



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

(860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1705-N-44-L

RE: APPLICATION OF AFI HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL, LLC TO OPERATE ONE (1) MOTOR VEHICLE, HAVING A SEATING CAPACITY OF LESS THAN ELEVEN (11) PASSENGERS, IN GENERAL LIVERY SERVICE BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT FROM A HEADQUARTERS IN BERLIN.

DECISION

AUGUST 3, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

A. APPLICATION

By application filed on May 23, 2017, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-103 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, AFI Healing Hands International, LLC (hereinafter "applicant") located at 1224 Mill Street, Bldg. B, Berlin, Connecticut 06023 seeks authorization to operate one (1) motor vehicle, having a seating capacity of less than eleven (11) passengers, in general livery service between all points in Connecticut from a headquarters in Berlin.

B. HEARING

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 13b-103, as amended, a public hearing on this application was scheduled on August 1, 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 pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103(a)(1), as amended. 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

Rosemary Ortiz appeared pro se on behalf of the applicant. The applicant's mailing address is 1224 Mill Street, Bldg. B, Berlin, Connecticut 06023.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The applicant is seeking to provide transportation to medical facilities to transport clients to and from doctor appointments or therapy.
2. Ms. Ortiz is a nurse currently working at West Side Care Center. She sees firsthand the transportation issues faced by her clients.
3. The applicant will put a 2013 Ford E250 wheelchair accessible vehicle into livery service.
4. The applicant has \$24,321 in the Key bank.
5. The applicant's first six months of expenses includes maintenance of \$300, property tax of \$744, vehicle payments of \$3,549, advertising of \$100, communication costs of

\$420 and insurance of \$4,926 for a total expense of \$10,038.

6. The applicant has two drivers, Samuel Ortiz and Nigel Roberts who will perform the needed driving services. Both of the drivers need to either get a public service license or look into whether their current CDL license can be used in public service.

7. Nadine Atkins-Roberts is a registered nurse at Touchpoints in Farmington. As an administrator there, she often sees transportation issues with clients on the average of five or six times a day who are not receiving transportation services. Other companies have not showed up on time or have provided inefficient customer service.

8. Ms. Ortiz has spoken with several facilities who have expressed an interest in using her livery service.

9. This application was not opposed.

III. DISCUSSION

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.

To show financial support, the applicant submitted information that the applicant's first six months of expenses includes maintenance of \$300, property tax of \$744, vehicle payments of \$3,549, advertising of \$100, communication costs of \$420 and insurance of \$4,926 for a total expense of \$10,038. The applicant has a bank balance in Key Bank of \$24,321 which is more than sufficient to cover these costs. Based on the evidence presented, the applicant is financially viable to operate the proposed livery service.

Regarding the applicant's suitability, a criminal record check was performed for Ms. Ortiz which shows no convictions. Ms. Ortiz is currently operating a home health agency and has acquired business experience in that role. The applicant has shown the requisite suitability to be granted a livery permit.

As far as public convenience and necessity goes, Ms. Atkins-Roberts testified that it's difficult to get transportation to medical appointments for her clients and that on average five to six patients have transportation issues daily. The applicant has also networked with various facilities and will build her customer base from those sources. The applicant has proven public convenience and necessity.

VI. ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 13b-103, as amended, the application is hereby granted. Accordingly, Livery Permit Number 3599, standing in the name of AFI Healing Hands International, LLC is hereby issued as follows:

LIVERY PERMIT NO. 3599

AFI Healing Hands International, LLC is authorized to operate one (1) motor vehicle, having a seating capacity of less than eleven (11) passengers, in general livery service from a headquarters in Berlin.

RESTRICTIONS:

The applicant must register and insure the one (1) motor vehicle granted in this decision within sixty (60) days from the date of this decision.

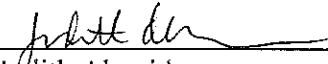
The authority granted under this permit may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational, i.e. a vehicle registered with livery plates thereunder for not less than twenty-four (24) months.

This permit shall remain in effect until it is amended, suspended or 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 rules, regulations and orders of the department shall be considered sufficient cause to amend, suspend or revoke said permit.

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

Dated at Newington, Connecticut August 3, 2017.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Judith Almeida
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Bureau of Finance and Administration