



San Juan Transit

Tours and Charters, LLC

Washington Utilities and Transit Commission
1300 Evergreen Park Dr SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Aug 28, 2018

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RE: Docket No. TC-180535

On Saturday, Aug 25 I approached Carl Hassell of San Juan Taxi, he parked his Mercedes Sprinter van in the transit only parking area of Friday Harbor. I asked him if he was going to be moving to the taxi loading area soon as I had buses ready to pull into the bus stop. Mr. Hassell informed me that he would not be moving, and that San Juan Taxi was granted forbearance to operate a transit schedule between Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor. He presented documentation of this dated Aug 10, 2018. TC -180535

Although San Juan Transit is not currently a fully-regulated auto transportation certificate holder, we will be affected by the finding of the Commission in this case. The two companies that are providing this same service, San Juan Transit and Friday Harbor Jolley Trolley, were not included as parties of record to receive a true copy or electronic mail of this docket and were not invited to participate in the public comment period. The Town of Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor Resort would have added some input and perspective as well.

SERVING THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

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I believe Mr. Hassell misrepresented the need for “express transportation to and from Roche Harbor.” Mr. Hassell’s company already operates a taxi service to all locations around San Juan Island, including Roche Harbor and Friday Harbor. Both San Juan Transit and the Friday Harbor Jolley Trolley offer direct routes between Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor. Mr. Hassell listed Bob’s Taxi and Friday Harbor Taxi as existing companies that provide this service, he failed to include the two other taxi companies that also provide this service: Rhode Trips and Classic Cab.

Mr. Hassell also neglected to list the other Charter and Excursion company, also operating with forbearance to provide this service, the Friday Harbor Jolley Trolley.

In addition, Mr. Hassell is suggesting there are not enough vehicles to provide this service but is not proposing to add any vehicles above what he is already operating with. The application lists one vehicle, a 2009 12-passenger Chevy van. Mr. Hassell is also suggesting that there is no service after dark, this is not true and Mr. Hassell knows it. Bob’s Taxi runs till 2:00 AM, Friday Harbor Taxi and Rhode Trips both work late into the evening and Classic Cab will work after hours on request. Both San Juan Transit and the Friday Harbor Jolley Trolley offer charter service for late night events.

Mr. Hassell notes that San Juan Transit works limited hours, our schedule starts at 9:25 AM and ends at 6:20 PM. San Juan Taxi’s schedule only adds two hours of service beyond San Juan Transit’s and does not address the after-hours service Mr. Hassell documented as a need for scheduled service and forbearance from the transit rules.

It is my belief Mr. Hassell applied for scheduled service with forbearance because that is the Town of Friday Harbor’s requirement to park/do business in the bus and transit parking area. This is a separate area from the taxi pick up and drop off designated area. Mr. Hassell has expressed to me and others that he will do whatever it takes to put San Juan Transit and the other taxi companies out of business. Requesting this service has less to do with providing a needed customer service and more to do with eliminating the competition.

It is my request that the Washington Utilities and Transit Commission reverse their decision to allow San Juan Taxi forbearance from transit regulation on the grounds of submitting falsified and incomplete information.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue,

Kraig Hansen
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