March 25, 2011

Eric Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer
Google, Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043
Via Postal Mail and Fax

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

As our states' Attorneys General, our highest priority is protecting our citizens. Drunk drivers pose a deadly threat to public safety. According to federal statistics, more than 10,000 people die in the United States every year in crashes caused by drunk drivers. Officials in all states are constantly looking for ways to keep more drunk drivers off of our roads and increase the tools law enforcement has to detect and arrest impaired drivers who get behind the wheel before they injure or kill innocent victims or themselves.

Drunk-driving checkpoints are an important weapon in law enforcement's fight to reduce the lethal consequences of impaired drivers. That is why we are so disturbed by reports that your company is allowing an application to be downloaded on smartphones that, among other things, notifies users where checkpoints have been established on a given night. You and your colleagues at Apple should take the responsible step and ban this application, as you have done with others that are highly objectionable. We applaud Research In Motion for agreeing this week, at the urging of United States Senators Harry Reid, Charles E. Schumer, Frank R. Lautenberg, and Tom Udall, to remove similar applications from their online store.

Smartphones and the applications that go with them are great for communication, convenience and entertainment, but the applications that allow users to detect or alert others to checkpoints pose a significant threat to public safety. Automobiles with drunk drivers behind the wheel are deadly weapons. We should be doing everything we can to keep drunk drivers off our roads, not providing them with a road map to avoid checkpoints that are meant to protect our families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, III
Delaware Attorney General

Douglas Gansler
Maryland Attorney General