On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the San Francisco area. Uber has represented that  
14 it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence going back 10 years, and  
15 currently represents that it disqualifies drivers with convictions for driving under the influence  
16 going back seven years. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver #  
17 19's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and  
18 belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 19's conviction for driving  
19 under the influence because Uber's process does not access databases with complete criminal  
20 history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same limitations and  
21 would have identified Driver # 19's criminal history.

22           94. Uber Driver # 20 was convicted in 2007 of misdemeanor reckless driving and driving  
23 in excess of 100 miles per hour. On information and belief, he has been driving for Uber since at  
24 least December 2013 in the Los Angeles area. Uber represents that it disqualifies drivers with  
25 convictions for reckless driving going back seven years. Uber's background check process either  
26 failed to identify Uber Driver # 20's criminal history, or identified the history and passed him  
27 nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background check process did not identify Driver

1 # 20's conviction for reckless driving because Uber's process does not access databases with  
2 complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not have the same  
3 limitations and would have identified Driver # 20's criminal history.

4 95. Uber Driver # 21 sustained a misdemeanor conviction in March 2013 for driving  
5 under the influence. In July 2013, he was convicted of a felony conviction for possession of  
6 methamphetamine. On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los Angeles area. Uber's  
7 background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 21's criminal history, or  
8 identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief, Uber's background  
9 check process did not identify Driver # 21's convictions because Uber's process does not access  
10 databases with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ Process does not  
11 have the same limitations and would have identified Driver # 21's criminal history.

12 96. Uber Driver # 22 sustained a felony conviction for maintaining a place for the sales of  
13 methamphetamine in April 2012. On information and belief, he drives for Uber in the Los  
14 Angeles area. Uber's background check process either failed to identify Uber Driver # 22's  
15 criminal history, or identified the history and passed him nonetheless. On information and belief,  
16 Uber's background check process did not identify Driver # 22's conviction because Uber's process  
17 does not access databases with complete criminal history information. The Live Scan/CALDOJ  
18 Process does not have the same limitations and would have identified Driver # 22's criminal  
19 history.

20 97. Some Uber drivers evade the background check process entirely by using an account  
21 belonging to another person. At this time, the People have identified at least three Uber drivers  
22 who used another person's account to drive for Uber even though they did not hold a valid driver's  
23 license.

24 98. Uber Driver # 23 received a citation at SFO on May 4, 2014. He provided San  
25 Francisco Police with a driver's license that had expired in December of 2007. When the citing  
26 police officer noticed that the photograph on the driver's Uber profile did not look like Driver #  
27 23, Driver # 23 stated that he was using his brother's Uber account.

1           99. Uber Driver # 24 was taken into custody at SFO on May 21, 2014. Uber Driver # 24  
2 provided San Francisco Police with two different names, neither of which matched any valid  
3 driver's license. When the San Francisco Police officer noticed that the photograph on the driver's  
4 Uber profile did not look like Driver # 24, Driver # 24 stated that he was using the account of his  
5 cousin.

6           100. Uber Driver # 25 received a citation at LAX on June 7, 2015. Uber Driver # 25 did  
7 not hold a valid driver's license. His interim driver's license had expired. Driver # 25 stated that  
8 he was leasing his car from someone else and using their Uber account.

9 *Uber's Misleading Statements In Response To Incidents Involving Its Drivers*

10           101. During 2014 and 2015 Uber has consistently repeated its misleading statements  
11 about the quality of its background checks and commitment to safety in response to a series of  
12 well-publicized incidents involving Uber drivers. Trotting out the company line about its  
13 background check process is a corporate policy set at the very top of the organization. In  
14 September, 2013 Uber CEO Travis Kalanick wrote in an internal email, "we need to make sure  
15 that these writers don't come away thinking we are responsible, even when things do go bad. . .  
16 [T]hese writers are starting to think that we are somehow liable for these incidents that aren't even  
17 real in the first place."

18           102. In January 2014, online news site PandoDaily.com reported that an Uber driver in  
19 San Francisco who had been accused of verbally and physically assaulting a passenger had a  
20 significant criminal history which should have disqualified him from becoming an Uber driver. In  
21 June 2014, Forbes.com reported that the driver had been on probation for a battery conviction  
22 when Uber hired him in October 2013. When questioned about the decision to allow an applicant  
23 with a conviction for violent crime to drive for Uber, spokesperson Kasselmann told NBC Bay Area  
24 News that "Uber works with Hirease to conduct stringent background checks, which all drivers  
25 must undergo and clear to partner with Uber." Kasselmann then claimed that the driver "had a  
26 clean background check in October."

27 ///

1           103. On December 31, 2013, an Uber driver struck and killed a six-year-old girl while  
2 driving in San Francisco. In response to the incident, the next day Uber posted a “Statement on  
3 New Year’s Eve Accident” on its blog in which the company represented, “We are committed to  
4 improving the already best in class safety and accountability of the Uber platform, for both riders  
5 and drivers.” Two weeks after Uber made its statement, the San Francisco Business Times  
6 reported that the driver had been convicted of reckless driving in Florida in September 2004.

7           104. In February 2014, the Chicago Tribune reported that a 24-year-old Uber driver had a  
8 felony conviction for residential burglary in 2010, a misdemeanor conviction for criminal damage  
9 to property in 2009, another misdemeanor conviction in 2008 for breaking into a car to steal a GPS  
10 and satellite radio receiver, a history of speeding tickets, and had his license suspended twice in  
11 2008. Uber posted an apology on its website: “[W]e have already taken steps to prevent this from  
12 happening again, by expanding our background check process to set new industry-leading  
13 standards. . . We are sincerely sorry for this error, and want to assure all riders that we are taking  
14 the necessary steps to fix it and build the safest option for consumers.”

