Docket No. TV-161207 - Vol. I

In the Matter of: Dustin Wick d/b/a Lifters Moving

January 25, 2017



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	Page 1		Page 3
1	Page 1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON	1	OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; JANUARY 25, 2017
2	UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	2	9:01 A.M.
3		3	000
4	In the Matter of Determining) the Proper Carrier Classification) DOCKET NO. TV-161207 of, and Complaint for Penalties) VOLUME I	4 5	PROCEEDINGS
6	against,)	6	JUDGE PEARSON: Good morning. My name is
7	DUSTIN WICK D/B/A LIFTERS MOVING)	7	Rayne Pearson. I'm the administrative law judge with
8	,	8	the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.
9		9	I am the presiding officer for today's hearing being
10	MOVER'S COURT		conducted at the Commission's headquarters in Olympia.
11	Pages 1-27	10	Today is Wednesday, January 25th, 2017, and
12	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RAYNE PEARSON	11	the time is just after 9:00 a.m.
13		13	Today's hearing involves a total of three
14	9:01 A.M.		household goods carriers. So the first thing we will do
15	January 25, 2017	14	is take a roll call to determine who is present in the
16	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission	15	·
17	1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest	16	hearing room today.
18	Olympia, Washington 98504	17	As you can see, there is a court reporter
19		18	seated to my left creating a record of today's
20	DEDODTED DV. TAVI ED DUOCELL, COD 2050	19	proceedings, so when I call your name, please raise your hand to identify yourself and also give a verbal
21	REPORTED BY: TAYLER RUSSELL, CCR 3358	20	response to the roll call such as "here" or "present."
22	Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840	21	·
23	Seattle, Washington 98101 (206) 287-9066 Seattle	22	The first is Docket TV-161207, Dustin Wick,
24	(360) 534-9066 Olympia (800) 846-6989 National	23	d/b/a Lifters Moving.
25	www.buellrealtime.com	24	Hearing nothing, Docket TV-161208, Ruben
	B 0	25	
1	Page 2 APPEARANCES	1	Page 4 MR. ESCALERA: Here.
2	ATTEARANCES	2	JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.
3	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:	3	And finally, Docket TV-161252, Victor
4	RAYNE PEARSON Washington Utilities and	4	Dumitrascu. Is that how you say your name?
5	Transportation Commission	5	MR. DUMITRASCU: Yes.
6	P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504 (360) 664-1136 rpearson@utc.wa.gov	6	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. D/b/a 2 Buff Guys
7	(360) 664-1136 rpearson@utc wa gov		Moving and Dump.
8	ipodroon@ato.wa.gov	8	So there's one company that has not entered
9	FOR COMMISSION STAFF:	9	an appearance today, and that company is subject to
10	RACHEL JONES	10	being held in default and having an order entered
11	Compliance Investigator Consumer Protection	11	against them without having a chance to address the
12	Quilles and Transportation	12	Commission. So I will take that case up later this
13	1300 S. Eyergreen Park Drive SW P.O. Box 47250	13	morning.
14	Ölympia, Washington 98504 (360) 664-1129	14	Each of you are here because the Commission
15	rjones@utc.wa.gov	15	filed a complaint alleging that your company is
16		16	performing or advertising to perform work as a household
17	* * * *	17	goods carrier without the required permit that's issued
18		18	by the Commission. And the purpose of today's
19		19	proceeding is to formally explain what your choices are
20		20	and then hear from each of you regarding which option
21		21	you choose.
