



The Wrigley Building
410 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
P / (312) 494 6700
www.chicagolandchamber.org

TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED RIDESHARING ORDINANCE
JOINT COMMITTEE: LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION; TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC WAY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016
ELISE HOUREN, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Good morning Chairmen and Aldermen. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning. I am Elise Houren, Director of Government Relations for the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce represents the depth and breadth of the business community. Our members include the Fortune 100 to the neighborhood entrepreneur. The Chamber advocates on behalf of our members, and the broader business community, to support a pro-business agenda to ensure a competitive, stable, and thriving economic climate.

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the currently proposed ridesharing ordinance. We are opposed because this ordinance in its current form is a punitive attempt to limit the opportunities of ridesharing drivers who live in your ward and the transportation options of your constituents, who via platforms like Lyft and Uber are better connected and have more access to transportation.

The proposal will have significant economic impacts on residents and neighborhoods throughout the City, and it jeopardizes the future transportation access and connectivity of Chicagoans in every ward as it risks disabling the entire ridesharing industry in Chicago.

Chicago already has passed a number of fees, including a portion of every ridesharing fee earned by drivers is provided to the City to subsidize the cost of chauffeur licenses.



Additionally, ridesharing passengers in Chicago are paying the highest-in-the-nation fees for airport pickups. It is important to remember, many of these fees and changes were originally meant to "level the playing field" in the first place- they must not be forgotten in the rush to overregulate today.

Ridesharing provides safe, affordable rides to residents in all communities and enables those who live in neighborhoods with limited public transportation options to accessibly get around the City, all while providing Chicagoans the opportunity to earn supplemental income as drivers.

To be clear, the Chamber believes there is enough room for a competitive and thriving marketplace for both the taxi industry and the ridesharing companies, but this ordinance is not it. We must respect and understand the two different business models, understand the challenges both industries face, and meet somewhere in the middle when it comes to regulating both entities- they are not the same.

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce asks that you oppose this ordinance.

Thank you.