



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546 NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546 Phone:



(860) 594-2875

## DOCKET NO. 0703-TH-61-HG

RE: APPLICATION OF COLLEGIAN MOVERS, INC TO TRANSFER ITS HEADQUARTERS, FROM BRIDGEPORT TO MILFORD, FOR THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR HIRE, AS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS CARRIER OVER IRREGULAR ROUTES BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT, UPON CALLS RECEIVED FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS.

FINAL DECISION

December 20, 2007

## I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

#### A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on March 19, 2007, pursuant to Section 13b-399 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Collegian Movers, Inc. (hereinafter "applicant"), located at 674 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, Connecticut, seeks approval by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department") of its transfer of headquarters from Bridgeport to Milford, Connecticut, in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-304-F4.

#### B. Hearing

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-390, a hearing on this application was held at the administrative office of the department, in Newington, Connecticut on October 11, 2007. Due to defective notice, a second day of hearing was held on November 14, 2007 after proper notice to all interested parties.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to other parties as required by General Statutes Section 13b-390. Legal notice to the public was given by publication in The Connecticut Post, a newspaper having a circulation in the area of concern.

Further, the applicant provided legal notice on March 5, 2007 in the New Haven Register, a newspaper having a circulation in the area of concern. A letter of opposition was received by the department on March 15, 2007.

The matter was heard by a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to General Statutes Section 13b-17.

## C. <u>Appearances</u>

The applicant appeared through and was represented by Matthew Fernschild, president of the company. Collegian Movers, Inc. is located at 674 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, Connecticut.

Sheldon Lubin, utilities examiner for the department, was present at the hearing.

No opposition was presented to this request on either day of hearing.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The applicant is a household goods mover that had its headquarters in Bridgeport, Connecticut and is holder of certificate number 589.
  - 2. Matthew Fernschild is the owner of the applicant company.
- 3. The applicant had its office on one side of town and the warehouse on the other side of town.
  - 4. The lease for the storage facility expired on October 31, 2006.
- 5. The lease for the headquarters office space expired on December 31, 2006.
- 6. The applicant sought to extend the lease for the office location, however, the landlord would not commit to renewing the office lease "as is", requiring the applicant to begin a search for a new location.
- 7. While the applicant entered into a contract with the new landlord in August 2006, the final requirement for the execution of the contract was not completed until the beginning of January.
- 8. The applicant's anticipated move and all of the work preparing for the move continued at a rapid pace and when it was evidence that the move would be happening, the applicant requested an application from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Regulatory and Compliance Unit for the transfer of headquarters.
- 9. The applicant moved 7.8 miles from its prior location and had minimal impact on the household goods marketplace.
- 10. The applicant is in a position now to better serve the needs of its existing customer base in southern Fairfield County.
- 11. The move to the Milford facility was an opportunity for the applicant to maintain its current storage costs to its existing customer base.
- 12. Fifty percent of the applicant's storage customers were in lower Fairfield County towns and twenty percent were out of state, thirty percent were in other towns within Fairfield County or Connecticut.

## III. <u>DISCUSSION</u>

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over any person operating any motor vehicle in the transportation of household goods for hire as a household goods carrier pursuant to Section 13b-389 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Further, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RSCA) Section 16-304-F4 requires each intrastate common carrier holding authority to transport property for hire, on call received at a headquarters specified in its certificate, shall not change the location of such headquarters to a point outside the named city or town without prior commissioner approval.

In this case, the transfer of headquarters took place prior to the hearing process due to exigent circumstances of expired leases and failure of a landlord to renew said leases before the expiration date.

## IV. <u>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</u>

Based on the evidence, the transfer of headquarters is in the best interest of the public. Although the move took place prior to department approval, in violation of RSCA Section 16-304-F4, under the circumstances, and because no opposition was presented to this application, the transfer is approved.

# V. <u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the above and pursuant to Section 13b-391 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the application of Collegian Movers, Inc. is hereby approved.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut, on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2007.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Laila A. Mandour

Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration