

13-1353

MOTION TRANSPORTATION

On September 19, 2013, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) unanimously approved new regulations for ridesharing services such as Lyft, SideCar and Uber. The CPUC created the category of Transportation Network Company (TNC) to apply to companies that provide prearranged transportation services for compensation using an online-enabled application (app) or platform to connect passengers with drivers using their personal vehicles and established 28 rules and regulations for TNCs.

CPUC created a new class of for-hire transportation service that would not have the oversight of local regulatory bodies while unfairly competing with existing locally regulated taxi services. The ruling allows private "rideshare" companies to operate outside the rules and regulations established for passenger carriers such as taxis. The CPUC has an extremely limited number of safety enforcement investigators, which is clearly not enough to enforce their new rules and regulations. Without proper local regulatory oversight, rules are rendered meaningless.

Additionally, the decision of the CPUC does not consider the wider environmental, economic and road safety impacts through the addition of thousands of for-hire vehicles that could increase congestion and pollution. These environmental impacts were not analyzed and no opportunity for public input was provided, which violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

Lastly, California Government Code Section 57075.5 reserves to cities the right to regulate the supply of vehicles in the taxicab market and the CPUC decision would preempt cities from doing so. The decision violates this section in its express authorization of such transportation by vehicles that are not commercial vehicles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to submit the necessary filings to preserve the City's right to appeal the September 19, 2013 decision by the California Public Utilities Commission to create the category of Transportation Network Company (TNC) and regulate ridesharing services.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
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Councilmember 5th District

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msr

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