22		22	You can choose one of two options on behalf
23		23	of your company. The first is to cease and desist
		1	
24		24	providing, offering, or advertising unpermitted
24 25		2425	providing, offering, or advertising unpermitted household goods services, and if you choose this option,

Docket No. TV-161207 - Vol. I 1/25/2017 Page 5 Page 7 1 you'll need to demonstrate what you've done to shut down 1 you choose to contest the allegations of the complaint, 2 your business either partially or completely to avoid 2 like I said before, we will schedule another hearing for further enforcement action by the Commission. The the Commission to present evidence necessary to prove 4 Commission is going to want to see sufficient proof that its case. And if you're going to request a hearing, it you're no longer performing unlawful services, for 5 will help if you know your schedule for the next month example, showing that you've taken down your 6 or so when we get to that point. advertisements or changed or deactivated your website. 7 After I hear from each of you, we will take The second option is to request a formal 8 8 a break for as long as we need to, usually about an classification hearing to demonstrate why you don't need hour. That will provide Staff time to meet with each of 9 9 a permit, and if you choose that option, then you're 10 you and prepare a final disposition for your cases. contesting the allegations in the complaint and claiming 11 So, Ms. Jones, I will go ahead and swear you not to be conducting household goods moving services. in at this point so you're sworn in for the remainder of If you choose that option, we will schedule a formal the proceeding. 13 13 hearing for a date in the near future with a deadline (Rachel Jones sworn.) 14 14 JUDGE PEARSON: You may be seated. two to three weeks from now for both your company and 15 15 Commission Staff to declare all witnesses and file all So I will call each of the companies up and 16 16 exhibits then we will turn to the companies who've not appeared 17 17 18 So each of you has a right to be heard by 18 today probably after the break. We can call those up the Commission. I will call you up to do that 19 and you can make your motion for default. It's also individually. Commission Staff also has a right to be possible that the remaining person could still show up. 20 20 21 heard and Ms. Rachel Jones will be representing the 21 So the first is Docket TV-161208, Ruben Commission this morning. If you've not already met 22 Escalera, d/b/a Northwest Moving and Delivery Services. 22 Ms. Jones, she's seated to the table to my right and she If you could come forward. 23 23 24 is a Commission compliance investigator. 24 MS. PAUL: I am going to fix the microphone. JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. 25 So now that we've gone over the general 25 Page 6 Page 8 options, I will explain the rest of today's proceeding. Okay. If you could just go ahead and have a 1 In a few minutes, I will call each of you forward to seat. If you could just state your first and last name 3 make your choice on how to proceed and at that time, I for the record and spell your last name for the court will swear you in so that anything that you tell us will reporter. be under oath and considered sworn testimony. Once MR. ESCALERA: My name is Ruben Escalera. 5 6 you're sworn in, I will ask you if you understand your 6 My last name is spelled E-s-c-a-l-e-r-a. options for today's hearing and then ask you to state JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And what is your 7 which option you choose. And if there's anything else 8 position with the company? you want to explain to me, you can do so at that time. 9 MR. ESCALERA: I am the sole proprietor of 9 In each of the complaints, Commission Staff the company that no longer exists. 10 10 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So before you -has alleged that you're providing household goods moving 11 11 before you go on, why don't I swear you in and then you services without a permit and is also seeking to have a 12 12 can tell me a little bit more. 13 penalty imposed. The law sets the maximum penalty for 13 each violation at \$5,000. Staff will be making a 14 (Ruben Escalera sworn.) penalty recommendation as part of any agreed order. JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead and be 15

15 Ms. Jones will be explaining that recommendation, but the Commission will be making the final decision about 17 the amount of penalty to be imposed. 18 If you choose to testify about how you're 19 getting out of the household goods business, I will allow you to make a statement explaining how you plan to do that, and depending on what kind of proof you can provide, you should be able to reach an agreed order resolving this matter with Commission Staff, and you can

16 seated. And how do you want to proceed this morning? 17 MR. ESCALERA: Can I grab my notes, please? JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. 18 MR. ESCALERA: I want to choose to cease and 19 desist. 20 21 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. MR. ESCALERA: Mm-hmm. 22 JUDGE PEARSON: That sounds good. And you said that you've shut your company down or it doesn't exist anymore?

speak to Ms. Jones about that during the recess. And if

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	Page 9		Page 11
1	MR. ESCALERA: That is correct.		will essentially say that you agree that you were
2	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.	2	operating without a permit, that you advertised without
3	And, Ms. Jones, have you had a chance to	3	a permit, and that you agree to stop operating until you
4	verify?	4	get a permit if you decide that you want to get one.
5	MS. JONES: Yes, I have. He does still have	5	And once you're satisfied that you understand all the
6	an advertisement on Facebook.	6	terms of the order, you and Ms. Jones can then sign it.