15           105. Two months later, on April 24, 2014, an NBC television affiliate in Los Angeles  
16 aired an investigative report about Uber’s driver background checks in which the station enlisted a  
17 woman to apply to become an Uber driver. She was on felony probation for making criminal  
18 threats (willfully threatening to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to  
19 another person), and during the broadcast described the conduct leading to her arrest: “I pulled a  
20 girl out of a car and almost beat her to death.” On March 3, 2014, Uber sent the woman an email  
21 notifying her that she passed her background check. According to the NBC report, Uber would not  
22 respond to the station’s request for comment about this case. Instead, Uber spokesperson Lane  
23 Kasselmann sent an email explaining Uber’s background screening policy. The email ended with,  
24 “We’re confident that every ride on Uber is safer than a taxi.”

25           106. In July 2014, WDIV-TV 4 in Detroit broadcast a segment on an investigation it had  
26 performed in which it found Uber drivers who had previously had their licenses suspended, Uber  
27 drivers who had been in a serious accident with injuries, Uber drivers with speeding tickets, Uber

1 drivers who been cited for no proof of insurance, and Uber drivers who were driving vehicles  
2 registered to other people. In response to the report, Uber spokesperson Lauren Altmin issued this  
3 statement: “We work every day to connect riders with the safest rides on the road and go above  
4 and beyond local requirements in every city we operate. Uber only partners with drivers who pass  
5 an industry-leading screening that includes a criminal background check at the county, federal and  
6 multi-state level going back as far as the law allows. We also conduct ongoing reviews of drivers’  
7 motor vehicle records during their time as an Uber partner. . . . For more information on what  
8 makes Uber the safest rides on the road, please see our website: <https://www.uber.com/safety>.”

9           107. In December, 2014 the United States edition of The Guardian reported that Uber  
10 admitted that a driver accused of sexual assault had been driving on an account created in his  
11 wife’s name. Uber’s response was to blame the victim, and repeat the false assertion that Uber’s  
12 background check “far exceeds what’s expected of taxis.” The Guardian quoted Uber  
13 spokesperson Jennifer Mullin as telling the Associated Press that, “We do our best to send drivers  
14 though our background check process, which far exceeds what’s expected of taxis. But there is  
15 also a responsibility for the rider to make sure that when they get into an Uber that they’re  
16 checking the license plate and they’re checking the driver’s face and making sure all that matches  
17 up.”

18           108. An April 10, 2015 article in the Houston Press reported that an Uber driver whom  
19 Houston prosecutors charged with raping a female passenger had been released from federal prison  
20 in 2012 and was on probation after serving 14 years in prison on a felony drug charge. According  
21 to the article, Uber's third party background check did not disqualify the driver. The article  
22 reported that, when questioned by Texas lawmakers about the failure, Uber Spokesperson Sally  
23 Kay told them “that the company's third party system is better than the FBI fingerprint check -- she  
24 said the employment background check company Uber uses, called Hirease, sends people directly  
25 to courthouses to pull records for each applicant.”

26           109. Uber’s response to well-publicized incidents involving its drivers is to repeat its  
27 misleading mantra about the quality of its background check process, and to continue to assure the

1 public that it does everything it can to ensure its customers' safety. Uber continues to repeat its  
2 claims that it aims "to go above and beyond local requirements to ensure your comfort and  
3 security," that it "is committed to connecting you to the safest ride on the road," that it makes  
4 "continued efforts to ensure the safest possible platform for Uber riders," and that it goes "above  
5 and beyond local requirements in every city we operate."

6 110. Uber's representations are untrue or misleading. At the same time Uber was stating  
7 that it is "working diligently to ensure we're doing everything we can to make Uber the safest  
8 experience on the road," it was instead working diligently to ensure it was doing everything it  
9 could to successfully defeat a bill pending in the California legislature that would have actually  
10 made Uber safer for its customers and the public. Introduced in the 2013-2014 California  
11 legislative session, Assembly Bill 612 would have made three important changes to current  
12 California law.

13 111. First, the legislation would have required Transportation Network Companies  
14 ("TNCs") to use the Live Scan/CALDOJ Process to obtain background check information from the  
15 same government repositories of criminal history information used by law enforcement. The  
16 legislative analysis prepared for hearings by the Assembly Committee on Transportation noted that  
17 existing California Public Utilities Commission regulations allow TNCs to "use a third party firm  
18 that fails to provide a comprehensive search." The analysis stated that the bill would provide "a  
19 uniform process by using the DOJ system to ensure the most comprehensive and updated data of  
20 an employee is provided . . . ."

21 112. Second, the legislation would have required mandatory controlled substance and  
22 alcohol testing for TNC drivers. This would have provided a mechanism for identifying drivers  
23 with substance abuse problems before a rider or member of the public was hurt, and would have  
24 put teeth into Uber's "Zero Tolerance Policy" which currently relies upon after-the-fact complaints  
25 from riders.

26 113. Third, the legislation would have required TNCs to participate in the Department of  
27 Motor Vehicles Employer Pull Notice Program ("EPN"). Participants in the program receive



1 automatic notification of any driving-related convictions, failures to appear in court, accidents,  
2 driver's license suspensions or revocations, and any other actions taken against the driving  
3 privileges of their drivers. Although Uber represents to the public that it conducts "ongoing  
4 reviews of drivers' motor vehicle records during their time as an Uber partner," the company does  
5 not choose to participate in EPN, and therefore does not receive automatic and timely notification.  
6 While Uber does not disclose how often it checks its drivers' motor vehicle records, under current  
7 California law it is only required to do so quarterly.

