

## NOTICE OF 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 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 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](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 civil penalty, the suspension or revocation of your operating authority or other such remedy.
- C. You may elect not to contest this Complaint by paying the civil penalty requested in this Complaint by certified check or money order. **Payment must be made to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania"** and should be 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 civil penalty 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 requested civil penalty.
- 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-2026-3058102
	:	
LATINO TAXI SERVICE LLC	:	
29 EAST BROAD STREET	:	
WEST HAZLETON, PA 18202	:	

**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 LATINO TAXI SERVICE LLC, Respondent, maintains its principal place of business at 29 East Broad Street, West Hazleton, PA 18202.
2. That Respondent was issued a certificate of public convenience for taxi authority by this Commission on October 11, 2017, at PUC Utility Code 6320054.
3. That on October 15, 2025, PUC Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers from the Scranton District Office were assigned to conduct random taxi inspections within Hazleton City. Respondent was contacted via telephone in an attempt to conduct inspections on Poplar Street, Hazleton City, Luzerne County of Respondent’s taxicabs not involved in a fare. When any taxicabs failed to arrive, Officer’ Neal Ebbert and Kevin Kistulentz arrived at the Respondent’s principal place of business. Officers Ebbert and Kistulentz requested to speak to the owner and requested all drivers’ files for inspection. The owner was not available and had the only key to the cabinet where the files were located. Inspection of the drivers’ files were rescheduled for October 22, 2025. The officers returned to Poplar Street, whereupon 4 taxicabs were available for inspection. carrier’s address to address the issue of noncompliance.
4. That on October 15, 2025, Officer Kistulentz conducted an inspection on Poplar Street, Hazleton City, Luzerne County of a 2015 Honda passenger vehicle, bearing PA registration number TX51437, and having the vehicle identification number ending in the last 4 digits 8175, driven by Ruben Dario Polanco Carballo. The following violations were found:
  - a. Taxicab did not display a working dome light, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.314(d). The penalty for this violation is \$100.
  - b. Taxicab did not have the complaint decal displayed, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.318. The penalty for this violation is \$50.
  - c. Taxicab failed did not have the fare rates posted in the vehicle, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.316(a). The penalty for this violation is \$50

5. That on October 22, 2025, Officers Ebbert and Kistulentz returned to Respondent's principal place of business to examine the drivers' files. At the time of the inspection, Respondent employed 42 drivers. The following violations were found:

- a. Respondent did not have criminal history on file for 1 driver, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.505(b). The penalty for this violation is \$100.
- b. Respondent did not have driver history on file for 1 driver, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.504(b). The penalty for this violation is \$100.
- c. Respondent did not have initial criminal history for 26 drivers predating the date of hire, having instead criminal history for the 26 drivers that had been requested after Officers Ebbert and Kistulentz asked to review the drivers' files on October 15, 2025, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.505(b). The penalty for this violation is \$2600.
- d. Respondent did not have initial driver history for 26 drivers predating the date of hire, having instead driver history for the 26 drivers that had been requested after Officers Ebbert and Kistulentz asked to review the drivers' files on October 15, 2025, in violation of 52 Pa. Code §29.504(b). The penalty for this violation is \$2600.

**WHEREFORE**, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement hereby requests that the Commission impose a civil penalty of five thousand six hundred dollars (\$5600.00) upon LATINO TAXI SERVICE LLC for the violations described in this Complaint and order such other remedy as the Commission may deem to be appropriate. If payment of the civil penalty is not made, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement requests that the matter be referred to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for appropriate action.

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**

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: 27 February 2026



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