

4-24-18

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

DOCKET TV-180326

DECLARATION OF
BRIAN BRAUN

ANTHONY WRIGHT
d/b/a MAN AND A VAN, INC. d/b/a PICK
UP AND MOVE, d/b/a THE WRIGHT
MOVE, d/b/a TACOMA MOVERS

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 Jan. 19, 2018, advertisements were found on craigslist.org that identified a company that may be operating as a household goods carrier without the required commission-issued permit. The advertisements featured a web address of www.tacomamovers.net/, stated, "Call Anthony at (253) 212-5250" and had the title of, "PICK UP AND MOVE! CALL TODAY."¹
3. On Jan. 19, 2018, I visited the website www.tacomamovers.net. There I found the company name of Tacoma Movers, the telephone number of (253) 212-5250, a statement, "Man and a Van welcome[sic] your business. Check out our website or contact us anytime." and a logo with the "Man and a Van" and "Pick up and Move."²
4. On Jan. 19, 2018, I searched www.yelp.com for Tacoma Movers. The results produced a claimed Yelp account for Tacoma Movers, the telephone number of (253) 212-5250, the web address of www.tacomamovers.net, and several reviews that claim, "This company also goes by the names: The Wright Move & Man with a Van."³

¹ See Attachment A for craigslist.org ads, printed on Jan. 19, 2018

² See Attachment B for a copy of www.tacomamovers.net, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

³ See Attachment C for a copy of the Yelp account, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

5. On Jan. 19, 2018, I searched www.facebook.com for The Wright Move. The results produced a business page with a physical address of P.O. Box 278 Milton, Washington, the telephone number of (253) 212-5250, a website address of www.tacomamovers.net, and a moving truck with the website and telephone number painted on.⁴
6. On Jan. 19, 2018, I visited the website www.pickupandmove.com. There I found the company name of Pick Up And Move, the telephone number of (253) 212-5250, a graphic with the UBI# 603271558 displayed, and testimonials mentioning Anthony.⁵
7. On Jan. 19, 2018, I searched the Department of Revenue's website for UBI# 603271558. The results produced an entity name of Anthony Wright, business name of Man and a Van, and a mailing address of PO Box 278 Milton, WA 98354.⁶
8. On Jan. 19, 2018, I searched commission records to see if Anthony Wright or any of his companies are a permitted household goods carrier. The results produced records that Man and a Van Inc. had applied for a permit on April 20, 2017.⁷
9. Commission records (Docket TV-143347) show that Anthony Wright d/b/a Man and a Van aka Pick Up and Move was investigated in 2013 by Commission staff. Mr. Wright was advised to change his advertising to indicate that he offers labor-only services until he applied for a permit, and was sent a cease and desist letter.⁸
10. Docket TV-143347 also contains a Stipulated Initial Order Classifying Respondent as Household Goods Carrier; Ordering Respondent to Cease & Desist; Imposing and Suspending Penalties on Condition of Future Compliance (Order 02).⁹
11. In Order 02 Anthony Wright d/b/a Man and a Van, Inc. aka Tacoma Movers was classified as a household good carrier and required to permanently cease and desist from operating as a household goods carrier without first obtaining a permit from the commission. Order 02 was signed by Anthony Wright on Nov. 4, 2014.¹⁰
12. Also in Order 02, a financial penalty of \$5,000 was assessed; with \$4,500 being suspended.¹¹
13. On June 22, 2017, Anthony Wright d/b/a Man and a Van, Inc., The Wright Movers, Tacoma Movers, Pick Up & Move was sent a cease and desist letter after commission staff (Staff) found advertisements online offering household goods moving.¹²

⁴ See Attachment D for a copy of the Facebook page, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

⁵ See Attachment E for a copy of www.pickupandmove.com, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

⁶ See Attachment F for a copy of Department of Revenue's search results, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

⁷ See Attachment G for a copy of Commission record, printed on March 13, 2018.

⁸ See Attachment H for a copy of Commission record, printed on March 13, 2018.

⁹ See Attachment I for a copy of Order 02, printed on Jan. 19, 2018.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² See Attachment J for a copy of the Cease and Desist Letter, sent June 22, 2017.

14. On June 27, 2017, Anthony Wright called Staff, acknowledged receiving the letter, and stated that he was trying to comply with UTC rules.¹³
15. On June 29, 2017, the commission issued a Notice of Intent to Deny Application for Permanent Authority, Notice of opportunity for Hearing.¹⁴
16. On June 30, 2017, Mr. Wright contacted the commission and requested a hearing.¹⁵
17. On July 6, 2017, the commission issued a Notice of Brief Adjudicate Proceeding and scheduled a brief adjudicative proceeding (BAP) for August 2, 2017. The BAP was later rescheduled for Aug. 8, 2017, at Staff's request.¹⁶
18. On Aug. 7, 2017, Mr. Wright contacted the commission and requested the BAP be continued and Staff supported the request. The commission found good cause to cancel the BAP and to suspend the procedural schedule until parties proposed a new date and time.¹⁷
19. On September 26, 2017, the Commission was contacted by a consumer and was informed about an unpleasant moving experience. The consumer stated that Anthony Wright agreed to do a move that included a 26 foot truck and cash up front.¹⁸
20. On February 12, 2018, I called (253) 212-5250 using an assumed name, to obtain a quote for moving services; including workers and a truck. The person who answered the phone identified himself as Anthony and he confirmed that he was the owner. I was quoted a price of two movers and a truck for \$120 an hour, a four hour minimum along with a \$150 service fee.¹⁹
21. On Feb. 12, 2018, I was sent an email confirmation from Anthony Wright (manandavanmovingco@gmail.com).²⁰
22. On March 13, 2018, Man and Van Inc. notified the commission that it does not wish to proceed with the application and requested that the application be withdrawn.²¹

¹³ See Attachment K for a copy of the Phone Call log, printed on March 19, 2018.

¹⁴ See Attachment L for a copy of Notice Suspending Procedural Schedule, service date Aug. 7, 2017.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ See Attachment M for a copy of the tip, printed on March 19, 2018.

¹⁹ See Attachment N for a copy of phone log created by Brian Braun, written on Feb. 12, 2018.

²⁰ See Attachment O for a copy of email confirmation, printed on Feb. 12, 2018.

²¹ See Attachment P for a copy of the commission letter, sent on March 14, 2018.

23. On March 14, 2018, Staff sent a letter to Man and a Van Inc., granting the request to withdraw its application.²²

DATED this 20th day of April 2018, at Olympia, Washington.



BRIAN BRAUN

²² *Id.*