

BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT

in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

DOCKET NO. C-2025-3055948

AHMAD JIHAD MAHMOUD  
T/A STEEL CITY RIDE  
1522 WAREMAN AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15226

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 -Motor Carrier Division hereby represents as follows:

1. That AHMAD JIHAD MAHMOUD, T/A STEEL CITY RIDE, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 1522 Wareman Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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 review of the records maintained by the Commission, neither Ahmad Jihad Mahmoud nor Steel City Ride have ever applied for or received a certificate of public convenience for call or demand transportation services by this Commission.

3. That on October 24, 2024, PUC Enforcement Supervisor Ryan Balestra encountered a Subaru Forester, bearing PA registration number LXZ9073 and Steel City Ride dome light affixed on top of the vehicle, parked at the Greyhound bus station. At that time Supervisor Balestra determined that the vehicle belonged to Ahmad Jihad Mahmoud and that the company, Steel City Ride, did not have PUC authority. Supervisor Balestra instructed the driver, Fadi Jihad Mahmoud, to remove the light, or it would be seized as Respondent did not have PUC authority to act as a call or demand service.

4. That on March 18, 2025, the Commission's Pittsburgh Regional Office received a complaint including a photograph of a Honda Civic, bearing PA registration number JHL8202 and a Steel City Ride illuminated dome light affixed on top of the vehicle, driving on Sussex Avenue at Woodbourne Avenue in Pittsburgh. On March 19, 2025, the Commission determined that vehicle belonged to Respondent. A formal complaint could not be issued upon Respondent as it was not apparent that the vehicle was transporting passengers for compensation on March 18, 2025.

5. That on June 20, 2025, Supervisor Balestra and PUC Enforcement Officer Mia Fuller were stationed at 400 North Shore Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, observing a grey sedan affixed with a Steel City Ride illuminated dome light. As the vehicle approached, Supervisor Balestra hailed the vehicle and requested a ride from North Shore Drive to the Steel Mill Saloon in Mt. Washington to which the driver stated the price as \$35. Supervisor Balestra recognized the driver, Fadi Jihad Mahmoud, from the October 22, 2024 encounter, detailed in paragraph 3, above. Officer Fuller took pictures of the vehicle, including the Steel City Ride dome light and PA registration

## 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 Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or you may eFile your Answer using the Commission's website at [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov). The link to eFiling is located under the Filing & Resources tab on the homepage. If your Answer is 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](mailto: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. 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 forwarded to:

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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.

number MNE7855. Supervisor Balestra and Officer Fuller observed the vehicle multiple times the night of June 20, 2025, being hailed for rides.

6. That on June 23, 2025, Supervisor Balestra completed a Driver Vehicle Compliance Report ("DVCR") concerning the incident on June 20, 2025. Supervisor Balestra investigated the PA registration number attached to the vehicle in the pictures revealing the vehicle was a grey 2009 grey Honda Civic registered to Ahmad Jihad Mahmoud. Supervisor Balestra also determined the vehicle detailed in paragraph 4, above, to be the same vehicle observed on June 20, 2025, detailed in paragraph 5, above, registered to Respondent.

7. 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 AHMED JIHAD MAHMOUD, T/A STEEL CITY RIDE, 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 passenger between points in Pennsylvania for compensation until such time as the proper authority has been granted by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Brian B. Mehus, Chief  
Motor Carrier Enforcement  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**VERIFICATION**

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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.

to the...  
of the...



Date: 19 August 2025

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

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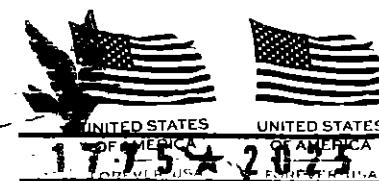
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