

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

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Fitzgerald Statement on Introduction of Fontana Lyft/Uber Legislation

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald released the following statement in response to news that State Senator Wayne D. Fontana has introduced legislation to authorize a transportation network company to operate in the Commonwealth – which, by definition, would include companies such as Lyft and Uber:

“I applaud Senator Fontana for the introduction of his legislation and his willingness to work cooperatively to embrace new ideas and opportunities that will allow our region to continue to grow. As a former Yellow Cab driver in the late 70s and early 80s, I understand the need to balance public safety and regulation with customer demand. Senator Fontana’s legislation finds that balance.

“We cannot continue to protect the existing services and allow a monopoly in our region. We are a new Pittsburgh which is progressive, competitive and welcoming to businesses and residents alike. This is the same discussion we had when politicians didn’t want to allow people to pump their own gas because of concerns that there would be explosions and fires if professionals weren’t used. The generation before that, we had the same conversation about the safety of allowing people to operate elevators themselves, rather than using elevator operators.

“Now is the time to embrace new ideas and opportunities and to work cooperatively to allow our region to continue to grow. I urge the Legislature to move quickly in its consideration and approval of Senator Fontana’s legislation and urge the Public Utility Commission to be progressive and competitive in its thinking to work with ride sharing services such as Lyft and Uber. These operations work in other cities and states – I’ve used them – and we need to work together to find a way to make them work here too.”

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