BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

DOCKET TV-230683

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

ALL STAR TRANSFER, LARON WILLIAMS INC. D/B/A ALL STAR TRANSFER & STORAGE, ALL STAR MOVING & STORAGE, CAREFUL MOVERS, ALLSTAR MOVERS

I. INTRODUCTION

- The regulatory staff (Staff) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) and All Star Transfer, Laron Williams INC. d/b/a All Star Transfer & Storage; All Star Moving & Storage; Careful Movers; Allstar Movers (Company), through their authorized representatives, enter into the following settlement agreement (Settlement) to resolve the issues raised in Docket TV-230683.
- 2 This Settlement is a "full multiparty settlement" as that term is defined in WAC 480-07-730(3)(a) because it resolves all issues raised in this docket among Staff and the Company (the Parties). It is subject to review and disposition by the Commission to determine whether it complies with the applicable legal requirements and whether approval of the Settlement is consistent with the public interest.

II. BACKGROUND

On April 29, 2024, the Commission entered Order 01, Order Instituting Special Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; and Notice of Mandatory Appearance at Hearing (Complaint), pursuant to RCW 81.04.510, initiating this docket on its own motion. The Complaint alleges that the Company violated RCW 81.80.075(1) on at least two occasions by (1) offering on at least one occasion to transport household goods within the state of Washington and (2) advertising household goods moving services within the state of Washington on at least one occasion without the necessary permit required for such operations. Specifically, on April 12, 2023, Staff discovered the Company's website that offered to provide household goods moves within the state of Washington. On November 13, 2023, Staff contacted the Company using an assumed name and obtained a quote for a move in Seattle, Washington.

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- The Parties have reached an agreement on the issues raised in Docket TV-230683 and present this Settlement for the Commission's consideration and approval. The Parties therefore adopt the following Settlement, which they enter into voluntarily, to resolve the matters in dispute between them and to expedite the orderly disposition of this proceeding:
 - Admission The Company admits that it violated RCW 81.80.075(1) on at least two occasions by (1) offering to transport household goods within the state of Washington and (2) advertising household goods moving services within the state of Washington without the necessary permit required for such operations.
 - <u>Classification</u> The Company admits that it operated as a household goods carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
 - Penalty The Company will pay a penalty of \$500. This amount will be due and payable upon the Commission's approval of the Settlement.
 - Suspended Penalty The Company will accept the imposition of a \$4,500 suspended penalty. The Commission shall waive the suspended penalty after a period of two years from the effective date of this agreement, provided that the Company does not operate as a household goods carrier without authority from the Commission.
 - Payment Plan The Parties agree that the Company should be allowed to pay the

penalty of \$500 penalty on a payment plan. The Parties agree that the Company will pay \$100 within seven (7) days from the date the Commission issues an Order approving the settlement agreement. The Parties further agree the remaining balance be due over four months with monthly payments of \$100, as follows:

Due Date	Amount
July 22, 2024	\$100
August 22, 2024	\$100
September 23, 2024	\$100
October 23, 2024	\$100

 The Parties agree that if a payment is missed, the entire amount of the penalty, including the suspended portion of \$4,500 will become due and payable the day after the missed penalty was due. The Parties further agree that the Company may make payments in advance of the due date to discharge its payment obligation.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- <u>Public interest</u>: The Parties submit that this Settlement promotes the public interest, and that it is appropriate for the Commission's acceptance without conditions under WAC 480-07-750(2)(a).
- Effective date: This Settlement is effective on the service date of a final Commission order approving this Settlement, or on the date that an initial order approving this Settlement becomes a final order pursuant to WAC 480-07-825(7), whichever occurs first.
- Advocacy: The Parties agree to cooperate in submitting this Settlement promptly to the Commission for acceptance. The Parties agree to support adoption of this Settlement in proceedings before the Commission. No party to this Settlement or its agents, employees, consultants, or attorneys will engage in advocacy contrary to the Commission's adoption of this Settlement.
- 8 <u>Construction</u>: This Settlement shall not be construed against any party solely because that party was a drafter of the Settlement.
- Other proceedings: This Settlement shall have no precedential or preclusive effect in other proceedings except in a proceeding to enforce its terms. In the event this Settlement does not become effective, this Settlement shall be null and void, with no binding effect on the Parties and with no precedential or preclusive effect on the Parties regarding the continued litigation in Docket TV-230683. In the event that the Commission rejects all or any portion of this Settlement, or accepts the Settlement with conditions not proposed in this Settlement, each party reserves the right to withdraw from this Settlement by written notice to the other party and the Commission. Written notice must be served within 10 business days of service of the order rejecting part or all of this Settlement or imposing conditions not proposed in this Settlement. In such event, no party will be bound or prejudiced by the terms of this Settlement, and the Parties agree to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule.
- Settlement discussions: The Parties have entered into this Settlement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, uncertainty, and delay. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed during negotiations of this Settlement shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms.
- Final agreement: The Parties have negotiated this Settlement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution. This Settlement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein.
- 12 Counterparts: The Parties may execute this Settlement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. A signed signature page sent by facsimile or email is as effective as an original document.
- 13 Authorized representatives: Each person signing this Settlement warrants that he or she has the authority to bind the party that he or she represents.

DATED this 7th day of June 2024.

Movers; Allstar Movers

Company Owner Signature

Laron Williams 290733 US Highway 101 Quilcene, WA 98376 (425) 508-0862 laronw@hotmail.com Commission Staff signature

Sharmila Prabakaran, Compliance Investigator Consumer Protection Division P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 (360) 664-1129 sharmila.prabakaran@utc.wa.gov

6/10/24 Quilcere, WA

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Waiver of Hearing Docket TG-230683

On June 7, 2024, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 01 in the above-referenced Docket, which initiated a special proceeding to determine whether All Star Transfer, Laron Williams INC. d/b/a All Star Transfer & Storage; All Star Moving & Storage; Careful Movers; Allstar Movers (Company) is engaging or has engaged in business as a household goods carrier within the state of Washington without having obtained a permit from the Commission.

The undersigned represents the Respondent, Laron Williams, in this proceeding. The undersigned admits the violations alleged in Order 01 and consents to a decision by the Commission without a hearing.

4/10/24

[month/day/year], at

Quilcene, WA[city, state]

Name of Respondent

Signature of Applicant please print

Laron Williams