

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION :
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT :

V. :

DOCKET NO. C-2024-3051159

BEST TAXI, LLC :
2304 WALNUT STREET :
HARRISBURG, PA 17103 :

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 BEST TAXI, LLC, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 2304 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, 17103.
2. That Respondent was issued a certificate of public convenience to transport, as a common carrier, by motor vehicle, persons in call or demand service on March 24, 2017, at PUC number A-6318529
3. That on September 9, 2024, PUC Enforcement Officer Travis Griffith emailed the carrier official, Maher Mohamed advising of an annual inspection of all vehicles and drivers for the carrier to take place on September 11, 2024.
4. That on September 11, 2024, Officer Griffith performed an annual inspection of the Respondent's vehicle presented, a 2013 Dodge Journey, PA registration TX51715, last 4 digits of the vehicle identification number being 9200. The driver of the vehicle was Terry Lee Ballent Sr. No violations were found of this vehicle.
5. That on the same date Officer Griffith requested driver qualification files. Respondent provided a document indicating that a criminal history request had been submitted on 6 December 2022. The status of the request was pending, and Respondent provided no evidence that he obtained or reviewed a criminal history report on the driver.
6. That Respondent operated a vehicle that was more than 10 model years old. A vehicle more than 10 model years old or more than 350,000 miles of cumulative mileage registered on its odometer may not be operated in call or demand service, this violates 52 PA §29.314. The penalty for this violation is \$500.00.
7. That Respondent, by failing to provide a criminal history report, has violated PA 52 §505(a)(1). The penalty for this violation is \$100.

WHEREFORE, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that the Commission fine Best Taxi, LLC, the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) 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 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: 30 September 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 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.