

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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DOCKET NUMBER 1212-C-165-T

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE CITATION OF SAUGATUCK TAXI, LLC.

REVISED FINAL DECISION

MARCH 25, 2015

#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. General

By citation dated January 9, 2015 and March 4, 2015, by the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended, Saugatuck Taxi, LLC. (hereinafter "respondent"), holder of Certificate Number 1174, was ordered to come before the department to answer the allegations made therein.

Pursuant to said citation, the respondent was directed to appear at the Newington office of the Department of Transportation to show cause why Certificate Number 1174, issued for the operation of taxicab service, should not be suspended or revoked or a civil penalty imposed for violation of its certificate pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, et seq.

More specifically, it is alleged that the respondent violated the following Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- 1. 13b-96-43 (9) Unapproved stickers and decals.
- 2. 13b-96-44 (e) Advertising on exterior windows

The citation was served upon the respondent by certified mail and recited the department's reasons for issuing it.

#### B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the public hearing for this citation was held on January 22, 2015. On March 19, 2015, the record in this matter was reopened at the request of the respondent.

Notice of the citation and the hearings to be held thereon was given to the respondent and to such other parties as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended.

The hearings on this matter were conducted by a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to Section 13b-17 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

## C. Appearances

The respondent made an appearance in this matter through Robert Rivera, manager and Betty Rivera, owner. The respondent's mailing address is P.O. Box 2575, Westport, Connecticut 06880.

Richard Majka, Transportation Public Transit Inspector with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit, presented evidence on behalf of the department.

#### II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The respondent is the holder of Certificate 1174 and is authorized to operate in taxicab service.
- 2. On December 30, 2014, the Department of Transportation received a written complaint from Westport Star Taxi concerning decals and stickers applied to the respondent's vehicles. The complaint also included four photographs of the decals in question.
- 3. The department sent the respondent a warning letter on December 30, 2014, indicating that its company was under investigation for potential violations.
  - 4. The respondent did not have prior department approval to place decals or advertisements on its vehicle.

- 5. The respondent's Certificate Number 1174 was revoked when the respondent failed to make an appearance at the original hearing on January 22, 2015.
- 6. The respondent requested to have the hearing reopened which was granted and the matter was rescheduled for March 19, 2015.
  - 7. The respondent subsequently corrected the violations before the second hearing on March 19, 2015.
- 8. The respondent and the Department of Transportation entered into a stipulated agreement concerning the outcome of this citation matter. In addition to correcting the violations, the respondent was to pay a civil penalty of \$100 and to file a new information sheet containing updated phone numbers and addresses for its permanent authority file.

# III. <u>DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS</u>

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the operation of motor vehicles in taxicab service in the State of Connecticut accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, the department may amend or for sufficient cause suspend or revoke any such certificate. Further, the department may impose a civil penalty on any person who violates any provision of the governing chapter or any regulation adopted under Section 13b-96, as amended, with respect to fares, service, operation or equipment, in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars per day for each violation.

The evidence shows that the respondent had decals and advertising on its taxicab vehicles which were not approved by the department. There was no authorization be the department for allowing those decals or advertising on the vehicles as required by the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The respondent has since corrected the violations and subsequently entered into a stipulated agreement with the department regarding a resolution to this citation matter in which it agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$100 and file an updated information sheet. The respondent complied with these orders.

## IV. ORDER

Based on the above, Livery Permit Number 1174 is hereby reinstated. The respondent, Saugatuck Taxi, LLC was hereby ordered to pay to the Department of Transportation, a civil penalty in the amount of \$100 (ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS) by certified check, bank check or money order made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Connecticut," within THIRTY (30) days from the date of this final decision. The respondent has already paid the civil penalty in this matter.

This final decision constitutes notice in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-182(c).

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this the 25th day of March 2015.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Judith Almeida

Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration