

NOTICE OF MOTOR CARRIER COMPLAINT

- 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 should 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 **mailed to:**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keyston Building
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 exceeds 250 pages, you must also file a paper copy with the Secretary's Bureau.

In addition to filing your Answer with the Commission's Secretary, a copy should either be

Mailed to: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 3W
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 such remedy.
- C. If applicable, 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 "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania"** and should be forwarded to:

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keyston Building
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 fine and/or other such remedy.
- F. If you file an Answer which contests the Complaint, the matter will be assigned to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for hearing and decision. The ALJ 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.

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION :
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT :
: :
V. : DOCKET NO. C-2025-3052531
: :
CHRISTOPHER BARNETT :
T/A PRIME VIP TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LLC :
801 EAST PITTSBURGH MALL, APT C-2 :
EAST PITTSBURGH, PA 15112 :

MOTOR CARRIER 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 CHRISTOPHER BARNETT, T/A PRIME VIP TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LLC, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 801 East Pittsburgh Mall, Apt. C-2, East Pittsburgh, Pa 15112.
2. That a certificate of public convenience issued by this Commission is required to transport passengers for compensation, in call and demand service, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Based on review of records maintained by the Commission, neither Christopher Barnett nor Prime BIP Transportation Company LLC have ever received a certificate of public convenience for call and demand transportation services by this Commission.
3. That on or around February 7, 2025, PUC Enforcement Supervisor Ryan Balestra, in response to an informal complaint investigated Respondent using the PUC database. Supervisor Balestra discovered that Respondent applied for PUC authority/certificate on November 10, 2022, at Application Docket No. A-2022-3036870, PUC Utility Code 6425486, but the Application was denied on January 3, 2023. Internet searches also revealed Respondent’s Facebook page, which included photographs of Respondent’s vehicles and employees.
4. That on or around July 18, 2025, PUC Enforcement Officer Joseph Zalar contacted Respondent by text message, to arrange transportation for eight passengers from Rock of Ages Alliance Church, Cheswick, Allegheny County to Dave and Buster’s Restaurant, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County on August 1, 2025, and returning August 1, 2025. Respondent provided a quote of \$160-170 for the roundtrip.
5. That on August 1, 2025, PUC Enforcement Officer Andrew Rosenberger met Respondent at the Rock of Ages Church, and Officer Rosenberger conducted a Driver Vehicle Compliance Report (“DVCR”), concerning a certain 2006 Lincoln sedan bearing PA registration number MMW2046 and having vehicle identification number ending in the last 4 digits 0622 operated by the Respondent.
6. That Respondent, by advertising passenger transportation services by vehicle for compensation without obtaining/holding a certificate/authority from the Commission, has violated 66 Pa Code §§1101, 1102(a) and 3310. The penalty for this violation is \$1,000.

WHEREFORE, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that Respondent be directed, as detailed below:

1. The Commission fine CHRISTOPHER BARNETT, T/A PRIME VIP TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LLC, the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the illegal activity described in this Complaint and order such other remedy as the Commission may deem to be appropriate.

2. Respondent shall cease and desist from transporting passengers between points in Pennsylvania for compensation until such time as the proper authority has been granted by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian B. Mehus, Chief
Motor Carrier Enforcement
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
400 North Street 2nd Floor
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: 22 September 2025

Brian B. Mehus, Chief
Motor Carrier Enforcement
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement