

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

DOCKET NUMBER 2107-C-61-T

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE CITATION OF HORIZON CAB CO., LLC

DECISION

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

By citation dated August 2, 2021, by the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97 and 4-182 as amended, Horizon Cab Co., LLC (hereinafter "respondent"), holder of Taxicab Certificate Number 1169, was ordered to come before the department to answer the allegations made therein.

Pursuant to said citation, the respondent was directed to appear by telephone to show cause why Taxicab Certificate Number 1169 should not be suspended or revoked, or a civil penalty imposed for violation of its Certificate pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, et seq.

More specifically on May 26, 2021, Ms. Kimberly Lorenti of Transportation General Inc. dba M7 completed the customer complaint form and emailed it to the Regulatory & Compliance Unit of the Department of Transportation (DOT/Department) stating that their company vehicle was damaged in an accident that occurred at 98 Union Street, New Haven and that the vehicle that hit their car was registered to Horizon Cab Co., LLC (Company) and operated by Joseph E. Destin. Ms. Kimberly Lorenti provided the following documents with her complaint form: New Haven Police Report, Summons and Complaint and Order from Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport. This complaint brought to the attention of the Department that Horizon Cab Co., LLC could allegedly be in violation of the following:

Connecticut General Statutes:

- o Sec. 14-29 Owners of motor or service buses, taxicabs, school buses, school transportation vehicles and motor vehicles in livery service to furnish insurance or bond (failure to update insurance certificate)
- o Sec. 14-29 (b)(2) Limits of Liability Coverage (failure to carry required insurance)

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the telephone hearing for this citation was held on September 2, 2021. Notice of the citation and the hearing to be held thereon was given to the respondent and to such other parties as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended.

The hearing on this matter was 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 failed to appear in this matter after being duly noticed by certified mail and email. The respondent's mailing address is 790 West Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut 06516.

Linda Sidote, License and Application Analyst with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit, presented evidence in this matter.

Felipe Briseno, Staff Attorney 3 with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit, presented evidence in this matter.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The respondent is the holder of Taxicab Certificate Number 1169 in the name of Horizon Cab Co., LLC which has authority to operate four vehicles in taxicab service in Hamden, West Haven and New Haven.
 - 2. On February 2, 2021, the respondent's taxicab driven by Joseph Destin hit another taxicab owned by Transportation General Inc dba M7 (hereinafter "Transportation General") at the New Haven Train Station.

- 3. At the time of the incident on February 2, 2021, the respondent did not have insurance.
- 4. The driver of the Transportation General taxicab, Raymond Joyner, is suing Transportation General because the respondent lacks insurance.
- 5. On May 26, 2021, Kimberly Lorenti from Transportation General filed a complaint about the incident with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit.
- 4. The respondent does not currently have any taxicabs registered or in service.
- 5. The respondent failed to appear in this matter.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over taxicabs in the State of Connecticut accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, the department may amend or for sufficient cause suspend or revoke any such permit. 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-97, as amended, with respect to fares, service, operation or equipment, in an amount not to exceed one thousand (\$1,000) dollars per day for each violation.

Based on the evidence presented, the respondent's taxicab did in fact hit the taxicab operated by Transportation General. The respondent had no insurance at the time of the incident and the respondent currently has no vehicles registered and in service. Based on the evidence presented, the respondent is in violation of Connecticut General Statute Section 4-29 and 14-29(b)(2). This is a serious violation as public safety was threatened by the lack of insurance. Since the respondent failed to appear at the hearing, the respondent's Taxicab Certificate 1169 must be revoked.

IV. ORDER

Based on the above, Taxicab Certificate 1169, standing in the name of Horizon Cab Co., LLC is hereby revoked within fifteen (15) days from the date of this decision. The respondent shall return all issued taxicab plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles by October 1, 2021.

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

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this the September 13, 2021.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Judith Almeida Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration