



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

September 5, 2018

Ms. Megan Jackson
Licensing Services Manager
Vehicle and Vessel Licensing
Washington Department of Licensing
1125 Washington Street SE
P.O. Box 48203
Olympia, WA 98504-8203

Re: Sani Mahama Maurou, d/b/a Seatac Airport 24

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Sani Mahama Maurou, d/b/a Seatac Airport 24 (Seatac Airport 24 or company) began operating as a permitted auto transportation and charter excursion service carrier on October 14, 2014. On March 15, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) cancelled the company's transportation certificate because the company received an unsatisfactory safety rating. The commission ordered Seatac Airport 24 to cease and desist from such operations.¹ Seatac Airport 24 disregarded the commission's cease and desist order and continued to operate.²

On January 12, 2017, King County Superior Court found that Seatac Airport 24 violated the Commission's cease and desist order and permanently restrained the company and "all successors, assigns, and transferees" from engaging in auto transportation or charter services.³

On January 27, 2017, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) issued an out-of-service order against Sani Mahama Maurou, and his United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) number 2408309.⁴ This USDOT number remains out-of-service today.⁵ RCW 46.87.296 prohibits the Department of Licensing (DOL) from registering a vehicle if the WSP placed an out-of-service order on the vehicle's USDOT number.

¹ Commission Docket TC-152296 Order 01

² Compliance Investigations staff has documented 47 occurrences of non-permitted transportation provided or offered by Seatac Airport 24 since the initial cease and desist order of March 15, 2016

³ King County Superior Court Order 16-2-27196-1 SEA

⁴ Washington State Patrol letter, January 27, 2017

⁵ FMSCA Company Snapshot, August 31, 2018

On February 8, 2017, Commission staff contacted DOL requesting cancellation of the following vehicle registrations of four passenger vans operated by Seatac Airport 24 due to repeat violations of Commission laws, rules, and an order to cease and desist.⁶

License plate:	VIN:	Description:
BDR2920	1FBSS3BL8DDA63572	2013 Ford Econoline
BGE2221	1FBAX2XG7FKA50054	2015 Ford Transit
BJM9572	1FBSS3BL9DDA49180	2013 Ford Econoline
BKG2661	1FBZX2YM7FKA96667	2015 Ford Transit

Seatac Airport 24 continues to provide illegal passenger transportation services and has transferred ownership of the vans to Rachidatou (Rachida) H B Maurou, d/b/a Seattle-Tacoma Transportation. Last month the Maurous contacted the Commission requesting that it release the cancellations on the registrations. The Maurous stated that Rachida Maurou is operating a new limousine company under the name Seattle-Tacoma Transportation and is entitled to use the vans.

Commission staff believes that Seattle-Tacoma Transportation is providing auto transportation, not limousine services, and is nothing more than Seatac Airport 24 operating under a new trade name in an attempt to avoid regulation. Commission staff vigorously opposes the Maurous' request and offers the following in support of its position.

- According to business license records both companies operate from 1800 S Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144. Seattle-Tacoma Transportation does not have valid limousine authority.
- According to DOL records, the vans are currently registered to Rachida Maurou d/b/a Seattle-Tacoma Transportation, at 123 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122. This is the same address Sani Maurou has on his driver's license.
- Seatac Airport 24 continues to advertise charter and auto transportation services on its website, www.seatacairport24.com. Commission staff has found no online advertising for Seattle-Tacoma Transportation.
- Sani Maurou has corresponded with Commission staff using both his (sanimaou@gmail.com) and Rachida's (rachidaMaurou@gmail.com) email accounts.
- On February 20, 2017, a passenger made a reservation with Seatac Airport 24 for transportation from the airport to home. The passenger refused to ride with Mr. Maurou when he arrived in an unmarked black Toyota Prius. The Prius was registered to Rachidatou Maurou-Dikeni at Sani Maurou's address.⁷

⁶ Letter to DOL from Steve King, with declaration of Michael Turcott.

⁷ Email from Steve Brown, Port of Seattle, February 20, 2017.

- On March 3, 2017, Port of Seattle staff observed Mr. Maurou escorting a group of passengers to one of the vans, BDR2920, in the over-height lot at Seatac Airport. The van had most of its markings removed and was registered to Rachidatou Maurou-Dikeni at Sani Maurou's address.⁸
- On January 18, 2018, a customer made arrangements with Seatac Airport 24 for non-stop transportation to the airport in an ADA-accessible van, to occur on January 26, 2018. The customer did not receive an ADA-accessible van and there were multiple stops enroute to the airport to pick up additional passengers. Limousines may not legally provide shared-ride transportation.⁹
- On August 6, 2018, the Port of Seattle cited Sani Maurou d/b/a Seattle Tacoma Transportation for operating at the airport on July 22, 2018 with an expired for hire permit. Mr. Maurou was driving van BDR2920 which is registered to Rachida Maurou d/b/a Seattle Tacoma Transportation.¹⁰

Thank you for considering Commission staff's request to continue cancellation of these vehicle registrations. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Turcott, Compliance Investigations Supervisor, Consumer Protection at (360) 664-1174 or email mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary

Attachments

⁸ Email from Steve Brown, Port of Seattle, March 3, 2017.

⁹ Phone interview with John Doty, UTC Compliance Investigations database, January 29, 2018.

¹⁰ Email from John Carns, Port of Seattle, August 15, 2018.