



Office of Commissioner
Rohit Chopra

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROHIT CHOPRA**
In the Matter of Uber Technologies Inc.
Commission File No. 1523054
October 26, 2018

Uber’s business model relies on users and drivers trusting that the company will take care to protect their most sensitive information, including Social Security numbers, geolocation information, driver’s license information, and proof of insurance. This case calls into question whether the company deserves that trust.

As recounted in the Commission’s Complaint, Uber misled law enforcement even as it was under investigation for misleading the public about its security practices. Specifically, in the midst of the Commission’s investigation, Uber experienced a *second* serious breach – a breach rooted in the very slipshod security practices already being investigated. Rather than informing the Commission or the public of this second attack on its systems, Uber apparently paid the attackers to sweep it under the rug, waiting more than a year after learning of the breach before informing the public or the Commission.¹

Given the serious misconduct uncovered in this investigation, I support this action. But, I believe the Commission should have given greater weight to several of the suggestions made in the comments.²

In particular, I agree with World Privacy Forum and EPIC that the Commission should make required audits and assessments public, subject to appropriate redactions. The FTC has responded to this comment by stating that these documents are available by filing a Freedom of Information Act request, but proactive disclosure would be superior, given the public interest in keeping this company in compliance.

¹ This and other events of the last several years raise serious questions about the company’s culture, corporate governance, and commitment to following the law. As recently as 2017, the company agreed to pay \$20 million to settle FTC charges that it misled prospective drivers with exaggerated earning claims. And according to our Complaint in this matter, Uber reportedly created a tracking tool – “God view” – to surveil the whereabouts of its riders. Another report detailed a company executive’s desire to target critical journalists with opposition research.

² The comments also suggested that we further define privacy assessments/audits and that we seek deletion or “disgorgement” of ill-gotten data. The comments are available at <https://www.ftc.gov/policy/public-comments/2018/05/initiative-754>.