



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE
ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

By Jill Sims • Apr 09, 2024

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From the Desk of Jill Sims: We're providing a special update given the increased movement on the Minneapolis rideshare ordinance. May 1 is only 22 days away, meaning the clock is ticking until the rideshare ordinance goes into effect. Uber and Lyft have publicly stated they will leave May 1 when the ordinance goes into effect. All eyes are on Minneapolis as we prepare for uncertainty.

Current State of Play



Thursday April 11th, is the next scheduled City Council meeting where Council Member Andrea Jenkins will bring forward a motion to reconsider the transportation ride share compensation ordinance. Council Member Katie Cashman has indicated she will offer an amendment to the policy that will extend the implementation start date.

- **Why an extension?** It would allow the City Council to adjust to potential statewide legislation if passed this legislative session, allow for existing ride-share companies to come into compliance with regulations, and for new ride-share companies to complete licensing and insurance procedures.

What's next:

- **The Week of April 15th**, the Council will receive an addendum that incorporates the recently published Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) report. This upcoming addendum will evaluate the Minneapolis TNC Licensing ordinance based on additional data that is specific to Minneapolis.
- **On April 25**, the City Council will take up and discuss this addendum at their meeting.

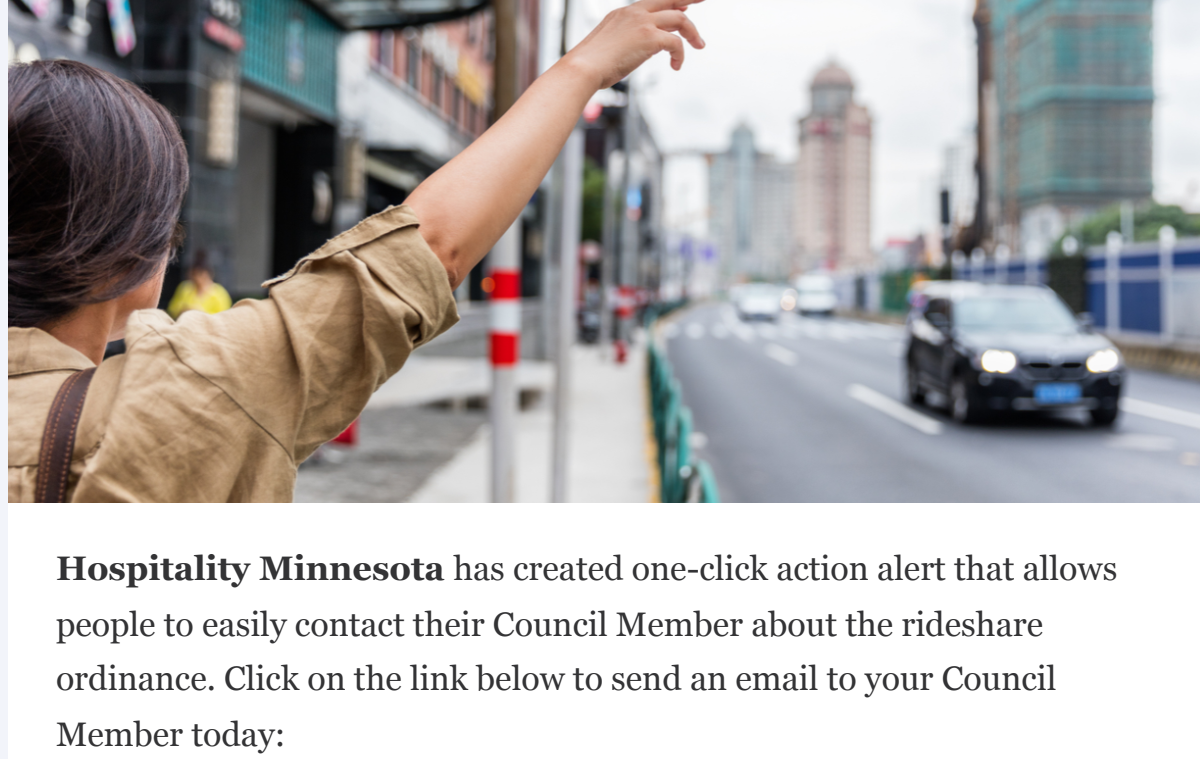
Hospitality Workers Express Concerns



Hospitality Minnesota has heard from members and their employees about the effect this will have on them. As a result, we have gathered their stories and created [this webpage](#) containing their stories, highlighting the challenges they will face.

