

11/17/23

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

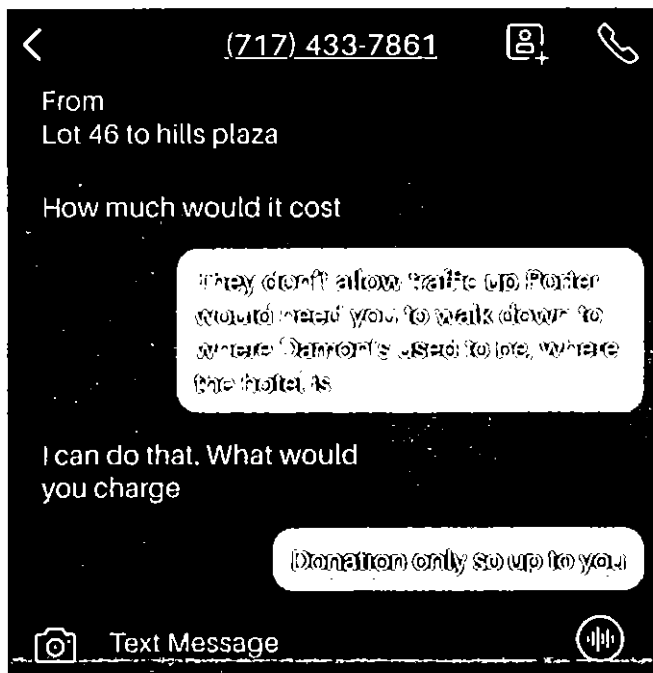
v.

Jordan S. Forster

Docket No. C-2023-3043032

To whom this may concern,

I am responding to the complaint brought against me stemming from the interaction I had with Enforcement Supervisor Ernest Snyder on September 9, 2023. I have attached a screenshot from a portion of our text conversation.



DATE OF DEPOSIT

NOV 20 2023

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
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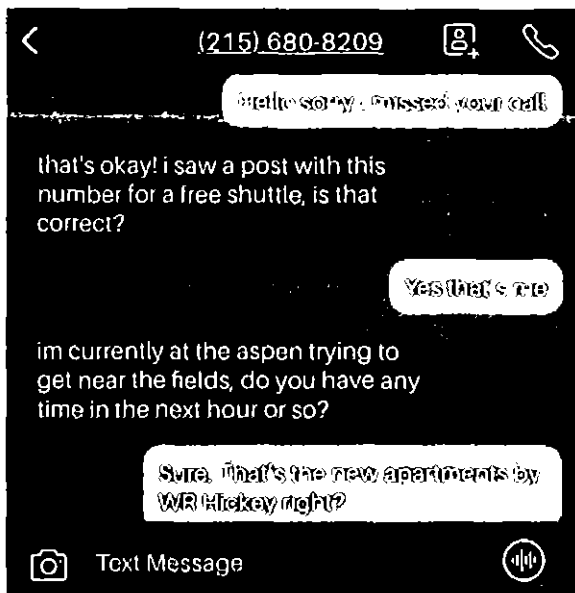
I would like to point out that when asked by Enforcement Supervisor Ernest Snyder how much I charge for a ride, I did not provide a fee. Donation/tip is not a required compensation. Out of the handful of people that asked me to help them with a ride, about half of them did not leave me with any type of donation/tip other than a genuine, "Thank you". For the few that did, it was to help cover the gas bill.

I would also like to point out that I was not publicizing this in the form of a sign or signage on my vehicle. I had made a post in a private Facebook group that I am part of for Penn State gameday information (unaffiliated with the university). It is comprised of Penn State fans looking for tickets, hotels and any other related information to help assist them when attending a football game.

As a life-long resident of State College and avid PSU football fan, I am aware of the shortages and frustrations that fellow PSU fans face when coming from out of town. We have people of all ages visiting and looking for assistance to help make their weekend a little easier. Some have shared that they don't have a smartphone or they don't know how to use the Uber app and having someone like myself make a post in the Facebook group was their only form of transportation that they could realistically use and count on.

One lady had told me she was suffering from lung damage due to Covid-19 and was unable to walk more than a block or 2 without having to sit down. She did not own a smartphone and taxis have been unreliable to her in past visits. She told me that she felt safe with me since we were both part of a private group of people with shared interests on Facebook and that mutual friends also in the private group had vouched for me. She called me on the day of the football game and asked for a ride which I was able to provide to her. She couldn't stop telling me how much this meant to her and that if it wasn't for me she may not have been able to attend the game.

I am usually asked by those I provide transportation for why I do this if I'm not requiring compensation. I explain to them that about 5 years ago a real close friend of mine from high school, was on duty as a police officer and was hit by a drunk driver. He was within minutes of losing his life. By the grace of God he was not only saved but is now back on duty with the police department after years of surgeries and healing. Knowing how much alcohol intake there is on any given football Saturday, and also knowing how long people have to wait for an Uber or Lyft simply due to supply and demand on football Saturday's, if I could play a small part in helping provide rides to limit the possibility of someone drunk driving then it is worth it to me. I have seen personally how one mistake like that can affect multiple people and families and if I could prevent just one instance of that it was worth my time.



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The screenshot of the text conversation above was from a PSU student. Her parent is part of the private Facebook group. Again, through vetting and being part of a private and not public group, her parent told her about my accommodations and she reached out to me. As you can see she asked if I was the person that offers, "free rides". I was able to provide her with a ride over to the game that day. Later that evening she reached back out to me for a ride home because she had been drinking but I told her I was unable to help her (due to my conversation with Ernest Snyder earlier that same day). I asked her that even though I couldn't help her to please be smart and try and find a friend that could help her. I checked in with her the next morning and thankfully she made it home safely.

From my conversation with Enforcement Supervisor Ernest Snyder I understand why there are Codes and Regulations for transportation. I also understand how someone with ill intentions could cause harm or take advantage. After looking into his database he let me know that this was the first time I had been made aware of these codes and regulations. He also thoroughly explained how I could proceed with doing this as long as I filled out all the proper paperwork and took the necessary steps and even provided me with paperwork on how to do that.

From my point of view I simply saw myself as a safety option for those that needed it. I knew I couldn't require compensation or put signage on my car. I saw myself as no different than someone picking up a hitchhiker or when a friend posts on Facebook that they need a ride to the grocery store since they don't own a vehicle themselves and would offer money for gas as a thank you.

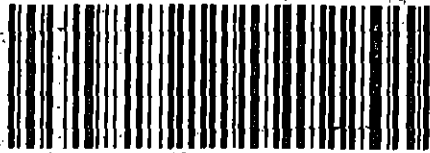
I am requesting that the Administrative Law Judge to please consider my viewpoint in all of this when making their final decision. I honestly thought I was simply providing a safe option to those within my circle of friends and mutual friends on football gamedays. As much as I would like to continue helping and especially with the passion that I have and the reason behind wanting to do so, I understand now that even nice deeds still have to be done the proper way. When speaking with Ernest Snyder he said he couldn't guarantee it one way or the other, but he did mention that since I had no prior history, it was more likely that I would only receive a warning. I ask that you please consider reducing this complaint to a warning.

Thank you,  
Jordan Forster

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7022 0410 0000 1213 2601

**Retail**



17120

**RDC 99**

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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LEMONT, PA 16851  
NOV. 20, 2023

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R2304H108313-06

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

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