8           114. Within six weeks of creating a blog posting devoted to safety in which Uber  
9 represented, "We'll continue innovating, refining, and working diligently to ensure we're doing  
10 everything we can to make Uber the safest experience on the road," Uber mounted a campaign to  
11 defeat Assembly Bill 612. As part of this campaign, Uber created its June 11, 2014 blog posting  
12 with the heading "California: Get on Board" in which it described the legislation as "a flagrant  
13 attempt to stymie innovation and competition." Uber listed the names and contact information for  
14 all of the members of the California Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee,  
15 encouraged the public to contact the legislators to oppose the bill, and provided a link for the  
16 public to "tweet your support for Uber in California!"

17           115. As a result of its successful efforts, Uber is not required to fingerprint drivers during  
18 the application process, is not required to test its drivers for abuse of controlled substances and  
19 alcohol that could impair their ability to drive safely, and is not required to participate in the  
20 program that would provide automatic notification of significant events reflecting on its drivers'  
21 ability to drive safely. Moreover, contrary to its representations that it goes "above and beyond  
22 local requirements in every city we operate," Uber has not chosen to do any of these things  
23 voluntarily.

24           116. Uber's untrue or misleading representations regarding the measures it takes to ensure  
25 customer safety, taken together and separately, have violated and continue to violate California  
26 Business and Professions Code sections 17500 and 17200. Uber has violated the law by making  
27 these representations on its website, to the media, on its blog, in email communications to its

1 customers, and in connection with receipts sent to UberX customers.

2                   COMMERCIAL USE OF THE UBER APP TO MEASURE TIME AND DISTANCE  
3                   WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

4           117. Before any weighing or measuring device can be sold or used in California, it must  
5 first be evaluated and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture. This process is  
6 known interchangeably as “type certification,” “certification,” or “type evaluation.” The process  
7 examines the design, features, operating characteristics, and performance of devices for  
8 compliance with legal requirements. Its purpose is to ensure devices are accurate, reliable, and do  
9 not facilitate fraud.

10           118. California Business and Professions Code section 12500.5 prohibits anyone from  
11 using a weighing, measuring or counting instrument or device for commercial purposes in the  
12 State of California without first obtaining approval of the measuring or counting instrument or  
13 device from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Business and Professions Code  
14 section 12500.5 states, in relevant part:

15                   *It shall be unlawful to sell or use for commercial purposes any weight or*  
16                   *measure, or any weighing, measuring, or counting instrument or device, of a*  
17                   *type or design that has not first been so approved by the department . . . .*

18           119. The California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Division of Measurement  
19 Standards (“DMS”) reviews and certifies the accuracy of weighing, measuring, and counting  
20 instruments or devices that are used for commercial purposes in California. DMS’s mission is to  
21 ensure the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices in order to ensure fair  
22 competition for industry and accurate value comparison for consumers.

23           120. DMS has adopted, by regulation and pursuant to statute, the latest standards for  
24 tolerances, specifications, and other technical requirements recommended by the National  
25 Conference on Weights and Measures and published in the National Institute of Standards and  
26 Technology Handbook 44, “Specifications, Tolerances, and other Technical Requirements for  
27 Weighing and Measuring Devices” (“Handbook 44 Standards”). The National Conference on

1 Weights and Measures is a voluntary organization that develops model standards. California's  
2 Business and Professions Code permits the Secretary of the California Department of Food and  
3 Agriculture to establish tolerances and specifications for commercial weighing and measuring  
4 devices not governed by the Handbook 44 Standards, and the Secretary does so when necessary.

5 121. DMS's type evaluation of weighing, measuring, and counting instruments or devices  
6 includes type evaluation of any software written to interact with, control, connect into, or receive  
7 output from, a commercial weighing or measuring system or device. Such software is "an  
8 accessory used or connected therewith" under California Business and Professions Code section  
9 12500, subdivisions (a) and (b), and must be evaluated.

10 122. Uber uses the Uber App technology to measure time and distance in order to  
11 calculate its customers' fares. The Privacy Policy Effective July 13, 2013 that Uber posts on its  
12 website disclosed this fact:

13 *If you are traveling in a vehicle requested via our Services, the driver's mobile phone*  
14 *will send your GPS coordinates, during the ride, to our servers. Most GPS enabled*  
15 *mobile devices can define one's location to within 50 feet. We collect this information for*  
16 *various purposes – including to determine the charge for the transportation you*  
17 *requested via our Services, to provide you with customer support, to send you*  
*promotions and offers, to enhance our Services, and for our internal business purposes.*

18 123. In order to obtain type evaluation of a measuring technology, an applicant must  
19 submit a written application for type evaluation and one or more of the applicant's measuring  
20 devices preloaded with any controlling software as part of the type evaluation process. Submission  
21 of a device and its controlling software is necessary to enable DMS's type evaluation personnel to  
22 verify that the measuring device operates within the specifications and tolerances established by  
23 the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and that the measuring device does not  
24 facilitate fraud. DMS evaluates the software and any other component of a weighing or measuring  
25 device as part of the type evaluation process. Submission of a device and its controlling software  
26 also allows DMS to determine which of the Handbook 44 Standards is applicable to components of  
27 the particular technology, or in cases where the Handbook 44 Standards do not govern, to establish

1 tolerances and specifications for the particular technological components which have a  
2 metrological effect on the device.

