

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF

A-2014-2416127

RASIER-PA, LLC

**PROTEST OF EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION, INC., TA
LUXURY SEDAN**

Protestant, Executive Transportation, Inc., t/a Luxury Sedan, by and through its attorney, Michael S. Henry, Esquire, hereby objects to the approval of the above application for the following reasons:

I. PARTIES

1. Applicant, Rasier-PA, LLC (“Rasier”), is Delaware limited liability company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Uber Technologies, Inc. (“Uber”), seeking authorization to operate a commercial on-demand ride-sharing network service using a mobile software application.

2. Protestant, Executive Transportation, Inc., t/a Luxury Sedan, is a Pennsylvania corporation and a public utility that holds a certificate of public convenience issued by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) and the Philadelphia Parking Authority (“PPA”

or “Authority”) authorizing it to transport persons, by motor vehicle, in limousine service in Philadelphia and throughout the Commonwealth. See attached Exhibit A.

II. THE APPLICATION

3. The Application states that the Applicant is seeking “the issuance of a certificate of public convenience evidencing approval to operate an experimental ride-sharing network service between points in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.”

4. But, the proposed service, as described in the application, is, in fact, the commercial use of a mobile software application to broker ridesharing arrangements between prospective passengers and private individuals, without certificates of public convenience, who will use their own vehicles to provide call or demand service or limousine service between points in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

III. STANDING

5. In the present case, Protestant has standing to protest the application, notwithstanding the Applicant’s characterization of the proposed service as “experimental”, because the proposed service will facilitate the provision of illegal limousine and/or call or demand service in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania by private individuals without certificates

of public convenience and such service is in actual, or potential, conflict with Protestant's limousine authority to provide limousine service throughout Pennsylvania, including Allegheny County.

6. At the very least, Protestant has standing to challenge the Applicant's claim that the proposed service is, in fact, motor carrier service, rather than a brokerage service, and to present evidence that the proposed service will facilitate the provision of transportation that is in actual, or potential, conflict with Protestant's service.

IV. OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION

A. APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICE AS A MOTOR CARRIER SHOULD BE DENIED BECAUSE IT WILL ACT ONLY AS A BROKER AND WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE ITSELF

7. The Public Utility Code defines the term "common carrier" as follows:

Any and all persons or corporations holding out, offering, or undertaking, directly or indirectly, service for compensation to the public for the transportation of passengers or property, or both, or any class of passengers or property, between points within this Commonwealth by, through, over, above, or under land, water, or air, and shall include forwarders, *but shall not include* contract carriers by motor vehicles, or *brokers*, or any bona fide cooperative association transporting property exclusively for the members of such association on a nonprofit basis.

66 Pa. C.S. §102 (emphasis added).

8. The Public Utility Code defines the term “motor carrier” as “[a] common carrier by motor vehicle, and a contract carrier by motor vehicle.”

66 Pa. C.S. §102.

9. The Public Utility Code defines the term “broker” as follows:

Any person or corporation not included in the term "motor carrier" and not a bona fide employee or agent of any such carrier, or group of such carriers, who or which, as principal or agent, sells or offers for sale any transportation by a motor carrier, or the furnishing, providing, or procuring of facilities therefor, or negotiates for, or holds out by solicitation, advertisement, or otherwise, as one who sells, provides, furnishes, contracts, or arranges for such transportation, or the furnishing, providing, or procuring of facilities therefor, other than as a motor carrier directly or jointly, or by arrangement with another motor carrier, and who does not assume custody as a carrier.

66 Pa. C.S. §2501

10. In its application, the Applicant indicates that it will use its mobile software application to facilitate ridesharing arrangements between prospective passengers and private individuals using their own vehicles, who will provide the actual transportation service; the Applicant does not propose to provide transportation service itself.

11. Based on the foregoing, Applicant proposes to function as a “broker” within the meaning of 66 Pa. C.S. §2502 and not as a “motor carrier” within the meaning of 66 Pa. C.S. §102.¹

12. Accordingly, the application should be denied because the Commission may not authorize a person or corporation to provide motor carrier service where the person or corporation only proposes to procure such service on behalf of third parties, but does not propose to provide such service itself, either directly or indirectly.

B. THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE DENIED BECAUSE THE PROPOSED SERVICE DOES NOT DIFFER, IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY, FROM OTHER MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES AND THEREFORE DOES NOT QUALIFY AS “EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE” WITHIN THE COMMISSION’S SCHEME OF CLASSIFICATION FOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY COMMON CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS

13. Commission has adopted a scheme of classification for service provided by common carriers of passengers, including “experimental service”, under 52 Pa. Code §29.13, which states:

¹ It should be noted that the Commission’s regulations prohibit a broker to “employ or engage a carrier who or which is unable to lawfully provide the transportation under his contracts, agreements, or arrangements therefor.” 52 Pa. Code §39.5 (pertaining to carrier’s operating authority). In other words, a broker cannot procure transportation services from a motor carrier that does not have a certificate of public convenience authorizing the type of transportation that is being requested.

The following standard classification of types of service furnished by common carriers of passengers is adopted, and the following is hereby recognized as a standard class of common carrier service. The rights and conditions pertaining to a standard class of service are specified in Subchapter D (relating to supplemental regulations). A certificated service which does not completely correspond to a standard class may be governed, where practicable, by the regulations for the standard class to which it most nearly corresponds:

- (1) *Scheduled route service.* Common carrier service for passengers, rendered on either an exclusive or a nonexclusive basis, wherein the vehicles delivering the service operate according to schedules along designated routes.
- (2) *Call or demand service.* Local common carrier service for passengers, rendered on either an exclusive or a nonexclusive basis, where the service is characterized by the fact that passengers normally hire the vehicle and its driver either by telephone call or by hail, or both.
- (3) *Group and party service.* Common carrier service for passengers, rendered on an exclusive basis as charter service for groups or rendered on a nonexclusive basis for tour or sightseeing service and special excursion service.
- (4) *Limousine service.* Local, nonscheduled common carrier service for passengers rendered in luxury-type vehicles on an exclusive basis which is arranged for in advance.
- (5) *Airport transfer service.* Common carrier service for passengers rendered on a nonexclusive basis which originates or terminates at an airport.
- (6) *Other services: paratransit, experimental.* Common carrier service for passengers which differs from service as described in any one of the five classes set forth in paragraphs (1)—(5) and is provided in a manner described in the certificate of public convenience of the carrier and is subject to

restrictions and regulations are stated in the certificate of the carrier or in this chapter.

14. In order to advance and promote the public necessity, safety and convenience, the Commission may, upon application, grant a new certificate or an amendment to an existing certificate in order to allow to be provided a new, innovative or experimental type or class of common carrier service. 52 Pa. Code §29.352.

15. Notwithstanding the fact that the application actually requests authorization to act as a “broker”, so that the Applicant may facilitate ridesharing arrangements between prospective passengers and private individuals using their own vehicles, the actual service that will be provided by these individuals is not “experimental” within the meaning of 52 Pa. Code §29.13 because it does not differ, in any significant way, from “call or demand service” or “limousine service”, as defined thereunder.

16. As noted above, “experimental service” is defined negatively, as a service that *differs* from “scheduled route service”, “call or demand service”, “group and party service”, “limousine service” and “airport transfer service.”

17. But nothing in the application distinguishes the proposed service, in any meaningful way, from the other motor carriers services defined under the Commission’s scheme of classification for such services.

18. As described in the application, the proposed service appears to offer on-demand transportation service, despite the use of mobile electronic devices to communicate such requests.

19. Such service is “call or demand” service within the meaning of the Commission’s classification scheme for motor carrier service.

20. In the alternative, to the extent requests for the proposed service are deemed to be on an “advance reservation” basis, the service is “limousine” service within the meaning of the Commission’s classification scheme for motor carrier service.

21. Based on the foregoing, the application should be denied because the proposed service does not differ, in any meaningful way, from other motor carrier services and, therefore, does not fall within the definition of “experimental service” under 52 Pa. Code §29.13.

**C. THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE DENIED
BECAUSE IT PROPOSES TO FACILITATE
COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
UNDER TO RIDESHARING ARRANGEMENTS
WITHOUT CERTIFICATED SERVICE
PROVIDERS**

22. The Ridesharing Arrangement Act, 55 P.S. §§ 695.1 through 695.9, defines the term “ridesharing arrangement” as follows:

As used in this act, "RIDESHARING ARRANGEMENT" shall mean any one of the following forms of transportation:

- (1) The transportation of not more than 15 passengers where such transportation is incidental to another purpose of the driver *who is not engaged in transportation as a business*. The term shall include ridesharing arrangements commonly known as carpools and vanpools, used in the transportation of employees to or from their place of employment.
- (2) The transportation of employees to or from their place of employment in a motor vehicle owned or operated by their employer.
- (3) The transportation of persons in a vehicle designed to hold no more than 15 people and owned or operated by a public agency or nonprofit organization for that agency's clientele or for a program sponsored by the agency.

