

BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION :  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT :

V. :

DOCKET NO. C-2022-3029155

LATINO TAXI SERVICE LLC :  
25 EAST BROAD STREET :  
WEST HAZLETON, PA 18202 :

COMPLAINT

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is a duly constituted agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania empowered to regulate public utilities within the Commonwealth. The Commission has delegated its authority to initiate proceedings which are prosecutory in nature to the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement and other bureaus with enforcement responsibilities. Pursuant to that delegated authority and Section 701 of the Public Utility Code, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby represents as follows:

1. That Latino Taxi Service, LLC, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 25 East Broad Street, West Hazleton Pennsylvania, 18202.
2. That Respondent was issued a certificate of public convenience for taxi authority by this Commission on October 11, 2017, at PUC No. 6320054 certificate A-2017-2613993.
3. Random inspections of the Respondent's vehicles took place on October 14, 2021, were conducted on Poplar Street, Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and the following violations were discovered.
4. Respondent permitted a certain 2012 Ford with Pa. registration no. TX50968, the last 4 digits of the VIN 1973 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Neal Ebbert performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:
  - a. 1 of 5-wheel nuts was missing from the left front wheel.
  - b. Meter was inaccurate when tested over a measured mile accuracy course.
5. Respondent permitted a certain 2014 Honda with Pa. registration no. TX50342, the last 4 digits of the VIN 3567 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Neal Ebbert performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:
  - a. Battery securing device was missing.
  - b. 1 of 5-wheel nuts was missing on the right rear wheel.
6. Respondent permitted a certain 2013 Subaru with Pa. registration no. TX50800, the last 4 digits of the VIN 8833 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Neal Ebbert performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:
  - a. Left tail lamp was inoperable.
  - b. Right front turn signal was inoperable.

7. Respondent permitted a certain 2015 Honda with Pa. registration no. TX50449, the last 4 digits of the VIN 3729 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Steven Watkins performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:

- a. No consumer decal displayed
- b. Right front tire tread depth, 2 adjacent major tread grooves measured less than 1/32 inch remaining at any point along the tread area of the tire.
- c. Left front tire tread depth, 2 adjacent major tread grooves measured less than 1/32 inch remaining at any point along the tread area of the tire.

8. Respondent permitted a certain 2015 Subaru with Pa. registration no. TX50907, the last 4 digits of the VIN 2517 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Neal Ebbert performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:

- a. Left front tire was worn to the point that exposed tire cords and/or plies.
- b. No posting of fare rates.
- c. Horn was inoperable.
- d. Meter was inaccurate when tested over a measured mile accuracy course.

9. Respondent permitted a certain 2013 Kia with Pa. registration no. TX50766, the last 4 digits of the VIN 1855 to operate. PUC Enforcement Officer Steven Watkins performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:

- a. No consumer decal displayed.
- b. Right headlamp inoperable.
- c. Right front turn signal was inoperable.

10. Respondent permitted a certain 2011 Subaru with Pa. registration no. TX50977, the last 4 digits of the VIN 1813 to operate. PUC Enforcement Supervisor Thomas Kepping performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were found:

- a. No dome light affixed to the roof of the vehicle.
- b. Trip sheet was incomplete.

11. Respondent permitted a certain 2014 Honda with PA registration no. TX 50736, the last 4 digits of the VIN 5816 to operate. PUC Enforcement Supervisor Thomas Kepping performed an inspection on the vehicle. The following violation was found:

- a. Meter was inaccurate when tested over a measured mile accuracy course.

12. That Respondent, by permitting the vehicles referred to in paragraphs 4, 8, and 11 to be operated with inaccurate meters, violated 52 PA Code §29.314 (b)(6). The penalty is \$250 per violation for a total amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00).

13. That Respondent, by permitting the vehicle referred to in Paragraph 5 to be operated with a battery that the securement device was missing, violated 52 PA Code §29.402(1) 67 PA C.S.175.66(n). The penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

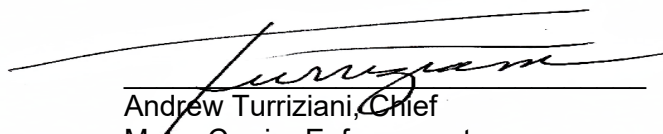
14. That Respondent, by permitting the vehicles referred to in paragraphs 6 and 9 to be operated with inoperable turn signals violated 52 PA Code 29.402(1) 67 PA C.S.175.66 (f)(3) & (4). The penalty is one hundred per violation (\$100.00) for a total amount of two hundred (\$200.00).

15. That Respondent, by permitting the two (2) vehicles referred to in paragraphs 7 and the one (1) vehicle referred to in paragraph 8 to be operated with tires with unacceptable tire tread depth violated 52 PA Code 29.402(1) 67 PA § 175.65 (a). The penalty is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per violation for a total amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

16. That Respondent, by permitting the vehicle identified in paragraph #10 to be operated without a dome light violated 52 PA Code 29.314(d). The penalty is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

WHEREFORE, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that the Commission fine Latino Taxi Service, LLC the amount of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500.00) for the illegal activity described in this Complaint and order such other remedy as the Commission may deem to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

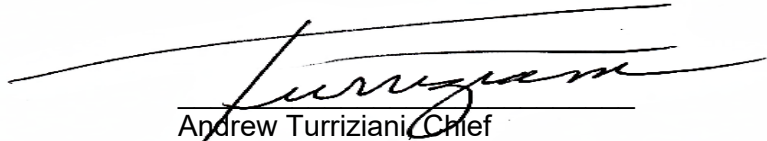
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Turriziani", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Turriziani, Chief  
Motor Carrier Enforcement  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

VERIFICATION

I, Andrew Turriziani, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I expect that the Bureau will be able to prove same at any hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: 25 April 2022



Andrew Turriziani, Chief  
Motor Carrier Enforcement  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement

## NOTICE

- A. You must file an Answer within twenty (20) days of the date of service of this Complaint. The date of service is the mailing date as indicated at the top of the Secretarial Cover Letter for this Complaint and Notice, 52 Pa. Code §1.56(a). An Answer is a written explanation of circumstances wished to be considered in determining the outcome. The Answer shall raise all factual and legal arguments that you wish to claim in your defense and must include the reference number of this Complaint. Your Answer must be verified, and the original shall be mailed to:

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or you may **eFile your Answer** using the Commission's website at [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov). The link to eFiling is located under the Filing & Resources tab on the homepage. If your Answer is 250 pages or less, you are not required to file a paper copy.

Additionally, a copy should either be mailed to:

Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or, **e-mailed to** at: [RA-PCCmplntResp@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PCCmplntResp@pa.gov)

- B. If you fail to answer this complaint within twenty (20) days, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement will request that the Commission issue a Secretarial Letter imposing a penalty. The penalty could include a fine, the suspension or revocation of your certificate of public convenience or other remedy.
- C. You may elect not to contest this complaint by paying the fine proposed in this Complaint by certified check or money order. Payment must be made to the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** and should be forwarded to:
- Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120
- D. Your payment is an admission that you committed the alleged violation and an agreement to cease and desist from further violations. Upon receipt of your payment, the complaint proceeding shall be closed.
- E. If you file an Answer, which admits or fails to deny the allegations of the Complaint, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement will request that the Commission issue a Secretarial Letter imposing a penalty.
- F. If you file an Answer which contests the Complaint, the matter will be assigned to an Administrative Law Judge for hearing and decision. The judge is not bound by the optional fine set forth above.
- G. Alternative formats of this material are available for persons with disabilities by contacting the Commission's ADA Coordinator at 717-787-8714.