3 124. The Uber App technology is a "measuring instrument" within the meaning of  
4 California Business and Professions Code section 12500, subdivision (b), which states,  
5 "‘Measuring instrument’ means any device, contrivance, apparatus, or instrument used, or  
6 designed to be used, for ascertaining measure and includes any tool, appliance, or accessory used  
7 or connected therewith."

8 125. From at least 2010 up until May 19, 2015, Uber used its Uber App technology in  
9 California to calculate each and every fare without having ever submitted the Uber App  
10 technology to DMS for type evaluation.

11 126. Uber violated Business and Professions Code section 12500.5 with each use of the  
12 Uber App technology to calculate a customer’s fare in California.

13 127. In October, 2010, the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency sent Uber a cease-  
14 and-desist letter in which it informed Uber that, "Because you have a system that measures time  
15 and distance, you are clearly in violation of type certification requirements that are placed upon  
16 such devices by the Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures Division." Uber’s CEO at  
17 the time, Ryan Graves, posted the cease-and-desist letter on Uber’s website and told a Techcrunch  
18 reporter, "We are working with the agencies [involved] to figure out their exact concerns and make  
19 sure that we're in compliance." But, Uber did not cease operations in San Francisco, and did not  
20 submit the Uber App technology to DMS for type evaluation.

21 128. In December of 2012, DMS contacted Uber’s CEO Travis Kalanick to discuss type  
22 evaluation of the Uber App technology. That same month the Director of the Consumer Protection  
23 Safety Division of the California Public Utilities Commission ("the CPUC") forwarded to Mr.  
24 Kalanick an email from the DMS Director explaining that the Uber App technology must be type  
25 evaluated by DMS and that Business and Professions Code section 12500.5 prohibits the  
26 commercial use of a measuring device that has not been type evaluated by DMS. Despite  
27 correspondence over several months between Uber CEO Kalanick and the DMS Director, Uber

1 never submitted the Uber App for certification.

2           129. DMS continued its efforts to convince Uber to comply with the law over the next  
3 year and, in December of 2013, the DMS Director wrote a formal letter to CEO Kalanick  
4 requesting a meeting to discuss the steps Uber must take to obtain type evaluation of the Uber App  
5 technology. On February 14, 2014, the DMS Director and Chief of Enforcement met with  
6 representatives from Uber, including in-house counsel and Uber's outside counsel. The DMS  
7 Director sent a detailed confirming letter to Uber's outside counsel on February 28, 2014. In the  
8 letter, the Director informed Uber that a DMS evaluator was available to test the Uber App  
9 technology beginning March 25, 2014, and asked Uber to contact the DMS Enforcement Division  
10 to arrange for submission of the Uber App technology to DMS.

11           130. Uber once again did not submit the Uber App technology to DMS for type  
12 evaluation. On April 7, 2014, the DMS Director wrote Uber another letter in which she informed  
13 Uber that it must immediately submit the Uber App technology for type evaluation.

14           131. In response to the April 7, 2014 letter, a member of Uber's public policy group, Sally  
15 Kay, left a voice mail for the DMS Enforcement Branch Chief. When they spoke by telephone on  
16 or about April 16, 2014, the Enforcement Branch Chief reiterated to Ms. Kay that Uber must  
17 submit the Uber App technology for type evaluation, and offered to provide assistance to Uber  
18 with the application forms. Ms. Kay responded that she knew where to find the information.

19           132. A week later Ms. Kay sent the Enforcement Branch Chief an email saying, "Hi  
20 Steve, didn't want you to think I had forgotten about you! Just got some new staff on board that  
21 may be able to help with this. Thanks for understanding! Talk soon, Sally Kay."

22           133. Despite Ms. Kay's assurances, Uber took no further action to comply with the law.

23           134. In September of 2014 the District Attorneys sent Uber a letter informing Uber that it  
24 was violating the law by failing to submit its measuring technology to DMS for approval.

25           135. On October 10, 2014, the DMS Director sent Uber yet another letter directing Uber  
26 to submit the Uber App technology for type evaluation. She gave Uber a deadline of October 17,  
27 2014 to submit the Uber App technology to DMS.



1 09-045’s restriction against airport operations: “This permit does not authorize the Carrier to  
2 conduct operations on the property of or into any airport unless such operation is authorized by the  
3 airport authority involved.”

4 142. Uber has operated and continues to operate at airports throughout California in  
5 violation of Decision 13-09-045, the Uber CPUC Permit, and state law every day. In the first  
6 seven months of 2014, Los Angeles International Airport issued more than 260 citations to Uber  
7 drivers and impounded vehicles. In a six-month period in 2014 before Uber signed a permit to  
8 operate at San Francisco International Airport, authorities there issued more than 540 warnings and  
9 citations to Uber drivers. These represent a tiny fraction of the unauthorized trips by Uber drivers  
10 to these California airports during any given six month period. Each unauthorized trip to a  
11 California airport by an Uber driver constitutes a violation of the terms of Decision 13-09-045, a  
12 violation of the terms of the Uber CPUC permit, a violation of state law pursuant to California  
13 Public Utilities Code section 5411, and a trespass aided and abetted by Uber.

14 143. In April, 2013, San Francisco International Airport’s Deputy Airport Director for  
15 Operations and Security sent a cease-and-desist letter to Uber CEO Kalanick in which he informed  
16 Kalanick that Uber’s drivers who did not have permission to operate at San Francisco International  
17 Airport (“SFO”) were committing trespass.

