



Contact: Maritza Salazar  
[maritza.salazar@mytrusteddriver.com](mailto:maritza.salazar@mytrusteddriver.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Former Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson announces support of Trusted Driver***  
*First African American Chief Justice of Texas Supreme Court touts contactless policing tool as “huge advancement in the relationship between law enforcement and the communities that they serve.”*

SAN ANTONIO – Former Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, Wallace B. Jefferson, is throwing his support behind Trusted Driver, the innovative tech platform that enables contact-free interactions between officers and registered drivers for minor traffic violations.

“I immediately saw benefits to the driving public and to law enforcement. We want to keep both sides of this equation safe,” said former Chief Justice Jefferson about Trusted Driver’s mission to ensure that traffic enforcement is safe and convenient. “Our goal is to greatly reduce the misunderstandings that can occur during a physical traffic stop and to allow drivers to interact with municipal courts online.”

Jefferson, who made history as the first African American Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, believes Trusted Driver will aid communities of color, who are often pulled over at disproportionately high rates.

“I have discussed with my three sons how these encounters can end poorly,” added Jefferson. “With Trusted Driver, my sons can potentially eliminate the need for a traffic stop altogether. That is a huge advancement in the relationship between law enforcement and the communities that they serve.”

A motorist can register for Trusted Driver by registering online. If an officer sees the driver commit a minor traffic offense, the officer has the option to notify the driver by phone and issue a warning or citation; there is no traffic stop and the officer and driver can therefore avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

Persons with disabilities will also benefit from opting into the free Trusted Driver program. A driver can provide information about medical conditions, such as diabetes or autism; physical disabilities, such as a hearing impairment; or mental health issues, such as PTSD.

“Trusted Driver is the first-ever platform that allows communication between a driver and police officer while on the roadway. By providing information of a driver’s condition or disability before a potential traffic stop, if one is needed at all, that officer will have more context to help them

communicate with the driver and avoid miscommunication” said Val Garcia, CEO and president of Trusted Driver.

“Trusted Driver is highly effective for those who are deaf and cannot hear an officer’s commands during a physical traffic stop,” explained Jefferson. “When the officer does not know the driver is deaf and issues verbal commands that the driver does not heed, the officer may mistakenly conclude the driver is a threat.”

“Now what if, instead, the officer has advance notice that this driver is hearing-impaired? Wouldn’t that greatly improve the dynamic? I think it would.”

[Click here to see clips from former Chief Justice Jefferson’s interview.](#)

Trusted Driver is currently offered in Windcrest, Texas and will soon launch in Alliance, Nebraska. To learn more [click here](#).

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### **About Wallace B. Jefferson**

*Raised in a military family, Wallace B. Jefferson grew up in San Antonio and is a graduate of John Jay High School. He completed his undergraduate studies at Michigan State University before earning his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. After successfully arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court, Jefferson was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Supreme Court in 2001. He made history in 2004 as the court’s first African American chief justice. He served the Texas Supreme Court until 2013 and is currently a respected appellate attorney at Alexander Dubose Jefferson in Austin. Chief Justice Jefferson was named Texan of the Year in 2014 and was honored with the 2016 Presidential Citation Award from the University of Texas. He is Treasurer of the American Law Institute and the namesake for Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School in San Antonio.*

### **About Valente Garcia**

*Valente Garcia serves as president of Trusted Driver Inc., leading a team of current and retired officers, as well as tech experts to develop and engineer the country’s first-ever contactless traffic enforcement tool. Val was born and raised in the heart of San Antonio’s west side. He served for 28 years as an officer in the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), most notably as a sergeant in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Unit (HIDTA) where he led high-level, multi-agency investigations focused on uncovering drug trafficking and money laundering operations. He also supervised gang and property crimes units at SAPD, and handled traffic enforcement duties. Val retired from SAPD in 2020 but he remains committed to ensuring the public’s safety and it is the reason why he’s now leading the charge to transform traffic stops across the country.*

### **About Trusted Driver**

*Trusted Driver uses innovative technology to permit contactless interactions between law enforcement agencies and drivers when minor violations occur. Registered drivers receive warnings or citations via phone notifications and are provided the convenience to pay or challenge citations online. There is no cost to sign up.*