23. Individuals or entities that provide transportation services under a ridesharing arrangement are not subject to motor carrier laws and are not considered commercial vehicles. 66 P.S. §695.2 and §695.99.

24. But a transportation provider that receives compensation for its services is no longer doing so pursuant to a “ridesharing arrangement” and must first obtain a certificate of public convenience prior to beginning service. 66 Pa. C.S.. §1101 and 53 Pa. C.S. §§ 5714 and 5741.

25. Accordingly, the application should be denied because it is illegal to facilitate commercial transportation services pursuant to ridesharing arrangements that will be provided by individuals or entities that do not possess certificates of public convenience.

26. In its application, the Applicant states:

Applicant proposes to offer its service at no-charge, suggest a donation or charge or fare; provided that if a fare is charged, Applicant will disclose the fare calculation method, the applicable rates being charged, and the option for an estimated fare to the passenger before booking the ride.”

27. Although the foregoing language is not the model of clarity, it appears that at least some of the proposed service will be “for hire” transportation, which means that the service providers will be engaged in transportation as a business.

28. Consequently, the Applicant is not proposing to facilitate “ridesharing” within the meaning of the Ridesharing Arrangement Act, but commercial transportation services by individuals who are subject to the provisions of the Public Utility Code and must first obtain a certificate of public convenience before beginning to provide the propose service.

29. Based on the foregoing, the Commission may not approve the Application as it seeks to facilitate the provision of illegal transportation service.

D. THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE DENIED BECAUSE APPLICANT CANNOT SUSTAIN ITS BURDEN THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INSURANCE COVERAGE THAT COMPLIES WITH THE COMMISSION’S REGULATIONS

30. The Commission is empowered to require motor carriers to obtain insurance it deems necessary for the protection of persons or property of their patrons and the public. 66 Pa. C.S. §512.

31. The application proposes to facilitate commercial transportation services pursuant to ridesharing arrangements, where the service providers will be non-professional drivers using their own vehicles.

32. All individual insurance policies for private automobiles contain “livery clauses” that exclude coverage for accidents or injuries that occur while the vehicle is being used for commercial purposes.

33. The application also proposes that the Applicant will obtain excess insurance to cover liability arising from the operation of the service providers vehicles.

34. But Applicant cannot procure insurance that covers the operation of vehicles owned by private individuals and in which it has no insurable interest.

35. Accordingly, the application should be denied because the Applicant cannot sustain its burden of providing that it can obtain insurance coverage that complies with the Commission’s regulations.

V. GENERAL AVERMENTS

36. In addition to the foregoing, Protestant objects to approval of the application because the Applicant cannot sustain its burden of proof pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §41.14 as to need and fitness.

37. Protestant also avers that approval of the application will endanger or impair Protestant's operations to the extent that, on balance, the granting of the application would be contrary to the public interest.

38. Protests to this Application are due on or before May 12, 2013; therefore, this protest is timely and Protestant is entitled to participate in this proceeding as a party intervenor pursuant to 52 PA. Code 3.381.

39. Pursuant to 333(c) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §333(c), demand is made upon Applicant to furnish Protestant's counsel with a list of the names and addresses of witnesses he intends to call and a brief summary of the proposed testimony; in particular, complaints, if any, against the services of the Protestant.

40. Additionally, demand is made upon Application to furnish Protestant's counsel with proof of need for service and financial responsibility.

41. Protestant will agree to withdraw its protest if the Applicant agrees not to operate in Protestant's authorized territory.

WHEREFORE, Protestant, Executive Transportation, Inc.,
respectfully requests this Honorable Commission to deny the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Henry

Michael S. Henry
Attorney for Protestant
2336 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 218-9800
mshenry@mshenrylaw.com

Date: May 12, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael S. Henry, hereby certify that I mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of the foregoing Protest to the following:

Rasier-PA, LLC
182 Howard Street, No. 8
San Francisco, California 94105

Karen O. Moury, Esquire
409 North Second Street
Suite 500
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1357

Michael S. Henry

Michael S. Henry
Attorney for Protestant
2336 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
215-218-9800

Date: May 12, 2014

VERIFICATION

MICHAEL S. HENRY, ESQUIRE verifies that he is acquainted with the facts and information set forth in the foregoing pleadings are true and correct to his knowledge, information and belief; and that the foregoing Verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Michael S. Henry
Michael S. Henry

Dated: May 5, 2014

EXHIBIT A

Certificate No. A-00109726

Limousine – Pa. P.U.C. No. 8
Cancels
Limousine – Pa. P.U.C. No. 7

Executive Transportation Company
T/D/B/A
Luxury Sedan Service
Rates and Rules
Governing the Transportation
Of persons.