18 144. Uber did not comply with the cease-and-desist letter. Instead, on August 19, 2013,  
19 Uber posted a misleading “SFO Update” on its blog in which it told its customers that, “you can  
20 request whatever type of car you’d like when your flight lands at SFO – UberX, Uber Black, or  
21 Uber SUV.” It also told its customers that, even though SFO had begun issuing citations to Uber  
22 drivers who lacked permission to drop off passengers at the airport, “We believe that all rides to  
23 and from SFO are legal and that airport officials are acting without proper authority in issuing  
24 these citations.” Uber posted the misleading “SFO Update” despite the fact that, eight months  
25 before, CEO Kalanick had signed the term sheet with the CPUC in which he agreed that Uber  
26 drivers would not conduct unauthorized trips to airports.

27 ///

# SFO UPDATE

AUGUST 19, 2013  
POSTED BY TESS

Some of our San Francisco riders have asked about recent issues they've had or heard about when taking Uber to the airport so we've compiled a few tips to help make sure your trip starts off on the right foot.

## *Pickups at the airport:*

**You can request whatever type of car you'd like when your flight lands at SFO – uberX, UberBLACK, or UberSUV.** Any driver that accepts your ride request can take you home from SFO. For a quick and seamless pickup, call the driver and provide information about the terminal and door number where you're waiting.

## *Drop-offs at the airport:*

SFO has taken an aggressive stance against uberX and has begun citing some drivers. We believe that all Uber rides to and from SFO are legal and that airport officials are acting without the proper authority in issuing these citations, but we want to make sure you're aware of the current situation.

145. Uber's willful violations continued throughout 2014, and Uber's August 19, 2013 "SFO Update" remained on Uber's blog throughout 2013 and 2014. Uber's "SFO Update" remained on Uber's blog even after the CPUC issued Decision 13-09-045 mandating that "TNCs shall not conduct any operations on the property of or into any airport unless such operations are authorized by the airport authority involved." And Uber's "SFO Update" remained on Uber's blog even after Uber obtained the Uber CPUC Permit on April, 7, 2014, which explicitly states that the company continues to be subject to Decision 13-09-045's restriction against airport operations: "This permit does not authorize the Carrier to conduct operations on the property of or into any airport unless such operation is authorized by the airport authority involved."

146. Moreover, when confronted with demands by airport authorities and the CPUC to cease the unlawful activities at airports, Uber's response was an intransigent refusal. On or about April 2, 2013, San Francisco International Airport's Deputy Director for Operations and Security sent Uber a cease-and-desist letter. Uber did not comply. A year later, on or about June 10, 2014, the CPUC's President sent Uber CEO Kalanick a letter demanding that Uber stop its unauthorized operations at airports in California. The letter informed Kalanick that seven members of the CPUC's staff had met with law enforcement personnel from Los Angeles International, Oakland International, San Diego International, San Jose International, and San Francisco International airports who described numerous contacts with Uber drivers who did not have permission to



1 operate at the airports.

2 147. The CPUC President’s letter reminded Kalanick that, “none of your firms have  
3 obtained a permit from the airports to transport passengers to and from airport facilities. Decision  
4 13-09-045 specifically requires TNCs to obtain such permits.” It concluded with an order to  
5 comply: “Within two weeks of this letter I expect full compliance with each of the measures  
6 adopted in D.13-09-045.” Nevertheless, Uber continued, in violation of Decision 13-09-045, the  
7 terms of the Uber CPUC Permit, and state law, to encourage its drivers who lacked permission to  
8 operate at SFO to do so during the entire period it was negotiating the license agreement that SFO  
9 announced in a press release on October 20, 2014.

10 148. Moreover, at SFO, Uber gave its drivers a financial incentive to break the law. Until  
11 approximately October 20, 2014, Uber charged UberX customers who traveled to SFO an  
12 additional \$4.00 on top of the fare and passed the \$4.00 on to the driver. Uber labeled the charge  
13 on the customers’ receipts an “SFO Airport Fee Toll \$4.00.” Uber’s website support page  
14 described and continues to describe the “Airport Fee Toll” as “a nominal fee to compensate drivers  
15 for any airport fees they are charged as part of your trip.” However, Uber’s drivers who were not  
16 authorized to operate commercially at SFO did not pay anything to the airport. Uber encouraged  
17 these unauthorized drivers to trespass at SFO by paying them \$4.00 in addition to their portion of  
18 the fare. The incentive to uberPOOL drivers who were not authorized to operate at SFO was twice  
19 as much, given that Uber charged each customer a separate “Airport Fee Toll” for a total of \$8.00.

20 149. Uber fails to comply with Decision 13-09-045 each time one of its drivers picks up or  
21 drops off a passenger at a California airport where Uber does not have authorization to operate.  
22 Each failure to comply with the terms of Decision 13-09-045 and with the Uber CPUC Permit is a  
23 violation of state law pursuant to California Public Utilities Code section 5411. Each unauthorized  
24 trip to a California airport by an Uber driver also constitutes a trespass and a violation of Business  
25 and Professions Code section 17200.

26 150. Uber’s violations are numerous. Within the past four years, Uber’s drivers made  
27 hundreds of thousands of unauthorized trips to California airports.

1 UNTRUE, MISLEADING AND FRAUDULENT AIRPORT FEE TOLL

2 151. As described in Paragraph 103, Uber had a practice that lasted at least until October  
3 20, 2014, of charging its passengers travelling to SFO a \$4.00 “Airport Fee Toll” and telling its  
4 customers that the charge was to compensate drivers for airport fees.

5 **What Is This Charge For A Toll?**

6  
7 If your driver pays a toll during your trip—or if your drop-off location is outside  
8 the city limits and a toll is required to return to the city—then the price of the toll  
9 will be added to your fare.