7	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.	7	And it will also include most likely an agreement about
8	MS. JONES: And that's it.	8	the amount of penalty to be imposed. But if not, you
9	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So do you wish to	9	can make your case about why the penalty should be
10	make a recommendation regarding the cease and desist	10	different from what Staff is recommending.
11	order? Does Staff support that decision?	11	Do you have any questions?
12	MS. JONES: Just that he get rid of his	12	MR. ESCALERA: Is there anything else that I
13	Facebook advertisement.	13	can say to influence the decision that she's going to
14	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So when we take a	14	make? Because like I said, I do not know the whole
15	recess, you'll have the opportunity to chat with	15	procedures for this. I am on this side of the bench, so
16	Ms. Jones and see if you can reach an agreement with	16	I would like to have an opportunity to defend myself in
17	respect to taking down your Facebook advertisement and	17	a fair way. I don't know how to do that.
18	whatever else you may need to do to satisfy Staff that	18	JUDGE PEARSON: You will have that
19	your company is no longer in operation.	19	opportunity when you speak with Ms. Jones, and I will
20	MR. ESCALERA: Can I elaborate on that	20	say based on past experience, we have seen repeatedly
21	issue?	21	that there are sometimes companies on the web that will
22	JUDGE PEARSON: Yeah, sure.	22	generate advertisements for household goods companies
23	MR. ESCALERA: On the exhibits that you send	23	that they didn't necessarily ask for. They might pull
24	me and the paperwork that you send me or somebody send	24	an advertisement from somewhere else and create a new
25	me, this department here, if can you please go to	25	advertisement. So I am aware that that does happen and
	Page 10		Page 12
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1	Exhibit G or attachment C, page 1 of 4.	1	
2	MS. JONES: I'm here.	2	MR. ESCALERA: I have some documentation to
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	Page 13		Page 15
	position with the company?	1	, ,
2	MR. DUMITRASCU: I'm the owner.	2	desist advertising, providing, and offering household
3	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So if you could stand	3	goods moves until you get your permit from us, and then
4	and raise your right hand, I'll go ahead and swear you .	4	hopefully agreeing on the amount of penalty to be
5	in.	5	imposed. And, again, if you can't agree, then you will
6	(Victor Dumitrascu sworn.)	6	have the opportunity to explain to me why you think it
7	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead and take a	7	should be different.
8	seat. And how would you like to proceed this morning?	8	MR. DUMITRASCU: Okay.
9	MR. DUMITRASCU: So I'm going to default the	9	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So you can go ahead
10	company until I get the proper permits. I just applied	10	and have a seat.
11	for the permits, so I'm waiting for that.	11	And, Ms. Jones, did you have any contact
12	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So you'll agree to	12	with Dustin Wick?
13	cease and desist until	13	MS. JONES: I attempted contact. It's been
14	MR. DUMITRASCU: For household goods until I	14	a little bit, two weeks ago, and I got a voicemail. I
15	get the actual permits.	15	left a message requesting a call back, and I never
16	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Great. So like I	16	received a call back.
17	said to Mr. Escalera, you will have a chance to speak	17	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. All right. So at
18	with Ms. Jones at the break.	18	this point, we can go ahead and take a recess, and as
19	And, Ms. Jones, do you have a recommendation	19	soon as you have a chance each of you have a chance
20	regarding the cease and desist? Do you support that?	20	to review cease and desist orders, there will be some
21	MS. JONES: I support that. The only thing	21	negotiation about the penalty. It may be nominal
22	I was able to find, he has closed down most of his	22	depending on the history of your company or there may be
23	advertisements.	23	a reason Staff seeks a larger penalty, for example, if
24	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.	24	you've appeared here before, but neither of you have.
25	MS. JONES: Is on Thumbtack, there is only	25	Typically a portion of the penalty is suspended which is
		+	
	Page 14		Page 16
1	one advertisement left on Thumbtack.	1	meant to deter you from future illegal operations. So
1 2	one advertisement left on Thumbtack. JUDGE PEARSON: And I do think Thumbtack is	1 2	meant to deter you from future illegal operations. So you would pay a portion today and the remaining portion
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	Page 17		Page 19
1	I will call the companies back up one at a	1	hadn't seen before; does that make sense?
2	time in the order that we went in before.	2	MR. ESCALERA: No. So how am I going to
3	So first is Mr. Escalera, if you could come	3	advertise something out of a company that has been shut
4	up.	4	down?
