Service Date: October 17, 2022

# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

**GUY LARANGO** 

**DOCKET TG-220341** 

DECLARATION OF KATHRYN MCPHERSON

Kathryn McPherson, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declares as follows:

- 1. Mike Dotson was employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as an investigator in the Motor Carrier Enforcement program within the Transportation Safety Division. As an investigator, his responsibilities include conducting investigations regarding the business practices of regulated transportation companies. As part of those duties, Mike Dotson investigated transportation companies that may be operating without the required Commission-issued certificate.
- 2. On June 27, 2019, Kathryn McPherson, Solid Waste Investigator for Transportation Safety Division, discovered Guy Larango on Facebook Marketplace advertising for garbage hauling.<sup>1</sup>
- 3. On July 3, 2019, I sent a compliance letter to Guy Larango at 415 N Locust Road, Spokane Valley, Washington 99206. The compliance letter stated Staff believed the Company was in violation of RCW 81.77.040 for operating as a solid waste company by advertising for solid waste services without first receiving the required certificate.<sup>2</sup>
- 4. On July 15, 2019, I provided technical assistance to Guy Larango via telephone. Larango took corrective action for compliance by adjusting advertisements to not reflect solid waste carrier services. Staff closed the complaint.
- 5. On April 14, 2022, Mike Dotson discovered a Facebook Marketplace ad offering garbage hauling.<sup>3</sup>
- 6. On May 4, 2022, using a fictitious name Mike Dotson messaged Guy Larango on Facebook Messenger to see if the activities offered were in compliance with Commission rules. Mike Dotson solicited a solid waste pick up from the Company, requesting they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Attachment A for copy of Facebook Marketplace advertisement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Attachment B for a copy of the compliance letter dated July 3, 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Attachment C for copy of Facebook Marketplace advertisement.

pick up bags of garbage from a garage clean-out. Mike Dotson stated the garbage company's dumpster fees were too high and asked if he would be able to haul the bagged items away.<sup>4</sup> The Company responded and asked him to call 509-251-1169.<sup>5</sup>

7. On May 4, 2022, Mike Dotson spoke to Larango via Google Voice. Mike Dotson explained that Mike Dotson had 20-30 plastic bags of garbage from a garage clean-out that Mike Dotson needed hauled to the dump. Larango agreed to haul the garbage for approximately \$100 to the dump.<sup>6</sup>

DATED this October 7, 2022, at Lacey, Washington.

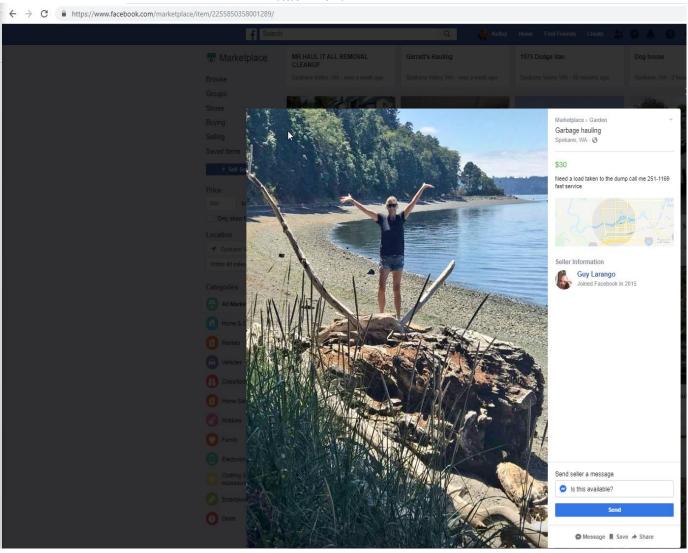
Kathryn McPherson

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Attachment D for copy of initial Facebook messenger request.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Attachment E for copy of company response to Facebook messenger request.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Attachment F for copy of notes from Motor Carrier Investigations database.

## **Attachment A**



#### Attachment B



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

### UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

July 3, 2019

Guy Larango 415 N Locust Road Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Dear Mr. Larango:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) believes you are engaged in services that require a certificate from the commission. The purpose of this letter is to provide technical assistance to you with respect to Washington's solid waste hauling requirements. Commission staff recently discovered that you are advertising on social media for solid waste hauling.

Operating or advertising as a solid waste hauler without the required certificate is illegal, and subject to a penalty of \$1,000 per violation. Under the law, advertising of solid waste collection services is evidence of operating as a solid waste hauler. Solid waste collection includes residential and commercial garbage, residential recycling, yard waste, and drop box service.