10 In these situations, Uber returns 100% of the toll fee to drivers to ensure that  
11 they’re fully reimbursed for the additional cost.

12 You might also notice an **Airport Fee Toll** on your receipt. In select cities, there  
13 may be a nominal fee to compensate drivers for any airport fees they are  
14 charged as part of your trip. If you think you might have been charged this fee  
15 incorrectly, please let us know. You can contact your local community manager  
16 at: [t.uber.com/support](https://t.uber.com/support)

17 152. When two unrelated customers travel in the same car to SFO using the uberPOOL  
18 service, Uber charges the \$4.00 “Airport Fee Toll” twice, once to each customer.

19 153. However, as described in Paragraph 148, above, Uber charged this “Airport Fee Toll”  
20 even though it knew its drivers who were not authorized to operate commercially at SFO paid  
21 nothing to the airport. Uber’s representation to its customers that the \$4.00 is an “Airport Fee  
22 Toll,” and explanation that “[i]n select cities, there may be a nominal fee to compensate drivers for  
23 any airport fees they are charged as part of your trip” was likely to mislead its customers who were  
24 riding with these unauthorized drivers to believe that the driver had to pay \$4.00 to the airport for  
25 the trip, and that the \$4.00 would serve to reimburse the driver.

26 154. Moreover, Uber’s representation to its customers that “[i]n select cities, there may be  
27 a nominal fee to compensate drivers for any airport fees they are charged as part of your trip” was  
also likely to mislead its customers who travel to SFO in a car driven by a driver who had  
permission to operate commercially at SFO. These drivers paid the airport a trip fee that in 2013  
and 2014 varied over time but was \$3.85 at its maximum. Uber’s representation was likely to

1 mislead customers of these authorized drivers into believing that the entire \$4.00 would actually be  
2 paid to SFO.

3 155. Uber’s Airport Fee Toll fraud was not unique to San Francisco. It occurred  
4 throughout airports in California.

5 UBER’S CORPORATE POLICY OF “REGULATORY DISRUPTION”

6 156. California Business and Professions Code section 17206 requires the Court to  
7 consider the persistence, length of time, and willfulness of Uber’s misconduct in assessing the  
8 amount of civil penalties.

9 157. Uber launched its business in California without obtaining approval of the Uber App  
10 technology as required by Business and Professions Code section 12500.5, and then over a period  
11 of at least four years has repeatedly ignored and continues to ignore demands to come into  
12 compliance. Uber also began operating at California airports without first obtaining the requisite  
13 permits, and has encouraged its drivers to swarm the airports even after receiving multiple cease-  
14 and-desist orders from the applicable airport authorities and from the California Public Utilities  
15 Commission.

16 158. Uber has been acting pursuant to its well-known corporate policy of setting up shop  
17 first and dealing with the regulators later. This policy, which was begun under former Uber CEO  
18 Ryan Graves, and which CEO Kalanick proudly dubs “Regulatory Disruption,” consists of  
19 ignoring laws and regulations that get in the way of the company’s rapid expansion into the  
20 market, and then aggressively fighting any regulatory enforcement efforts which may follow. One  
21 reporter who interviewed Kalanick for a lengthy profile story remarked, “All told, it’s not just that  
22 Uber has adopted the business school maxim ‘Don’t ask for permission; ask for forgiveness’—it  
23 has instituted a policy of asking for neither.”

24 159. Uber’s unabashed refusal to comply with California regulators and California law is  
25 consistent with its “Regulatory Disruption” policy, is willful and persistent within the meaning of  
26 Business and Professions Code section 17206, and has been ongoing for five years. It has also  
27 enabled the company to become – within those five years – the world’s most valuable pre-IPO

1 startup. Uber’s \$50 billion valuation is greater than 70% of the companies in the Fortune 500  
2 including Kraft Foods Group, Delta Air Lines, General Mills, CBS, Kellogg, Aetna, Campbell  
3 Soup Company, ConAgra Foods, and Northrop Grumman Corporation.

4 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*  
6 (Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Safety – General Public)

7 160. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
8 through 159 as though fully set forth herein.

9 161. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within three years  
10 of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the present,  
11 defendants, with the intent to perform services, or to induce members of the public to enter into  
12 obligations relating thereto, made or disseminated or caused to be made or disseminated before the  
13 public in the State of California statements concerning such services, or matters of fact connected  
14 with the performance thereof, which were untrue or misleading, and which defendants knew or  
15 reasonably should have known were untrue or misleading, in violation of Business and Professions  
16 Code section 17500 *et seq.* Such statements include but are not limited to all of the representations  
17 set forth and discussed in paragraphs 13 through 19, 24 through 73, and 101 through 116, above.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
20 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices:  
21 Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Safety – General Public)

22 162. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
23 through 161 as though fully set forth herein.

24 163. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
25 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
26 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
27 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:



1 165. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within three years  
2 of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the present,  
3 defendants, with the intent to perform services, or to induce members of the public to enter into  
4 obligations relating thereto, made or disseminated or caused to be made or disseminated to  
5 defendants’ customers in the State of California statements concerning such services, or matters of  
6 fact connected with the performance thereof, which were untrue or misleading, and which  
7 defendants knew or reasonably should have known were untrue or misleading, in violation of  
8 Business and Professions Code section 17500 *et seq.* Such statements include but are not limited  
9 to all of the representations set forth and discussed in paragraphs 20 through 21, above.

10 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
12 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices:  
13 Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Safety – Receipts)

14 166. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
15 through 165 as though fully set forth herein.