5	Okay. Mr. Escalera, did you have a chance	5	JUDGE PEARSON: Well, if it's been shut
6	to walk through the order with Ms. Jones? If you could	6	down, then you wouldn't have to worry about it.
7	just please speak into the microphone on the table.	7	MR. ESCALERA: Exactly.
8	MR. ESCALERA: Excuse me?	8	JUDGE PEARSON: What we're saying is if you
9	JUDGE PEARSON: Did you have a chance to	9	decided to reopen the company, you understand that that
10	walk through the order with Ms. Jones?	10	would subject you to the penalty?
11	MR. ESCALERA: Yes.	11	MR. ESCALERA: Yes.
12	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you understand	12	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So the cease and
13	everything that's in it? Did you have any questions	13	desist order is permanent. So that does not expire
14	about its contents?	14	after two years. So if after the two-year period Staff
15	MR. ESCALERA: Yeah, but I'm not going to	15	discovers you are still operating, Staff could go
16	voice them.	16	straight to superior court and seek enforcement of this
17	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So here comes the	17	order, so there's a very strong incentive for you to
18	order. I did look at it. It looks like, for the	18	comply with the law. And it looks like there is a
19	record, Ms. Jones, you recommended two violations in	19	proposed payment schedule for the \$500 penalty and that
20	this case, one for offering to move and one for	20	you made a \$44 payment today; is that correct?
21	advertising; is that correct?	21	MR. ESCALERA: Yes.
22	MS. JONES: Yes, it is.	22	JUDGE PEARSON: And you will make a second
23	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And the \$5,000	23	payment on or before February 27th and March 27th, both
24	penalty will be imposed, but a \$4500 portion will be	24	in the amount of \$228; is that correct?
25	suspended and the company will pay \$500; is that	25	MR. ESCALERA: That is correct.
23			
23			Page 20
	Page 18	1	Page 20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you understand if
1		1 2	-
1 2	Page 18 correct? MS. JONES: Yes, that is.	1 2 3	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you understand if
1	Page 18 correct? MS. JONES: Yes, that is. JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And for the record,	2	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you understand if you miss a payment, the entire amount including the
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	Page 21		Page 23
1	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I understand that,	1	on April 3rd; is that correct?
2	and I don't mean you personally. I mean people in	2	MR. DUMITRASCU: Yes.
3	general. I am asking you whether you understand that	3	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And for the record,
4	you need a permit before you operate a household goods	4	you are agreeing to shut down unless you get a permit at
5	company in the state of Washington. That's all I'm	5	some future date and you are currently working on your
6	asking, that you understand that now.	6	permit application, correct?
7	MR. ESCALERA: Yeah, but you're not giving	7	MR. DUMITRASCU: That is correct.
8	me that option. You're saying if I ever do it again.	8	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So the suspension
9	JUDGE PEARSON: Without a permit. We are	9	period for the \$4500, like I explained, is two years
10	absolutely giving you the option to get a permit. What	10	from today's date, and you heard everything that I said
11	we're saying is you can't do it again without a permit.	11	to Mr. Escalera, so you know that if Staff were to if
12	If you want to do it, then please fill out an	12	you were for some reason to not get your permit or lose
13	application and get a permit from the Commission.	13	your permit and Staff found an advertisement or obtained
14	That's absolutely what we want you to do.	14	an offer, the remaining \$4500 would become immediately
15	MR. ESCALERA: Of course.	15	due and payable.
16	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay? Do you have any	16	MR. DUMITRASCU: Okay.
17	additional questions?	17	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay? And also the order to
18	MR. ESCALERA: I wish on behalf of the	18	cease and desist is permanent. So, again, even if after
19	people that are working out there that we can spend our	19	that two years if for some reason you were no longer
20	taxpayers' money helping the small companies strive	20	permitted and you were still operating, Staff could go
21	instead of persecuting them, but that's my personal	21	straight to superior court to enforce this order that I
22	opinion.	22	am signing today.
