

Uber defends driver scrutiny in wake of shooting

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Uber expressed confidence in how well it checks whether aspiring drivers have pasts that signal trouble ahead

Uber said it was devastated by a deadly shooting spree by one of its drivers but had no plans to change its background check methods.

In a phone briefing with reporters, Uber expressed confidence in how well it probes whether aspiring drivers have pasts that signal trouble

ahead.

Uber's chief security officer Joe Sullivan said the ride-sharing company was "devastated" and has been working "around the clock" with police since Saturday night's killing spree in Kalamazoo in the US state of Michigan.

"No background check process would have made a difference in this case because he did not have a criminal history," Sullivan said during a media conference call.

"If there is nothing on someone's record, a background check is not going to raise a flag."

Suspect Jason Brian Dalton, 45, sat stony-faced in an orange prison jumpsuit, thick glasses shielding his downcast eyes, as a judge on Monday read the charges against him in a Kalamazoo court. Dalton appeared via videoconference from the jail.

Dalton was formally charged with six counts of murder after he allegedly went on the weekend killing spree—possibly picking up passengers along the way.

Prosecutors said they were still trying to determine why Dalton began firing—seemingly at random—as he drove through Kalamazoo.

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