

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Determining the Proper  
Carrier Classification of, and Complaint  
for Penalties against:

BENS MOVING & DELIVERY SERVICES,  
INC.

DOCKET TV-180553

DECLARATION OF  
BRIAN BRAUN

Brian Braun, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declares as follows:

1. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a Compliance Investigator in the Consumer Protection Section. As a Compliance Investigator, my responsibilities include conducting investigations regarding the business practices of regulated utility and transportation companies. As part of those duties, I investigate household goods carriers that may be operating without the required Commission permit.
2. On June 12, 2018, I received an email tip that a company named Bens Moving & Delivery Services continues to operate without a permit from the Commission.<sup>1</sup> The email tip provided a UBI number 603-284-989, principle office: 11544 Greenwood Ave N#1, Seattle, WA, 98133, and another address of 12040 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle, WA, 98133, USA.
3. On June 13, 2018, I searched Commission records and learned that Bens Moving & Delivery Services (Bens Moving or Company) previously held a household goods movers permit. On Dec. 6, 2017, the Commission cancelled the Company's permit for failure to provide proof of insurance in Docket TV-171177. To date, the Company has not reapplied for a permit.<sup>2</sup>
4. According to the Company's Household Goods Moving Company Permit Application that was submitted to the Commission, Israel Paredes is the owner of the Company.<sup>3</sup>
5. The Cancellation of Provisional Household Goods Permit letter mailed by the Commission specifically states that, "You must immediately CEASE all operations associated with this permit. If you advertise or operate as a household goods mover

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A for a copy of the email, received June 12, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> See Attachment B for a copy of the cancellation letter, sent Dec. 6, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> See Attachment C for a copy of the HHG Application, received Aug. 29, 2013.

without a valid permit, the commission may take enforcement action against you.”<sup>4</sup> The Commission mailed the letter to Bens Moving & Delivery Services, Inc. at 11544 Greenwood Ave N Unit #1, Seattle, WA 98133.

6. On June 13, 2018, I visited Yelp and searched for “Ben’s Moving.” I observed a claimed Yelp page for “Ben’s Moving & Delivery Services” with a telephone number of (206) 673-6122, and that they served Seattle and surrounding areas.<sup>5</sup>
7. On the Yelp page I observed several photographs that were identified as “from the business owner.”<sup>6</sup> The photographs have a posting date of May 6, 2018, and March 17, 2018 (respectively in attachment). Both photographs show a large moving truck that is emblazed with a vinyl decal advertising “Ben’s Moving & Delivery Services.” The truck is backed up to residential homes. In the latter picture, I was able to read the license plate (B75086W) number of the moving truck.
8. Using Washington State’s Department of Licensing Plate Search I was able to confirm that license plate is issued to Israel Paredes, which was last updated on Feb. 2, 2018, and that the vehicle address is 11544 Greenwood Ave N. Apt 1, Seattle, WA 98133.
9. On June 22, 2018, posing as a consumer, I called the telephone number (206) 673-6122 and left a message that I would like to schedule a move. I was called back from the telephone number (206) 550-7214. I spoke with an individual who identified himself as “Ben.” Ben and I discussed a move of household belongings from Ballard, Washington to Redmond, Washington. I was given a quote of “\$120 per hour for two workers and a 24 foot truck, plus a \$30 fuel fee.” I was also informed by Ben that time started when his employees arrived at my old residence and ended when the employees left my new residence. Ben also offered me three movers at \$150 per hour.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup>, day of August, 2018, at Olympia, Washington.

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BRIAN BRAUN

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<sup>4</sup> See Attachment B.

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment D for a copy of the Yelp page, printed June 13, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> See Attachment E for a copy of the pictures from the Yelp page, printed July 10, 2018.