(As Designated herein)

'12

Issued: September 26, 2011

Effective: September 27, 2011

Issued by: Joseph McQuillan, Pres.
Executive Transportation Company
1167 Newport Mews Dr.
Bensalem PA 19020
(215) 331-4660

LIST OF CHANGES MADE BY THIS TARIFF

Rules and Regulations

Item 4 - Waiting time (For Class "D" Rates)- Increased the time charges from \$23.76 an hour to \$25.80 per hour. Also changed the incremental charge from \$0.33 every 50 seconds to \$0.43 every 60 seconds.

Schedule of Rates, Item 10 – Class "B" Rate – 1) Lowered hourly charge from \$40.00 per hour to \$30.00 per hour. 5) Changed incremental charge from \$20.00 per ½ hour to \$15.00 per ½ hour.

Item 20 – Mileage Rates – Lowered the initial charge from \$7.00 for the first 1 4/7 miles, to \$7.00 for the first 1 3/6 miles or fraction thereof. Additionally, we raised the per mile charge from \$0.33 for every 1/7 of a mile or fraction thereof (which equated to \$2.31 per mile), to \$0.43 for every 1/6 of a mile or fraction thereof (which now equates to \$2.58 per mile).

Operating Authority

To Transport, as common carrier persons, in limousine service, between points in Pennsylvania.

* Executive is permitted to continue to use its mileage based-tariff as well as utilize onboard meters. However, the waiver is restricted to those areas Executive currently serves under its PUC Authority, i.e., Philadelphia, bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, and Chester Counties. (All of Executive's service within, to, and from Philadelphia is currently regulated by the PPA. However, to the extent that Executive may, in the future, provide service to/from Philadelphia that would not be subject to the PPA's jurisdiction, the PUC will grant the waiver to cover this contingency.) This restriction allows Executive to continue service in its current effective service area under its existing tariff. However, if Executive expands its luxury Sedan Service beyond its current effective service area, providing point to point service outside bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, and Chester Counties, it will be required to utilize a time based tariff. (The waiver also attaches to luxury Sedan Service provided to/from Philadelphia, bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, and Chester Counties to/from points outside those counties.)

* Per waiver contained in Commission Order at No. P-00062231, entered September 18, 2006.

Rules and Regulations

Item 1: Advance Reservations- must be made with the carrier prior to service being rendered.

Item 2: Hourly Rates (For Class “A” Rates)- will apply from the time the vehicle leaves carriers place of business, until the vehicle returns to carriers place of business.

Item 3: Mileage Rates- will be assessed from the point of pickup to dropoff.

(C) Item 4: Waiting time (For Class “D” Rates)- unless otherwise provided, all waiting time will be charged at \$0.43 per for every 60 seconds² or fraction thereof (which equates to \$25.80 per hour), and only applies to Luxury Sedan Services.

Item 5: Mileage- as used herein will be computed with mileage and or fee to be calculated by the odometer or a device¹ connected to the odometer.

Item 6: Charges not covered by rates- rates do not include bridge, and highway tolls, or parking fees.

Item 7: Gratuity A gratuity charge of 20% will be added to the hourly rate tariff charges.

Item 8: Hourly Rates (for Class “B” Rates) – will apply from the time of pick up to drop off unless the amount of time traveled from pick up to drop off is greater than 20 minutes, not including waiting time during stops made. When time traveled between pick up to drop off is greater than 20 minutes, the charge will include an amount equal to the time necessary to return to the pick up point.

(C) – Indicates change or addition

Schedule of rates

¹ Device being defined as a group of electronic computerized instrument(s), and or two-way radio component(s) that work in conjunction with a centralized automated Global Positioning Sensor Dispatch system. These instrument(s), and or component(s) are individually approved and or certified by multiple Federal Departments; which include but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Federal Weights and Measures. These individual component(s) that are interfaced together operate as the Device.

² Waiting Time and mileage charges are interchangeable charges during the initial seven dollar minimum.

