

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION :
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT :

V. :

DOCKET NO. C-2024-3048817

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. That random inspections of the Respondent's vehicles took place on April 24, 2024, were conducted on Poplar Street, Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and the following violations were discovered.
4. That Respondent permitted taxi number 16, a 2014 Toyota, registration number TX51460 driven by Bernardino Cruz to operate. PUC Officer Neal Ebbert performed a Driver/Vehicle Compliance Report (DVCR) inspection on the vehicle. The following violations were discovered:
 - a. Vehicle battery securement was missing.
 - b. Vehicle horn inoperable.
 - c. No Commission consumer decal displayed.
 - d. Driver log sheet not in vehicle.
 - e. Driver admitted to not using meter.
5. That Respondent, by allowing taxi number 16 to be operated without a battery securement device, has violated 52 Pa. Code §29.402(1). The penalty for this violation is \$100.00.
6. That Respondent, by allowing taxi number 16 to be operated with an inoperable horn at the time of inspection, has violated 52 Pa. Code §29.402(1). The penalty for this violation is \$100.00
7. That Respondent, by allowing taxi number 16 to be operated without a Commission consumer decal, has violated 52 Pa. Code §29.306. The penalty for this violation is \$50.00.

8. That Respondent, by allowing taxi number 16 to be operated by the driver failing to possess a log sheet, has violated 52 Pa. Code §29.313(c). The penalty for this violation is \$50.00

9. That Respondent, by allowing taxi number 16 to be operated by a driver not using a meter, has violated 52 Pa. Code §29.314(7). The penalty for this violation is \$250.00

WHEREFORE, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that the Commission fine Latino Taxi Service, LLC the amount of five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) for the illegal activity described in this Complaint and order such other remedy as the Commission may deem to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian B. Mehus, Chief
Motor Carrier Enforcement
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

VERIFICATION

I, Brian B. Mehus, hereby state that the facts set forth above 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: 4 June 2024



Brian B. Mehus, 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, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or you may **eFile your Answer** using the Commission's website at 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, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or, **e-mailed to at:** 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, 2nd 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 proceedings 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.