16 167. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
17 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
18 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
19 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
20 section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:

21 A. Defendants engaged in fraudulent business acts or practices by making  
22 representations likely to deceive members of the public, as set forth and discussed in  
23 paragraphs 20 through 21, above, and in the Third Cause of Action;

24 B. Defendants made untrue or misleading statements in violation of Business and  
25 Professions Code section 17500, as set forth and discussed in paragraphs 20 through 21, above,  
26 and in the Third Cause of Action;

27 C. Defendants committed fraud within the meaning of Civil Code section 1572  
by charging customers who used the UberX service a \$1.00 “Safe Rides Fee” purportedly to

1 cover the cost of background checks that Uber falsely advertised as “industry-leading”; and

2 D. Defendants undertook the following unfair methods of competition or unfair  
3 or deceptive acts or practices in transactions intended to result or which did result in the sale of  
4 services to consumers, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a):

5 1) Defendants by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
6 discussed in paragraphs 20 through 21, above, represented that services have characteristics or  
7 benefits which they do not have, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(5);

8 2) Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
9 discussed in paragraphs 20 through 21, above, represented that services are of a particular  
10 standard or quality when they are of another, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(7); and

11 3) Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
12 discussed in paragraphs 20 through 21, above, disparaged the services or business of another by  
13 false or misleading representation of fact, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(8).

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*  
16 (Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Safety – Emails)

17 168. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
18 through 167 as though fully set forth herein.

19 169. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within three years  
20 of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the present,  
21 defendants, with the intent to perform services, or to induce members of the public to enter into  
22 obligations relating thereto, made or disseminated or caused to be made or disseminated to  
23 defendants’ customers in the State of California statements concerning such services, or matters of  
24 fact connected with the performance thereof, which were untrue or misleading, and which  
25 defendants knew or reasonably should have known were untrue or misleading, in violation of  
26 Business and Professions Code section 17500 *et seq.* Such statements include but are not limited  
27 to all of the representations set forth and discussed in paragraphs 22 through 23, above.

1 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
3 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices:  
4 Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Safety – Emails)

5 170. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
6 through 169 as though fully set forth herein.

7 171. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
8 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
9 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
10 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
11 section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:

12 A. Defendants engaged in fraudulent business acts or practices by making  
13 representations likely to deceive members of the public, as set forth and discussed in  
14 paragraphs 22 through 23, above, and in the Fifth Cause of Action

15 B. Defendants made untrue or misleading statements in violation of Business and  
16 Professions Code section 17500, as set forth and discussed in paragraphs 22 through 23, above,  
17 and in the Fifth Cause of Action; and

18 C. Defendants undertook the following unfair methods of competition or unfair  
19 or deceptive acts or practices in transactions intended to result or which did result in the sale of  
20 services to consumers, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a):

21 a. Defendants by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
22 discussed in paragraphs 22 through 23, above, represented that services have characteristics or  
23 benefits which they do not have, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(5);

24 b. Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
25 discussed in paragraphs 22 through 23, above, represented that services are of a particular  
26 standard or quality when they are of another, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(7); and

27 c. Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
discussed in paragraphs 22 through 23, above, disparaged the services or business of another by



1 false or misleading representation of fact, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(8).

2 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
4 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices – Failure to Submit App to DMS)

5 172. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
6 through 171 as though fully set forth herein.

7 173. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
8 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to May 19,  
9 2015, defendants engaged in acts of unfair competition and in unfair, deceptive or unlawful  
10 business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*,  
11 including but not limited to the following: Defendants used the Uber App technology for  
12 commercial purposes to measure time and distance in calculating fares for its customers  
13 without first having obtained approval from the California Department of Food and  
14 Agriculture, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 12500.5.

15 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*  
17 (Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Airport Access)

18 174. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
19 through 173 as though fully set forth herein.

20 175. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within three years  
21 of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the present,  
22 defendants, with the intent to perform services, or to induce members of the public to enter into  
23 obligations relating thereto, made or disseminated or caused to be made or disseminated before the  
24 public in the State of California statements concerning such services, or matters of fact connected  
25 with the performance thereof, which were untrue or misleading, and which defendants knew or  
26 reasonably should have known were untrue or misleading, in violation of Business and Professions  
27 Code section 17500 *et seq.* Such statements include but are not limited to all of the representations

1 set forth and discussed in paragraphs 144, 145, and 148, above.

2 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
4 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices –  
5 Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Airport Access)

6 176. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
7 through 175 as though fully set forth herein.

8 177. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
9 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
10 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
11 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
12 section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:

13 A. Defendants engaged in fraudulent business acts or practices by making  
14 representations likely to deceive members of the public, as set forth and discussed in  
15 paragraphs 144, 145, and 148, above, and in the Eighth Cause of Action;

16 B. Defendants made untrue or misleading statements in violation of Business and  
17 Professions Code section 17500, as set forth and discussed in paragraphs 144, 145, and 148, above,  
18 and in the Eighth Cause of Action; and

19 C. Defendants undertook the following unfair methods of competition or unfair  
20 or deceptive acts or practices in transactions intended to result or which did result in the sale of  
21 services to consumers, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a):

22 a. Defendants by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
23 discussed in paragraphs 144, 145, and 148, above, represented that services have characteristics  
24 or benefits which they do not have, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a)(5); and

25 b. Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
26 discussed in paragraphs 144, 145, and 148, above, above, represented that services are of a  
27 particular standard or quality when they are of another, in violation of Civil Code section  
1770(a)(7).

1 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
3 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices – Unlawful Operations at Airports)

4 178. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
5 through 177 as though fully set forth herein.

