

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

DEC 1 3 2016

## Via e-mail: felpeter@stanford.edu

Felix Petermann Peninsula Press

Re: FOIA-2017-00237 Uber; Lyft Complaints

Dear Mr. Petermann:

This is in response to your request dated December 07, 2016, under the Freedom of Information Act seeking access to all consumer complaints regarding Uber and Lyft. In accordance with the FOIA and agency policy, we have searched our records, as of December 07, 2016, the date we received your request in our FOIA office.

Your request did not indicate an agreement to pay any fees associated with the processing of your request. However, the Commission's fee regulations specify that fees less than \$25 will be waived. *See* 16 C.F.R. § 4.8(b)(4). Because the fees associated with the processing of your request did not exceed \$25, we have processed your request free of charge. In the future, please provide a fee agreement to facilitate the processing of your request.

We have located approximately 884 responsive complaints. I am granting partial access to, and am enclosing copies of, the accessible records. Three complaints, and portions of other complaints, are subject to two of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's disclosure requirements, as explained below.

We are withholding 11 complaints under FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), because they are exempt from disclosure by another statute; specifically, Section 21(f) of the FTC Act provides that the FTC may not disclose any material reflecting a consumer complaint obtained from a foreign source if that foreign source has requested confidential treatment. 15 U.S.C.§ 57b-2(f).

Enclosed are 873 responsive complaints that consumers have sent to the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). You should know that the enclosed complaints have not necessarily been verified by the FTC. Therefore, you should make your own judgment about relying on the information provided. I am denying access to consumers' names and addresses, and any other identifying information found in the complaints. This information is exempt from release under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), because individuals' right to privacy outweighs the general public's interest in seeing personal identifying information. *See The Lakin Law Firm v. FTC*, 352 F.3d 1122 (7th Cir. 2003).

You also requested a fee waiver. Because you are not being charged ay fees for this request, your request for a fee waiver is moot.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request, you may appeal by writing to Freedom of Information Act Appeal, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, within 90 days of the date of this letter. Please enclose a copy of your original request and a copy of this response.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from the FTC FOIA Public Liaison Richard Gold via telephone at 202-326-3355 or via e-mail at <u>rgold@ftc.gov</u>; or from the Office of Government Information Services via email at <u>ogis@nara.gov</u>, via fax at 202-741-5769, or via mail at Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740.

If you have any questions about the way we handled your request, or about our FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Carolyn Cheung at 202-326-2411.

Sincerely,

Dione J. Stearns Assistant General Counsel