

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION :
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT :

V. :

DOCKET NO. C-2025-3051758

QUENTIN KURT WEST :
T/A CHECKER PREMIUM RIDESHARE :
7 E. MARSHALL AVE :
PITTSBURGH, PA 15214 :

COMPLAINT

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission or PUC) 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 QUENTIN KURT WEST, T/A CHECKER PREMIUM RIDESHARE, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 7 E. Marshall Ave, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15214.

2. That a certificate of public convenience issued by this Commission is required to transport passengers for compensation, in call or demand service, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Based on a review of the records maintained by the Commission, neither Quentin Kurt West nor Checker Premium Rideshare hold such a certificate of public convenience.

3. That on October 16, 2024, PA PUC Officers Ryan Balestra and Mia Fuller were conducting an investigation regarding unauthorized passenger transportation at the Pittsburgh Rivers Casino, 777 Casino Drive, Allegheny County, PA. Officer Balestra instructed Officer Fuller to obtain pictures of a red sedan with a dome light on the roof of the vehicle that read "AVAILABLE". Officer Balestra approached the vehicle and asked the driver if he was available for hire, to which the driver indicated he was. When asked about the fare from the casino to the Hofbrauhaus, 2705 S Water Street, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA, the driver stated it was probably \$25 to \$30, dependent on the meter. Officer Balestra asked if the car had a meter, to which the driver stated yes.

4. That on October 18, 2024, Officer Balestra conducted searches of enforcement sources which indicated the vehicle was registered to Quentin K West, and a photo driver license search showed the driver to be Quentin K West. A review of PUC records indicates the Respondent has never applied for and/or received authority/certificate from the Commission to provide call or demand services. Consequently, Respondent operates as a call or demand service (Taxi), without obtaining the required certificate / authority from the Commission is a violation of this Commission's regulations.

5. That 15 months earlier on July 6, 2023, Respondent had been issued a warning letter from PA PUC Motor Carrier Investigation and Enforcement Compliance for the transportation of passengers for compensation without authority/certificate. Respondent was also advised that by attaching a yellow roof light with the word "AVAILABLE" on his vehicle it was a violation of 75 PA C.S. §4307 and directed to cease and desist from further violations and the penalties that could be assessed due to those activities.

6. That Quentin Kurt West, by operating a vehicle for the purpose of transporting passengers for compensation, in call or demand service, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without receiving certificate/authority from the Commission, has violated 66 Pa. C.S. §1101 and 66 Pa. C.S. 3310. The penalty for this violation pursuant to the PUC Motor Carrier and Enforcement Penalty Guidelines as approved by this Commission is \$1,000 and suspension of the vehicle registration by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

WHEREFORE, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that the instant Complaint be GRANTED, that the Commission impose a civil penalty upon Quentin Kurt West, T/A Checker Premium Rideshare, in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the violations 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
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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: 14 January 2025

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:** 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.