You can weigh in too, please let us know if you have employees facing similar challenges who would like to share their stories by emailing [Tony](#).

Share Your Voice: Contact Minneapolis City Council



Hospitality Minnesota has created one-click action alert that allows people to easily contact their Council Member about the rideshare ordinance. Click on the link below to send an email to your Council Member today:

[Contact City Council!](#)

Press Conference: Mayor Frey, Business, Community and Disability Leaders



Hospitality Minnesota President & CEO Angie Whitcomb addresses those in attendance at Mayor Frey's Rideshare press conference on April 8, 2024.

What happened: Hospitality Minnesota CEO Angie Whitcomb and hospitality operators and employees from Minneapolis joined Mayor Frey, business and community leaders, and hospitality workers at a press conference held in Minneapolis on Monday regarding rideshare. Whitcomb discussed the impact losing rideshare will have on the hospitality industry and asked the Council to ensure we do not lose access to it. Below is the coverage from the press conference:

KARE | [Mayor Frey, tourism leaders urge Minneapolis City Council to reconsider rideshare ordinance](#)

- Angie Whitcomb, president and CEO of Hospitality Minnesota, said this is concerning heading into tourism season. "Over the next 3 months, we're expecting 75,000 visitors and over 175,000 room nights booked in our hotels," Whitcomb said. "These guests need to be able to move about Minneapolis and the Twin Cities easily and safely."

KSTP | [Business and community leaders in Minneapolis urge council to rethink rideshare ordinance](#)

- Angie Whitcomb, president and CEO of Hospitality Minnesota, says they represent 180,000 employees in the metro and 40% of those workers rely on rideshare services to get them to and from their jobs.
- "If rideshare as we know it ceases to exist in Minneapolis on May 1, it will leave a significant portion of our workforce without affordable, safe, reliable transportation as a commute to and from work at all hours of the day. In addition, it will leave business leaders with an even tighter worker shortage than they are already facing," said Whitcomb.

MPR | [Frey again pushes Mpls City Council to reconsider Uber/Lyft ordinance](#)

- Hospitality Minnesota President and CEO Angie Whitcomb said the ordinance "represents a considerable threat to the economic growth and revitalization of our region."
- "Uber and Lyft will be fine. The local economy and the very workers you're trying to protect, won't be," Whitcomb said.

SAHAN JOURNAL | [As Uber, Lyft deadline nears, Frey pushes Minneapolis Council to reconsider minimum pay rates](#)

- Angie Whitcomb, CEO of Hospitality Minnesota, said the industry has 180,000 employees in the metro area, and 40% of those workers rely on rideshare services to get them to and from their jobs.
- Whitcomb said Uber and Lyft leaving would negatively impact an already existing shortage of workers since people won't be able to get to work. It'd also affect tourism.
- "We cannot afford to actively discourage visitors or events coming into our region because of transportation limitations or higher market costs," Whitcomb said.

STAR TRIBUNE | [Frey joins business, disability and senior advocates to urge reversal of Minneapolis' Uber, Lyft vote](#)

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WCCO | [Minneapolis community leaders call for city council to reconsider rideshare pay hike at Thursday meeting](#)

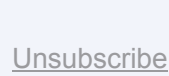
- And they say the city will lose conventions, hurting downtown restaurants. "It would put us at a terribly competitive disadvantage with other cities to attract conventions if we didn't have the option for rideshare," said **Tim Murray, owner of Murray's Restaurant**.

Thank you to all the members and hospitality industry advocates who have weighed in on the ordinance or participated in events. We are stronger together!

Feedback

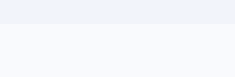
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