

Decision No. R14-0868

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0495BP

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DIVINE ROYAL CARE FOR A PERMIT TO OPERATE AS A CONTRACT CARRIER BY MOTOR VEHICLE FOR HIRE.

**RECOMMENDED DECISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
ROBERT I. GARVEY
ACCEPTING AMENDMENTS; DISMISSING
INTERVENTIONS; VACATING HEARING; GRANTING
APPLICATION AMENDED UNDER MODIFIED
PROCEDURE; AND CLOSING PROCEEDING**

Mailed Date: July 23, 2014

I. STATEMENT

1. On May 16, 2014, Divine Royal Care LLC (Divine Royal or Applicant), filed an Application for New Permanent Authority to Operate as a Contract Carrier of Passengers by Motor Vehicle for Hire. That filing commenced this proceeding.

2. On May 19, 2014, the Commission issued its Notice of Application Filed (Notice) in this proceeding by publishing a summary of the same in its Notice as follows:

For authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire for the transportation of

passengers

between all points in the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson, State of Colorado.

RESTRICTIONS: This application is restricted:

- (A) to the transportation of passengers who are recipients of Medicaid; and
- (B) to providing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 1570 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203.

3. On June 5, 2014, MKBS, LLC, doing business as Metro Taxi and/or Taxis Fiesta and/or South Suburban Taxi (Metro Taxi) filed their Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intervention of Right through counsel. This filing attached Commission Authority No. 1481 held by Metro Taxi and a preliminary list of witnesses and exhibits.

4. On June 18, 2014, Colorado Cab Company LLC (Colorado Cab), doing business as, Denver Yellow Cab and Colorado Springs Transportation LLC (Springs), timely intervened of right through counsel. This filing attached Commission Authority No. 2378 held by Colorado Cab and Commission Authority No. 109 held by Springs.

5. On June 25, 2014, by Minute Order, the Commission deemed the application complete and referred this matter to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

6. By Decision No. R14-0728-I, issued June 27, 2014, a prehearing conference was held on July 10, 2014.

7. On July 22, 2014, the Parties filed their Stipulated Motion for Imposition of Restrictive Amendments and Conditional Withdrawal of Interventions.

8. Under the amendment, the restrictively amended authority will read:

For authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire for the transportation of

passengers

between all points in the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson, State of Colorado.

RESTRICTIONS:

- (A) to the transportation of passengers who are recipients of Medicaid;
- (B) to providing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 1570 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203;
- (C) against providing transportation to or from hotels, motels, and airports;

- (D) against transportation originating from any point in Douglas County, State of Colorado, that is located south of a line beginning on the Douglas/Jefferson County boundary, and extends to a point on the Douglas/Elbert County boundary, said line is parallel to the northern El Paso County boundary as drawn through exit 172 of Interstate 25; and
- (E) to the operation of no more than two vehicles at any given time.

9. To be acceptable, restrictions must be restrictive in nature, clear and understandable, and administratively enforceable. Both the authority and any restriction on that authority must be unambiguous and must be contained wholly within the permit. Both must be worded so that a person will know, from reading the permit and without having to resort to any other document, the exact extent of the authority and of each restriction. Clarity is essential because the scope of an authority must be found within the four corners of the permit, which is the touchstone by which one determines whether the operation of a contract carrier is within the scope of its Commission-granted authority. The proposed amendment to the Application meets these standards.

10. The ALJ finds and concludes that the proposed amendment is restrictive in nature, is clear and understandable, and is administratively enforceable.

11. The restriction to the authority sought by Applicant (*i.e.*, the amendment to the Application) will be accepted.

12. Accepting the amendment to the Application has two impacts. First, the authority sought will be amended to conform to the restrictive amendment. Second, the intervention of the Intervenors will be withdrawn.

13. Withdrawal of the interventions and dismissal of the Intervenors leaves the Application, as amended, uncontested. Pursuant to § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S., and Rule 1403 of the

Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1, the uncontested application may be processed under the modified procedure, without a formal hearing.

14. In accordance with § 40-6-109, C.R.S., the ALJ now transmits to the Commission the record in this proceeding along with a written recommended decision.

II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

15. Applicant is a Colorado limited liability company in good standing.

16. Applicant requests authority to operate as a contract carrier. By the Application, Divine Royal seeks authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire:

For authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire for the transportation of

passengers

between all points in the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson, State of Colorado.

RESTRICTIONS:

- (A) to the transportation of passengers who are recipients of Medicaid;
- (B) to providing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 1570 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203;
- (C) against providing transportation to or from hotels, motels, and airports;
- (D) against transportation originating from any point in Douglas County, State of Colorado, that is located south of a line beginning on the Douglas/Jefferson County boundary, and extends to a point on the Douglas/Elbert County boundary, said line is parallel to the northern El Paso County boundary as drawn through exit 172 of Interstate 25; and
- (E) to the operation of no more than two vehicles at any given time.

