

Statement of Mark Gruberg of the San Francisco Taxi Workers Alliance (SFTWA) at the CPUC's TNC Criminal Background Check Workshop, held February 17, 2017:

Thank you. Mark Gruberg, San Francisco Taxi Workers Alliance. More information is better than less. The main thing here that needs to be concerned about is the protection against misuse of information, and that is best accomplished through the fingerprint background check in conjunction with a commercial check of the TNC wants it or if the regulator feels it is necessary. A government-based check has a number of advantages. First of all, the private checks don't have the same access to information that the fingerprint check will provide, particularly in terms of identity. The private companies that are using these checks have a different set of interests from government regulators. Yes, they are concerned about safety no doubt, but they also are concerned about profits and other things, which can impact a driver who may be refused [interruption] and also they don't provide the same protections for workers in terms of due process. So a government check will mean greater confidentiality, greater protections against misuse, due process rights for applicants, the application of discretion in certain cases, such as the MTA applies, the need for only a single check, rather than each TNC having to provide its own check, and the RAP back system which provides updates, which is supremely important, which TNCs may or may not do nowadays according to their own policies.