23	JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you. So I have signed	23	And also, again, if you miss a payment, the
24	the order and, Ms. Jones, I will hand this to you and	24	entire amount could become due, so it's important that
25	then, Mr. Escalera, they'll make a copy for you and you	25	you work with Staff if you need to make any adjustments
	Page 22		Page 24
	1 age 22		1 agc 2+
1	can leave here with that today.	1	to that payment arrangement. And also because you're
1 2	_	1 2	
	can leave here with that today.		to that payment arrangement. And also because you're
2	can leave here with that today. All right. So next is Docket TV-161252,	2	to that payment arrangement. And also because you're applying for a permit, nonpayment of the penalty could
2	can leave here with that today. All right. So next is Docket TV-161252, Victor Dumitrascu.	2	to that payment arrangement. And also because you're applying for a permit, nonpayment of the penalty could threaten your permit status too. So it's really
2 3 4	can leave here with that today. All right. So next is Docket TV-161252, Victor Dumitrascu. MR. DUMITRASCU: Hi.	2 3 4	to that payment arrangement. And also because you're applying for a permit, nonpayment of the penalty could threaten your permit status too. So it's really important that you make those payments because it sounds
2 3 4	can leave here with that today. All right. So next is Docket TV-161252, Victor Dumitrascu. MR. DUMITRASCU: Hi. JUDGE PEARSON: So did you have a chance to	2 3 4 5	to that payment arrangement. And also because you're applying for a permit, nonpayment of the penalty could threaten your permit status too. So it's really important that you make those payments because it sounds like your goal is to come into compliance and become a
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	Page 25		Page 27
1	order. I will hand it down and you are free to go once	1	CERTIFICATE
2	you get your copy, okay?	2	
3	MR. DUMITRASCU: Thank you.	3	STATE OF WASHINGTON
4	JUDGE PEARSON: All right. Thanks for	4	COUNTY OF THURSTON
5	coming today.	5	
6	So that concludes the list of companies that	6	I, Tayler Russell, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
7	were present in the hearing room today. There is no one	7	in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify
8	else in the hearing room, so we can proceed with a	8	that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to
9	motion for default for Docket TV-161207, Dustin Wick,	9	the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
10	d/b/a/ Lifters Moving.	10	
11	Ms. Jones, I've had a chance to review	11	Tayler Russell, CCR
12	Docket TV-161207, the Commission's evidence that there	12	rayler Russell, Corc
13	was an offer to for an intrastate move in Washington	13	
14	and advertising that meets the definition of RCW	14	
15	81.80.075, engaging in business as a moving company	15	
16	without a household goods permit.	16	
17	So what is the Company's motion at this	17	
18	point with respect to Dustin Wick, d/b/a Lifters Moving?	18	
19	MS. JONES: We would like the default order	19	
20	classifying the defendant as a household goods carrier.	20	
21	We would like the order or order the defendant to	21	
22	cease and desist, and we would like to impose a full	22	
23	\$5,000 penalty for the two violations of offering a	23	
24	household goods move and advertising.	24	
25	Mr. Wick was served on January 4th of 2017,	25	
	Page 26		
1	and as of today, he is still advertising as a household		
2	goods mover on Craigslist and on Yelp.		
3	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Staff also obtained		
4	an offer for a move?		
5	MS. JONES: Yes, two. One was on		
6	September 20th, 2016 and the other one was		
7	October 28th, 2016. Both are in the form of text		
8	messages.		
9	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Great. Thank you.		
10	And has this company ever filed for a permit		
11	with the Commission to your knowledge?		
12	MS. JONES: No.		
13	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And this default		
14	order, again, you said it was the full \$5,000 penalty,		
15	so nothing would be suspended, correct?		
16	MS. JONES: Yes, that's correct.		
17	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will grant your		
18	motion for Dustin Wick, d/b/a Lifters Moving, and I will		
19	sign the order holding the company in default.		
20	Okay. Is there any other business that we		
21	need to take care of today?		
22	MS. JONES: No, that's it. Thank you.		
23	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you so much.		
24	We are adjourned.		
25	(Adjourned at 10:28 a.m.)		