

Los Angeles cabbies protest ride-sharing apps

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Hundreds of taxis have staged a noisy Los Angeles protest against ride-sharing services that use smartphone apps.

About 200 cabs honked their horns and circled City Hall Tuesday morning.

The protest came one day after the city's transportation department issued cease-and-desist letters to companies such as Uber that allow consumers to book rides online with limo companies and private drivers.

Cabbies contend they're "bandit cabs" that compete with LA-[licensed drivers](#), and a City Council committee on Wednesday will consider new regulations.

However, Uber founder and CEO Travis Kalanick says the San Francisco-based company already is legal under an agreement with [state regulators](#) that requires driver [background checks](#) and insurance.

He says Uber has hooked up thousands of drivers with hundreds of thousands of customers in 35 cities worldwide.

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