Staying safe while riding with ridesharing companies

With ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft, which are readily available at our fingertips using our cell phones or other personal hand-held devices, personal safety should always be considered before getting into a rideshare vehicle. Below are some things that you can do to stay safe:

- **Plan ahead.** Before you request a ride, think about where you’re headed and review the safety features in the app so you know how to use them.

- **Request your ride inside.** Avoid spending unnecessary time outside alone with your phone in your hand. Instead, wait indoors until the app shows that your driver has arrived.

- **Pay attention to the vehicle.** Check out the make and model of the car that pulls up and compare the license plate number to the one listed on the app.

- **Get in the right car.** Before you get into the car, ask the driver who he or she is there to pick up. Since the app provides the driver with your name, they should be able to answer. Check that the driver’s photo and name match what’s listed in the app.

- **Sit in the backseat.** If you’re riding alone, sit in the backseat. This ensures you can safely exit on either side of the vehicle to avoid moving traffic, and it gives you and your driver some personal space.

- **Buckle up.** Seatbelt use is the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries related to car accidents.

- **Share your trip details with a friend.** While enroute, tap “Share status” in the app to share your driver’s name, photo, license plate, and location with a friend or family member. They can track your trip and see your ETA.

- **Follow your intuition.** Trust your instincts and use your best judgment when using ridesharing companies. If you ever feel you’re in an emergency situation, call 911 immediately.

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

Emergency: 911  *  Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500  *  Crime Prevention Unit: 703-792-7270