



OFFICE OF THE

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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Mark Levine, Borough President

August 27, 2024

Shou Zi Chew
Chief Executive Officer, TikTok
5800 Bristol Pkwy
Culver City, CA 90230

Dear Mr. Chew,

As New York City and State turn increasingly to automated cameras for enforcement of the rules of the road as well as collect tolls, the proliferation of fraudulent and fake license plates, as well tools that obscure or obstruct those cameras from taking complete pictures, has steadily increased. I write today to draw your attention to these types of products and express my concern that TikTok allows retailers to promote and sell products that are designed to conceal or obscure license plates to buyers in New York City. These tools and fake plates allow drivers to speed, run red lights, and evade tolls without any accountability, putting New Yorkers at risk on New York City streets. I ask that you take steps to remove the advertisement or sale of these products from your website to New York City.

Defaced, obstructed, and fraudulent license plates are increasingly being used among New York City drivers. We estimate that over 5% of vehicles currently passing through toll and traffic cameras have unreadable or fraudulent license plates. Over 100,000 vehicles triggering red light and speed cameras each month in New York City have unreadable license plates, meaning that hundreds of thousands of unsafe and reckless drivers are not facing any consequences.

Although it is a crime for drivers to obscure license plates, the devices used to do this have proliferated. From opaque covers that make license plates unreadable by camera, to remote controlled "flippers" and curtains that conceal plates, and more, these items are easy to find and buy with just a few clicks, allowing scofflaws to immediately start using them so that they can evade tolls and traffic violation tickets. Additionally, paper temporary tags from other states and "dead plates," metal license plates that are no longer tied to a valid vehicle registration, are all too easy to purchase on TikTok. There is no valid reason for somebody to purchase these items. Attached are some examples of the dozens of these types of products listed on your website.

You may be aware that New York recently passed legislation in the FY2025 budget that will ban the sale of these products statewide effective September 1, 2024. I urge you to take action now to prepare for the implementation of this law.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and for your partnership in helping to keep these fraudulent products off the street. I look forward to working with you on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Levine" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President



Left view distortion



Right view distortion



Frontal view



\$15.99 ~~\$26.99~~

2PCS Clear Flat License Plate Cover Shield
Plastic Tag Protector

Sold by UNIKO INTERNATIONAL

3.7 (3) | 37 sold

Free shipping

Shipping & returns

Free shipping

Estimated delivery Aug 17 - 21, Shipped by seller

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5.0 ★ (1)

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\$89.00



Stealth Plates covers, License ...

\$89.00

New releases



Universal Plate Covers with Rem...

\$89.00



\$15.00

License Plate Protector



Sold by Joy295749

Free shipping

Shipping & returns

Free shipping

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