17. The verified Application establishes that Applicant is familiar with the Rules Regulating Transportation by Motor Vehicle, 4 CCR 723-6, and agrees to be bound by, and to comply with, those rules. The verified Application and its supporting documentation establish

that Applicant has sufficient equipment with which to render the proposed service and is financially fit to conduct operations under the authority requested. In addition, the verified Application establishes that the service proposed is specialized and tailored to meet the customer's distinct needs. Finally, review of the verified Application indicates a need for the proposed service. Therefore, because the Applicant is fit, financially and otherwise, to perform the proposed service and because the other prerequisites have been met, the permit should be granted.

18. In accordance with § 40-6-109, C.R.S., the ALJ recommends that the Commission enter the following order.

III. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Stipulated Motion for Imposition of Restrictive Amendments and Conditional Withdrawal of Interventions filed by Metro Taxi and/or Taxis Fiesta and/or South Suburban Taxi; Colorado Cab Company LLC, doing business as, Denver Yellow Cab, Colorado Springs Transportation LLC; and Divine Royal Care on July 22, 2014, is granted.

2. The evidentiary hearing scheduled for August 22, 2014 is vacated.

3. The interventions filed by, MKBS, LLC, doing business as Metro Taxi and/or Taxis Fiesta and/or South Suburban Taxi and Colorado Cab Company LLC, doing business as, Denver Yellow Cab and Colorado Springs Transportation LLC are withdrawn and they are dismissed from the proceeding.

4. The Application to Operate as a Contract Carrier of Passengers by Motor Vehicle filed by, Divine Royal Care, as amended, is granted.

5. Divine Royal Care, is granted authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire as follows:

For authority to operate as a contract carrier by motor vehicle for hire for the transportation of

passengers

between all points in the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson, State of Colorado.

RESTRICTIONS:

- (A) to the transportation of passengers who are recipients of Medicaid;
- (B) to providing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 1570 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203;
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- (E) to the operation of no more than two vehicles at any given time.

6. Divine Royal Care shall operate in accordance with all applicable Colorado laws and Commission rules. All operations under the permit granted shall be strictly contract carrier operations.

7. Divine Royal Care shall not commence operation until it has complied with the requirements of Colorado laws and Commission rules, including without limitation:

- (a) causing proof of insurance (Form E or self-insurance) or surety bond (Form G) coverage to be filed with the Commission;
- (b) paying to the Commission, the motor vehicle fee (\$5) for each vehicle to be operated under authority granted by the Commission, or in lieu thereof, paid the fee for such vehicle(s) pursuant to the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement;

- (c) having an effective tariff on file with the Commission. [Divine Royal Care shall file an advice letter and tariff on not less than ten days' notice. The advice letter and tariff shall be filed as a new Advice Letter proceeding and shall comply with all applicable rules. In calculating the proposed effective date, the date received at the Commission is not included in the notice period and the entire notice period must expire prior to the effective date. (Additional tariff information can be found on the Commission's website at dora.colorado.gov/puc and by following the transportation common and contract carrier links to tariffs)]; and
- (d) paying the applicable issuance fee (\$5).

8. If Divine Royal Care does not cause proof of insurance or surety bond to be filed, pay the appropriate motor vehicle fees, file an advice letter and proposed tariff, and pay the issuance fee within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, then the grant of the Permit shall be void. For good cause shown, the Commission may grant additional time for compliance if the request for additional time is filed within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision.

9. The Commission will notify Divine Royal Care in writing when the Commission's records demonstrate compliance with ¶ 7.

10. Proceeding No. 14A-0495BP is closed.

11. This Recommended Decision shall be effective on the day it becomes the Decision of the Commission, if that is the case, and is entered as of the date above.

12. As provided by § 40-6-106, C.R.S., copies of this Recommended Decision shall be served upon the parties, who may file exceptions to it.

a) If no exceptions are filed within 20 days after service or within any extended period of time authorized, or unless the recommended decision is stayed by the Commission upon its own motion, the recommended decision shall become the decision of the Commission and subject to the provisions of § 40-6-114, C.R.S.

b) If a party seeks to amend, modify, annul, or reverse a basic finding of fact in its exceptions, that party must request and pay for a transcript to be filed, or the parties may stipulate to portions of the transcript according to the procedure stated in § 40-6-113, C.R.S. If no transcript or stipulation is filed, the Commission is bound by the facts set out by the administrative law judge; and the parties cannot challenge these facts. This will limit what the Commission can review if exceptions are filed.

13. If exceptions to this Recommended Decision are filed, they shall not exceed 30 pages in length, unless the Commission for good cause shown permits this limit to be exceeded.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ROBERT I. GARVEY

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dean".

Doug Dean,
Director