Without obtaining authority from the commission to haul solid waste in Washington state, you may not advertise or provide these services. Until and unless the commission grants a solid waste certificate, you must immediately cease advertising and providing all forms of solid waste collection services.

If you wish to offer solid waste collection services, you must first apply for authority as a solid waste collection company. An application has been included in this letter. Be advised, however, that your application will be subject to a public protest period and you will have to demonstrate that the existing solid waste company is not providing the service you propose to offer. The commission will only grant new solid waste authority if the existing certificated company is determined to be unfit, unwilling, or unable to provide the service.

Respect. Professionalism. Integrity. Accountability.

<sup>1</sup> RCW 81.04.380

July 3, 2019 Guy Larango Page 2

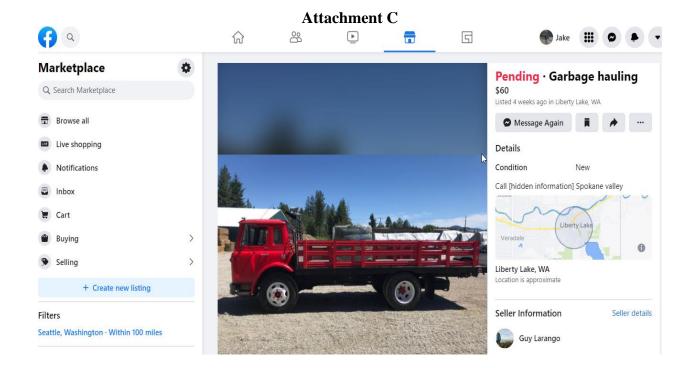
To avoid enforcement action by the Commission, by July 22, 2019, please either submit a complete application for a solid waste certificate, or explain in writing why you believe your business does not require authority from the Commission. Please explain the nature of your company's operations in detail.

Please direct your written response, to <u>Kathryn.McPherson@utc.wa.gov</u> or mail to P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504. You may also reach Ms. McPherson at 360-664-1108.

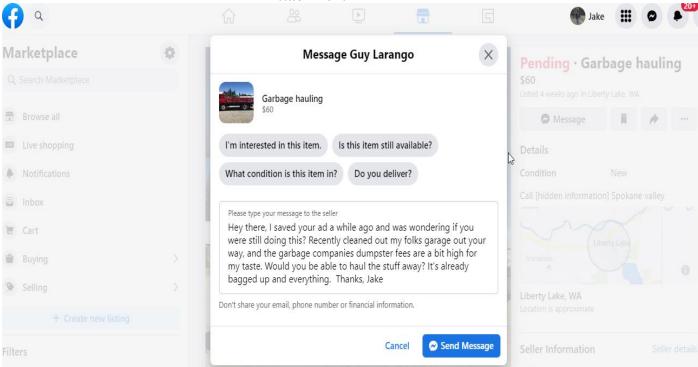
Sincerely,

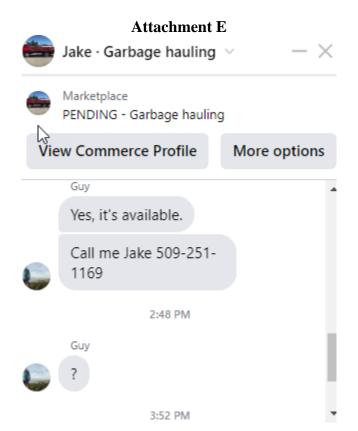
Mathew Perkinson Assistant Director, Transportation Safety

Enclosures (2)



**Attachment D** 





Service Date: October 17, 2022

#### Attachment F

Activity Date 5/4/2022 4:00 PM

Title Phone call with Mr. Larango - Offer of service

Activity Status Complete

Activity Due Date

Activity Type

Activity Mode

Activity Contact Name

Activity Contact Email

Activity Contact Phone

Activity Contact Address

Activity Contact Location

Desc Called Mr. Larango as Jake Landin via Google Voice, phone

number 253-617-4547. Explained that I had cleaned out my parents garage and had about 20-30 plastic bags full of stuff that I needed to haul to the dump. He stated he could be there tomorrow, I said I was in Tacoma and would be back in two weeks. He said that was fine. I asked if it would be \$60 dollars like his ad stated, he said he wasn't sure. I responded asking if it would be about \$100? He said that sounds right. I told him I would contact him in a few weeks to finalize pick-

up.

UTC Staff Members Dotson, Michael (UTC)