



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

DOCKET NUMBER 2308-C-114-T

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE CITATION OF USA TAXI OF  
STAMFORD, LLC

DECISION

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. General

By citation dated October 3, 2023, by the Department of Transportation (hereinafter “department”), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97 and 4-182 as amended, USA Taxi of Stamford, LLC (hereinafter “respondent”), holder of Taxicab Certificate Number 1182, 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 1182 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.

Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, 4-182 and the Connecticut State Agency Regulations, as amended, by violating the terms of the certificate which require the certificate holder to comply with all pertinent laws and other statutes, and/or rules, regulations, and orders of the department.

In summary, the complaint alleges that on April 19, 2023, the department received a complaint alleging that the complainant called USA Taxi of Stamford, LLC for a ride on March 31, 2023, and the vehicle that arrived and completed his trip was unmarked and equipped with a breathalyzer ignition lock. The complainant also alleges the same vehicle completed a ride on April 8, 2023, under the same circumstances. The Regulatory & Compliance Unit began their investigation into the matter but was met with persistent delays from the certificate holder. Ultimately, the Regulatory & Compliance Unit discovered and concluded that the certificate holder does not have proper control of the company nor the rides it provides. More specifically, the certificate holder was unable to provide a single trip sheet for any taxi in the last six months. In addition, the dispatch system used by the company is inadequate and ultimately the certificate holder’s lack of oversight results in unauthorized drivers illegally operating under this certificate. Between all the findings, the certificate holder would no longer be suitable to hold the authority granted under their certificate.

### B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the telephone hearing for this citation was held on October 18, 2023. 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

Francisco Rendon appeared in this matter after being duly noticed by both certified mail and email. The respondent’s mailing address is 45 Cedar Street, Unit 4, Stamford, CT 06902.

Felipe Briseno, Staff Attorney 3 from the Regulatory & Compliance Unit, appeared to present evidence in this matter.

Mario Andrukiewicz, License and Application Analyst appeared to present evidence in this matter.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The respondent is the holder of Taxicab Certificate Number 1182 in the name of USA Taxi of Stamford LLC which has authority to operate eighteen (18) vehicles in taxicab service in Stamford. (Exhibit 12)

2. This matter was initiated on April 18, 2023, when Ismarc Navarro filed a complaint with the Regulatory & Compliance Unit regarding two incidents he had with USA Taxi of Stamford, LLC on March 31, 2023, and April 8, 2023. (Exhibit 1)

3. The complaint alleges that on two occasions, after specifically calling the respondent company, the taxicab driver arrived in an unmarked taxi in a vehicle equipped with a breathalyzer ignition switch. (Exhibit 1)

4. Mr. Rendon admits some of his taxicab requests are being handled by unauthorized taxicabs and unauthorized drivers. He says this is because he allows drivers to answer the phones and he doesn't know who they give the rides to.

5. The taxicab drivers answer the respondent's phones because Mr. Rendon doesn't have sufficient funds to pay for dispatchers.

6. The driver in question, Oliver Vasquez, was fired by the respondent two years earlier. (Exhibit3)

7. The respondent does not always have a dispatcher.

8. It is not known as to whether the respondent's taxicab tariff is being charged properly. (Exhibit 5)

9. There is a complete lack of control by management over the respondent company. (Exhibit 5)

10. The respondent has failed to produce trip records as requested by the department.

11. The respondent has been the subject of two prior citation hearings in 2022. (Exhibit 13)

12. The Regulatory & Compliance Unit recommends that the respondent either voluntarily forfeit taxicab Certificate Number 1182 or that the department issue a revocation of Certificate 1182.

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 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-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 has lost complete control over the taxicab company, its drivers, and vehicles. The respondent's operation poses an extreme safety hazard to the public and he must cease taxicab operations immediately.

IV. ORDER

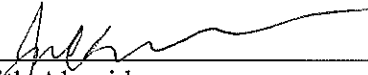
Based on the above, the respondent shall immediately cease all taxicab operations. The respondent shall have until November 21, 2023, to voluntarily forfeit his taxicab Certificate Number 1182. The respondent must notify the department in writing of its intent to do so and cancel its taxicab registrations, return the license plates, and present receipts to the department for the returned plates. The respondent must also put a recording on its business telephone lines that it is out of business or remove the telephone line completely.

Failure to comply with this order shall result in the respondent's Certificate Number 1182 to be revoked on November 22, 2023.

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

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this the November 1, 2023.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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