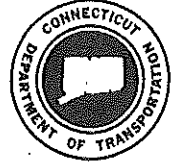




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

(860) 594-2875

DOCKET NUMBER 1407-N-137-L

RE: APPLICATION OF ABDELAZIZ ABOUCHAAOUA DBA CASABLANCA LIMO TO OPERATE ONE (1) MOTOR VEHICLE, HAVING A SEATING CAPACITY OF LESS THAN ELEVEN (11) ADULTS, IN GENERAL LIVERY SERVICE BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT FROM A HEADQUARTERS IN WEST HAVEN.

FINAL DECISION

November 18, 2014

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. General

By application filed on July 11, 2014, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-103 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Abdelaaziz Abouchaaoua dba Casablanca Limo (hereinafter "applicant") with a mailing address of 4 Marydale Road, West Haven, Connecticut 06516 seeks authorization to operate one (1) motor vehicle, having a seating capacity of less than eleven (11) adults, in general livery service between all points in Connecticut from a headquarters in the town of West Haven.

### B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103, as amended, a public hearing on this application was held on November 13, 2014.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to such other parties as required pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

A hearing officer designated by the Commissioner, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17, conducted the hearing on this matter.

### C. Appearances

Abdelaaziz Abouchaaoua appeared on behalf of the applicant. He was represented by Attorney Michael Stone whose mailing address is 129 Church Street, Suite 806, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

## II. FINDING OF FACTS

1. The applicant seeks to operate one (1) vehicle in intrastate livery service from a headquarters in West Haven.
2. The applicant has been a taxicab driver for the last six years in addition to being a shuttle bus driver for Yale New Haven Hospital in 2007. The applicant is currently a taxicab driver for Heritage Taxi.
3. The applicant speaks Arabic, English, French and a little bit of German.
4. Both Mr. Abouchaaoua and his wife have the necessary endorsements to drive a livery vehicle.
5. The applicant plans to purchase a 2009 Lincoln Town Car to use in the business. The vehicle has a fair market value of \$19,998. He will finance part of the vehicles purchase.

6. The applicant has \$14,167 cash on hand,

7. The applicant's expenses are the annual insurance premium for the vehicle of \$6,500, current liabilities of \$266, business cards of \$155, cell phone costs of \$1,200, advertising costs of \$300, repairs and maintenance of \$900, legal fees of \$500 and property tax of \$561.

8. The applicant's wife will be working in the office which will be located in their home.

9. The applicant has many clients with whom he has networked as a taxicab driver who want to use his livery service. One example of the applicant's corporate accounts is the Knights of Columbus in New Haven.

10. Jean Marie Vitale testified in support of the application. She is the Director of the West Haven Family Resource Center. She has known the applicant for four years and she highly recommends him to receive a livery license. There is a growing Arabic population in West Haven and some of the young families have mothers that don't drive so there is a need for the applicant's livery service.

11. Vyctoria Ullah met the applicant through a play group at the West Haven Family Resource Center. She and her husband have used the applicant for transportation and have found him to be prompt and professional. Her family is willing to pay more for a premium transportation service and have recommended the applicant's service to others.

12. Mohammed Nadif has known the applicant for twelve years. He is a customer of the applicant's taxicab service and plans to use the applicant when he starts his livery service. He does not mind paying more for livery transportation because he is pleased with the applicant's service.

13. Maimuna Farooqi is an administrator at a private Islamic school in Hamden. She and her family have used to applicant for transportation and she feels safe in recommending the applicant to other families who may need to transport their children to her school. Her experience with another livery company called Kiddie Cabs was awful so she cannot recommend their service.

14. There was no opposition to this application.

### III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The department has jurisdiction over each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a motor vehicle in livery service, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-102, as amended.

In determining whether a livery permit should be granted, the department shall take into consideration the present or future public convenience and necessity. The applicant must prove that the public's convenience and necessity will be improved by the proposed service. Additionally, the applicant must show the suitability of the applicant or the suitability of the management if the

applicant is a limited liability company or corporation, the financial responsibility of the applicant, the ability of the applicant efficiently and properly to perform the service for which authority is requested and the fitness, willingness and ability of the applicant to conform to the provisions of the statutes and the requirements and regulations of the department thereunder, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103.

In support of financial wherewithal the applicant has presented evidence that he has plans to purchase a 2009-2010 Lincoln Town Car to use in the business. This vehicle has a fair market value of \$19,998. Some of the vehicle purchase price will be financed. The applicant's total assets are \$14,167 cash. The applicant's business expenses include the annual insurance premium of \$6,500, current liabilities of \$266, business cards of \$155, cell phone costs of \$1,200, advertising costs of \$300, repairs and maintenance of \$900, legal fees of \$500 and property tax of \$561. Based on the evidence presented, the applicant has proven the financial suitability to operate this livery service for the six month start-up period.

With regard to suitability, the applicant provided the requisite criminal conviction history for Abdelaaziz Abouchaaoua which showed no criminal record. Mr. Abouchaaoua has been a taxicab driver since 2008. Before that, the applicant operated an import/export business, so he has business experience. Mr. Abouchaaoua appears ready, willing and able to operate the proposed vehicle in livery service and can efficiently and properly operate the service.

The applicant must also prove public convenience and necessity. In that regard, the applicant presented several witnesses who testified that they used the applicant for transportation as a taxicab driver but they also wanted to use the applicant's new livery service if he received authority. They did not mind paying more for the livery service. One witness mentioned difficulty of her students getting transported to her school and the problems she experienced with another livery provider which she could not recommend.

Although the applicant can speak several languages which might be a plus for some customers, the department does not grant livery applications based on language needs of the population. The applicant also presented several letters of support from current customers for the livery service. These letters were taken into evidence since the application was not opposed but they are considered of limited weight due to the signatories not being present at the hearing to testify.

Based on the evidence presented, the applicant has shown that public convenience and necessity would be improved if he were to be granted one (1) livery permit. The applicant also proved suitability and the financial stability to be granted a certificate.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103, as amended, the application of Abdelaaziz Abouchaaoua dba Casablanca Limo is hereby granted and livery permit number 3462 is issued as follows:

Abdelaaziz Abouchaaoua  
DBA Casablanca Limo  
Docket No.1407-N-137-L  
Page 4 of 5

LIVERY PERMIT NO. 3462  
FOR THE OPERATION OF LIVERY SERVICE

Abdelaaziz Abouchaoua dba Casablanca Limo is hereby permitted and authorized to operate one (1) motor vehicle, having a seating capacity of less than eleven (11), in general livery service from a headquarters in West Haven.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

**The applicant must register the one (1) vehicle granted under this decision within sixty (60) days from the date of this decision.**


The authority granted under this permit may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational, i.e. a vehicle registered with livery plates there under for not less than twenty-four (24) months.

This permit shall remain in effect until revoked by the department. Failure of the permit holder to maintain proper insurance and/or comply with all pertinent motor vehicle laws and other state statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the department may from time to time prescribe thereunder.

A memorandum of this permit, bearing the seal of the department, shall be kept conspicuously posted in the motor vehicles operated under this permit.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

  
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Judith Almeida  
Staff Attorney III  
Administrative Law Unit  
Bureau of Finance and Administration

Abdelaaziz Abouchaoua  
DBA Casablanca Limo  
Docket No.1407-N-137-L  
Page 5 of 5