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December 16, 2015

I would like to issue a statement on the public safety issue that would present itself if TNC companies such as Uber and Lyft are forced to pull out of the City of Austin if additional onerous regulations are adopted by the City Council that would render their business models inoperable.

Statistics from Austin Police Department show the number of DWI arrests in Austin increasing each year from 2011-2013. TNC companies Uber and Lyft began operations in Austin in 2013. The number of DWI arrest fell 16 percent in 2014. DWI-related crashes fell even more citywide, decreasing by 23 percent last year. While the causal relationship requires more study, TNC companies have made safe rides home readily available to our citizens and are undoubtedly making our city safer.

Drunk driving in Austin is an epidemic. It is my strong opinion that we ensure that TNC companies remain operational in Austin, as they provide a critical service that is keeping Austin much safer than we were without them.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

GREG HAMILTON