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City Attorneys Seek Answers for Transgender Uber Drivers *Concerns Raised Over Treatment of Job Applicants, Safety of Workers*

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced today that her office, partnering with the offices of Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer and San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu, has called upon Uber Technologies, Inc. to detail its verification and naming protocols for transgender drivers following the publication of a discouraging Los Angeles Times article titled, “Uber blocks transgender drivers from signing up: ‘They didn’t believe me.’”

The article, published December 10, detailed numerous alleged instances in which transgender and non-binary people lost work as drivers and delivery people after their photos and documents were deemed fraudulent and multiple efforts to appeal were unsuccessful. Trans drivers also reported being deadnamed on the UberEats app, raising concerns for their safety. (Deadnaming is the practice of calling a transgender individual by their birth name after they have changed their name as part of their gender transition.)

“Sabotaging the ability of transgender and nonbinary individuals to secure work is unconscionable. I expect Uber to take swift action to reverse course and commit to treating all drivers with dignity and respect,” San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said.

“Uber tries to talk a good game when it comes to LGBTQ equality, but we have serious questions about whether it is failing transgender drivers,” Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. **“We intend to find out if reported incidents are isolated mistakes or part of a larger pattern that locks some transgender drivers out of rideshare opportunities.”**

“Transgender and gender nonconforming drivers should not have to put themselves in danger or navigate a bureaucratic nightmare just to make a living,” San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu said. **“Shielding drivers from workplace violence and ensuring equal opportunity to work are non-negotiable. We look forward to engaging with Uber to ensure that the company has adequate protections and policies in place for transgender drivers.”**

The attached letter, issued to Uber’s General Counsel, Head of Global Public Policy and Director of Public Affairs, asks detailed questions in four distinct areas and states that Uber could face potential legal

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ramifications if it is determined that its policies endanger or disadvantage transgender, non-binary or gender-nonconforming drivers.

In a broader effort to support workers in the gig economy, in 2019, Elliott sued grocery delivery company Instacart, alleging the tech giant has misclassified its employees as independent contractors. Her Office and the city attorneys of Los Angeles and San Francisco also joined the California Attorney General in 2020 in suing Uber and Lyft over the companies' alleged misclassification of its drivers.

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