6 179. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
7 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
8 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
9 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
10 section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:

11 A. Defendants violated California Public Utilities Code section 5411 by  
12 disobeying CPUC Decision 13-09-045, the terms of the Uber CPUC Permit, and CPUC  
13 demands; and

14 B. Defendants committed trespass in violation of Penal Code section 602 by  
15 encouraging, aiding and abetting Uber drivers to operate at California airports without  
16 permission of the airport authorities.

17 **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*  
19 (Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Airport Fee Tolls)

20 180. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
21 through 179 as though fully set forth herein.

22 181. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within three years  
23 of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the present,  
24 defendants, with the intent to perform services, or to induce members of the public to enter into  
25 obligations relating thereto, made or disseminated or caused to be made or disseminated to  
26 customers in the State of California statements concerning such services, or matters of fact  
27 connected with the performance thereof, which were untrue or misleading, and which defendants  
knew or reasonably should have known were untrue or misleading, in violation of Business and

1 Professions Code section 17500 *et seq.* Such statements include but are not limited to all of the  
2 representations set forth and discussed in paragraphs 148 and 151 through 155, above.

3 **TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*  
5 (Unfair Competition and Unlawful Business Practices –  
6 Untrue or Misleading Statements Concerning Airport Fee Tolls)

7 182. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, restates and incorporates paragraphs 1  
8 through 181 as though fully set forth herein.

9 183. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiff, but in any event within four  
10 years of the commencement of the People’s civil enforcement action, and continuing to the  
11 present, defendants engaged and continue to engage in acts of unfair competition and in unfair,  
12 deceptive or unlawful business practices within the meaning of Business and Professions Code  
13 section 17200, *et seq.*, including but not limited to the following:

14 A. Defendants engaged in fraudulent business acts or practices by making  
15 representations likely to deceive members of the public, as set forth and discussed in  
16 paragraphs 148 and 151 through 155, above, and in the Eleventh Cause of Action;

17 B. Defendants made untrue or misleading statements in violation of Business and  
18 Professions Code section 17500, as set forth and discussed in paragraphs 148 and 151 through 155,  
19 above, and in the Eleventh Cause of Action; and

20 C. Defendants undertook the following unfair methods of competition or unfair  
21 or deceptive acts or practices in transactions intended to result or which did result in the sale of  
22 services to consumers, in violation of Civil Code section 1770(a):

23 a. Defendants by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
24 discussed in paragraphs 148 and 151 through 155, above, represented that services have  
25 characteristics or benefits which they do not have, in violation of Civil Code section  
26 1770(a)(5); and

27 b. Defendants, by use of the untrue or misleading statements set forth and  
discussed in paragraphs 148 and 151 through 155, above, represented that services are of a

1 particular standard or quality when they are of another, in violation of Civil Code section  
2 1770(a)(7).

3 D. Defendants committed fraud within the meaning of Civil Code section  
4 1572 by adding an “Airport Fee Toll” charge on customer receipts for trips to and from  
5 California airports to compensate drivers for airport fees the drivers never pay and/or when the  
6 amount actually paid to the airport was less than \$4.00; and

7 E. Defendants committed theft within the meaning of Penal Code section  
8 484 adding an “Airport Fee Toll” charge on customer receipts for trips to and from California  
9 airports to compensate drivers for airport fees the drivers never pay and/or when the amount  
10 actually paid to the airport was less than \$4.00.

11  
12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

14 1. That pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17203 and 17535, and  
15 the Court’s inherent equity powers, defendants their subsidiaries; their successors and the  
16 assigns of all or substantially all the assets of their businesses; their directors, officers,  
17 employees, agents, independent contractors, partners, associates and representatives of each of  
18 them; and all persons, corporations and other entities acting in concert or in participation with  
19 defendants, be permanently restrained and enjoined from:

20 A. Making, disseminating, or causing to be made or disseminated, any  
21 misleading, untrue or deceptive statements in violation of section 17500 of the Business and  
22 Professions Code, including, but not limited to, the untrue or misleading statements alleged in  
23 the First, Third, Fifth, Eighth, and Eleventh Causes of Action of this complaint; and

24 B. Engaging in any acts of unfair competition, in violation of section 17200 of  
25 the Business and Professions Code, including but not limited to the unlawful business acts and  
26 practices alleged in the Second, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, and Twelfth Causes of  
27 Action of this complaint.

1           2.    That pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17536, defendants and  
2 each of them be ordered to pay a civil penalty of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
3 (\$2,500.00) for each violation of Business and Professions Code section 17500, according to  
4 proof.

5           3.    That pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17206, defendants and  
6 each of them be ordered to pay a civil penalty of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
7 (\$2,500.00) for each violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200, according to  
8 proof.

9           4.    That pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17535 and 17203, and  
10 pursuant to the Court's inherent equitable power, defendants be ordered to restore to every  
11 person in interest all money and property which was acquired by defendants through their  
12 unlawful conduct, according to proof.

13           5.    That Plaintiff be awarded its costs of suit.

14           6.    That Plaintiff be given such other and further relief as the nature of this case may  
15 require and this Court deems proper to fully and successfully dissipate the effect of the  
16 unlawful business practices and untrue or misleading representations contained herein.


17  
18           DATED: August 18, 2015

                  GEORGE GASCÓN  
                  District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco

19  
20           BY:   
                  JUNE D. CRAVETT  
                  Assistant Chief District Attorney

21  
22  
23           DATED: August 18, 2015

                  JACKIE LACEY  
                  District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

24  
25           BY:   
                  STANLEY P. WILLIAMS  
                  Head Deputy District Attorney