



City of Saratoga Springs

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For immediate release

City Council Warns of Unregistered Passenger Services

Saratoga Springs, New York, July 31, 2023 – The City Council would like to advise the public of unregistered passenger services in Saratoga Springs. With the influx of visitors during the summer season, passenger services are frequently requested by visitors and residents. As a precaution, the City would like to inform residents of the difference between registered, licensed passenger services and unregistered passenger services.

Mayor Kim states, “We have recently become aware of unlicensed, fake Uber and Lyft drivers picking up passengers from popular locations within the City. We strongly urge visitors and residents to verify the status of any vehicle they use.”

The license bureau is part of the Accounts Department. Commissioner of Accounts Dillon Moran explains the process as follows “Taxi drivers are required to maintain a current and valid Class E or CDL New York State Driver’s License. Through the taxi licensing process, the City checks criminal histories, arrest records, driving records, warrant information, and enrolls taxi drivers in the NYS License Event Notification Service (LENS) program.”

Commissioner Moran also states that “The City adopted the ‘Taxi Passenger’s Bill of Rights’ which is universally accepted throughout the Capital Region. This bill of rights must be prominently posted in each taxicab that does business with the City. A licensed taxi in Saratoga Springs also has a medallion. The 2023 taxi medallion is maroon.”

While ride shares like Uber and Lyft are not licensed by the City of Saratoga Springs, they are still legal operators as long as they’re registered with the rideshare company. As independent operators, drivers must follow the Uber and Lyft rules and regulations and passengers can verify both the vehicle and driver and establish a pick-up location.

If you see suspicious activity or are concerned about a situation, please do not get into a vehicle. Please call the Saratoga Springs Police Department at 518-584-1800. For any questions please contact Jessie House at 518-587-3550 ext. 2522.