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AGTA - The Airport Ground Transportation Association Naples and Sarasota Traveler Safety Alert

Airport ground transportation travelers in Sarasota and Naples, Florida need to know that there are no longer any public safeguards with respect to vehicles for hire in these areas. Sarasota City and Collier County Commissioners have completely deregulated both economic and safety regulations for all vehicles for hire. There are no longer driver permit requirements, operating authority, insurance requirements, regulated taxi fares, or vehicle requirements in these two Florida areas. As a direct result of these actions, travelers should be aware that anyone, including those with serious criminal records, multiple DUI's, on a terrorist watch or sexual predator list can now slap a magnetic sign "taxi" or "limo" on their personal vehicle and be legally in the ground transportation business in Sarasota and Collier County.

PROTECT YOURSELF – While there are still reputable taxi and limousine companies and drivers, you must be alert. If in doubt, call or hail taxi, limo, and shared ride van companies that have operating authority from nearby Lee County or the Southwest Florida International Airport. Both Lee County and SWFIA have safety requirements for all commercial ground transportation operators and their drivers. Even popular TNCs such as Uber and others may have drivers that have let their insurance lapse or are taking personals which have no insurance coverage for the passenger, the driver, or anyone or thing they may run over.

Use caution -- It may save your life!