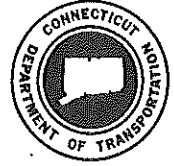


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

DOCKET NO. 1612-N-142-T

RE: APPLICATION OF CHOICE TAXI TO OPERATE THREE (3) MOTOR VEHICLES IN TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN AND TO AND FROM THE TOWNS OF BLOOMFIELD, EAST HARTFORD, EAST WINDSOR, ENFIELD, FARMINGTON, GRANBY, HARTFORD, MANCHESTER, NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL, SIMSBURY, SOUTH WINDSOR, VERNON, WEST HARTFORD, WETHERSFIELD, WINDSOR, ELLINGTON, COVENTRY AND WINDSOR LOCKS.

DECISION

August 1, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on December 21, 2016, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Choice Taxi, LLC (hereinafter "applicant") with a mailing address of 563 Center Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06518 seeks authorization to operate three (3) motor vehicles in taxicab service within and to and from the towns of Bloomfield, East Hartford, East Windsor, Enfield, Farmington, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, Ellington, Coventry and Windsor Locks.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, a public hearing on this application was held at the Department of Transportation in Newington, Connecticut on July 25, 2017.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to such other parties as required by Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

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

C. Appearances

Jame Adams, Musa Sebadukka and Mohamoud Hussein appeared on behalf of the applicant. The applicant was represented by Attorney Michael Stone with a mailing address of 129 Church Street, Suite 806, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

D. Application Amended

The applicant amended the application to remove the request to operate in East Windsor.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The applicant is seeking to operate three (3) motor vehicles in taxicab service within and to and from the towns of Bloomfield, East Hartford, Enfield, Farmington, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, Ellington, Coventry and Windsor Locks.

2. All three members of the applicant are current taxicab drivers with many years of experience.

3. Iesha Matthews is a four to five times a week customer of Musa Sebadukka. The service he provides to her is prompt and respectful. Her taxicab use is in Hartford, West Hartford, Manchester and Wethersfield.

4. Roy Angus is an occasional customer of Jame Adams. The service is safe, prompt and reliable. His trips are in Windsor, South Windsor, Windsor Locks, Wethersfield, Newington, West Hartford, Hartford and Bloomfield.

5. Caleb Rodrequez is an occasional customer of Mr. Adams. He is not satisfied with the long waiting times other taxicab services have. Most of his trips are within Hartford.

6. Abby Williams is a customer of Mr. Sebadukka. She used his service for over a year to go to and from work in Farmington and the airport in Windsor Locks. She had issues with dirty vehicles and rude drivers with other services. Her transportation needs are for West Hartford, Hartford, South Windsor, Manchester and Newington. Her current taxicab need is about seven times a month.

7. Daniel Smedley is a customer of Mr. Hussein. He was using the service to go to and from work daily in the past in New Britain. Although, he has a car now, he will occasionally still use the service for example when he went to the

fireworks in Newington recently. He found the service to be safe, prompt and reliable.

8. Brianna Cox is a customer of Mr. Hussein having used the service to go to work in Southington from New Britain. Mr. Hussein operates a clean car and allows Ms. Cox to transport her dogs with her which some drivers do not allow. She has also recommended his service to others.

9. Several members of the applicant company have connections with Hartford area hotels like the Marriott, the Goodwin and the Hilton from which they will get additional customers.

10. The applicant's first six months of expenses includes insurance costs of \$12,228, vehicle financing of \$5,362, cell phone charges of \$1,800, maintenance of \$2,700, property tax of \$1,228, business cards of \$450 and advertising of \$600 for a total expense of \$23,368.

11. The applicant has \$24,433 in a Peoples Bank account.

12. There was no opposition to this application.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over common carriers, which include each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in the State of Connecticut in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended. The Department is authorized to prescribe regulations with respect to fares, service, operation and equipment, as it deems necessary for the convenience, protection and safety of the passengers and the public.

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a), as amended, any person who applies for authority to operate a taxicab shall obtain from the Department a certificate of public convenience and necessity certifying that the public's convenience and necessity requires the operation of a taxicab or taxicabs for the transportation of passengers. No certificate shall be issued unless the department finds that the person is suitable to operate a taxicab service. In so doing, the department must

take into consideration any convictions of the applicant under federal, state or local laws relative to safety, motor vehicle or criminal violations, the number of taxicabs to be operated under the certificate, the adequacy of the applicant's financial resources to operate the service, the adequacy of insurance coverage and safety equipment and the availability of qualified operators.

With regard to suitability, the applicant submitted State Police Bureau of Identification Criminal History Form for all three members which show no criminal record. Each member is a long standing taxicab driver and the witnesses support their ability to operate a safe and efficient taxicab service.

As far as the applicant's financial suitability is concerned, the applicant presented evidence that the applicant's first six months of expenses includes insurance of \$12,228, vehicle financing of \$5,362, cell phone charges of \$1,800, maintenance of \$2,700, property tax of \$1,228, business cards of \$450 and advertising costs of \$600 for a total expense of \$24,368. The applicant has \$24,433 in a Peoples Bank account. The applicant has sufficient funds to operate the service proving financial suitability.

With regard to qualified drivers, the applicant has the three members who will each drive a vehicle and they will be seeking out other drivers to cover twenty-four hours a day.

On the issue of public convenience and necessity, the applicant presented several customers to show there is a need for their service. Some of the customers had prior bad experiences with other services and only want to use the applicant and many have referred the applicant to both friends and family. The applicant clearly has a good client base with which to begin this business.

However, when looking at the evidence, there was no evidence presented that the towns of East Hartford, Enfield, Granby, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Vernon, Ellington and Coventry needed additional taxicab service. Based on the evidence presented, the applicant has only proven public convenience and necessity as to the following towns only: Bloomfield, Farmington, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, South Windsor, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

IV. CONCLUSION

Therefore, based upon the above and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended, the application of Choice Taxi, LLC is hereby granted and Certificate Number 1239 as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER 1239 **FOR THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN TAXICAB SERVICE**

Choice Taxi, LLC is hereby permitted and authorized to operate three (3) motor vehicles in taxicab service within and to and from Bloomfield, Farmington, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, South Windsor, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

RESTRICTIONS:

The applicant must register the vehicles granted under this certificate within sixty (60) days from the date of this decision.

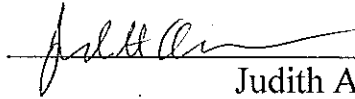
This certificate may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational, i.e., its vehicles registered with taxicab plates thereunder, for not less than twenty-four (24) consecutive months. This certificate is transferable only with the approval of the department.

This certificate shall remain in effect until it is amended, suspended, or revoked by the department. Failure of the certificate holder to maintain proper insurance and/or to comply with all pertinent motor vehicle laws and other State statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the department, as this department

may from time to time prescribe, shall be considered sufficient cause to amend, suspend or revoke this certificate.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this 1st day of August 2017.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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