

Andrew J. O'Connell
Administrative Law Judge
Utilities and Transportation Commission
Docket TV-190858

02/02/2020

State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

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Dear, Judge O' Connell

Rianna And I would first like to thank you again for considering our permit. We genuinely appreciate UTC and the court's willingness to gauge my character beyond my record. As a convicted felon, I'm usually not accustomed that courtesy, so thank you, Your Honor.

The hearing was quite an emotional day for me and my AmericaM family. In addition to my nerves, I was suffering from anxiety. The last time I was in a courtroom was 2009 and i was fighting for my life. Yesterday, I felt like I was fighting for my life all over again, because this business means so much to Rianna, Lupe, Liddy, myself and our families.

At the time, I thought I was prepared for this hearing, but when my anxiety took over I lost all concentration. Thus, I was unable to convey everything that I wanted to say or thought of during the proceedings. Therefore, we're hoping that you can take this letter into consideration on or off the record, before making your final ruling.

We at the AmericaM family appreciate UTC's obligation to protect the public. It's a good thing that there is an entity that protects the public's best interest. When it's time for us to hire movers there will be limits as to whom we will hire too, such as: sex offenders, DVs, and murderers.

With that said, I brought up the Fair Chance Act, because we as a society can be judgemental. We do it without acknowledging why or without taking all information into account. Rather, we allow appearances, experiences, or past events to shape our perceptions, before we even consider their entire resume. Ban The Box and Fair Chance Act is supposed to prevent those biases and allow impartiality.

Yes, I have a lengthy record but most of those charges are from my adolescence. I grew up in a broken home with an alcoholic mother and absentee father. My upbringing played a major factor in my substance abuse. Most, if not all of my charges stemmed from my alcohol and substance abuse.

All I'm trying to convey is my past should not completely exclude my ability to function as a business owner. None of my charges ever involved the workplace or customers. Furthermore, The Commission's office partially admitted that there's movers who have

similar charges such as: theft charges, DV charges, assault charges, gun charges, etc. that are working unsupervised in customer's homes as we speak. What I failed to mention to the court, is there's owners with records who have permits or where granted a permit. How am I certain? There is one moving company "Acme Moving" that was granted a permit. (Docket 161206) This gentleman who was granted a permit had multiple offenses, including: domestic violence assaults, a gun charge, and other crimes. He even fired a shot around a crowd of spectators. Although, this gentleman's charges are similar in nature as mine, minus the DVs. He is still running a successful moving company, providing excellent service, and proving that one can turn his life around from a life of crime and substance abuse.

There is another moving company in Snohomish County, whom the owner has a record. However, he too is doing a phenomenal job running a well structured business with hundreds of positive reviews.

Here are two prime examples of men, who have turned their lives around, operating moving companies, working within our communities, and providing customers' exceptional service.

I'm not asking you to compare these gentlemen to me or their situation to mine. That's not fair to them, nor is that fair to you. What I am asking for, is to look at the amount of work I've done to rehabilitate myself. Examine my character statements, give them calls if needed. Review, the amount of work and thought, I've put into this company. Look at the amount of money Rianna and I have invested. But most importantly, consider my effort, heart, time, and passion I've invested.

After analyzing all that, then ask yourself, are these, the behaviors of a man who has ill intentions. Does my actions follow that of someone who is looking for opportunities to steal from or harm customers? Or does my actions follow that of someone who is trying to form a legitimate business?

Your Honor, I'm not an opportunist, I'm an entrepreneur. I have too much time and money invested, to just throw it all away. I love doing this, I love waking up everyday for work. This is what I was born to do! I'm 41 years old, I'm tired! I'm tired of messing up and all i want is to write a new legacy, one that my family and I can be proud of.

One last thing, Rianna and I wanted to address with you further is the proposed offer by the Commission's office.

Although, we're extremely grateful for the offer to apply again in September, The Commission's office was vague, and left us confused, as to whether or not we would be granted a permit? Furthermore, waiting till September is really waiting till May or June of 2021 and that would be a death sentence for our business.

For argument's sake, let's say we waited till September, we then would have to maintain our insurance that would cost us around \$600-700 a month. We can't afford these costs

unless we are moving customers. Not to mention, we've paid 6 months of insurance in order to maintain compliance, prior to the hearing. Those six months cost us \$4,000, then add another \$4000 in monthly operational costs for a total of \$8000 that we would be throwing away.

If we were to stop payment on our insurance now, then we would have to pay a lump sum up front and we don't have that money anymore. Also, if we applied again in September we would have to pay down payments of \$2-3000 to acquire insurance again, which is more money we don't have.

As I mentioned to the court, our entire life savings was invested into this company, as well as another 15,000 of debt. We are gassed out and hanging by a thread. My credit score was 804 prior to starting this business now it is 645 ish, Rianna's credit was 740 and now it's in the low 600s. Thankfully, we've both have not missed a single payment to date, but debt is piling up, so it's only a matter of time.

If we wait, we fail! Six more months would be the death of AmericaM Movers. I'll reiterate, September is the beginning of the dead season. We are a new business, therefore, we have no clientele or name recognition with the public. So we would be basically starting from scratch. We would have to compete against known brands in a saturated market for limited customers during the dead season. Therefore, we wouldn't start making money until May- June of 2021. That's too late for us. We'll be dead broke, in debt, with our credit ruined.

It's not fair for my convictions to drag down Rianna, her credit, and her dream of owning a home. I realize our financials are not the court's concern, but I'm asking that it be a humane awareness that our lives will be financially ruined.

For this reason, I have a proposal in the event the court favors the Commission's denial. Would the court consider granting Rianna a provisional permit, while I wait for the September deadline? During this time, I would remove my name from ownership, as well as not partake in residential type moves or any business functions if desired. This way, Rianna could save her credit and our business. Thus, allowing AmericaM Movers the opportunity to advertise and become a known name with the public before this summer.

In all honesty, I would love to be granted the permit, but my dreams are not as important as looking after Rianna's best interests. She has invested her trust and money in me. She believes in me, and believes that I will make the right decisions for our future. Therefore, I'm willing to step down as partial owner and remove myself altogether if needed to do right by Rianna.

Hence, I'm asking the court to show leniency to Rianna. Please don't penalize Rianna. She exemplifies all that is good, she is a perfect citizen, who has never even had a traffic ticket in her life. She doesn't deserve her financial life to be ruined for my past mistakes.

Thank you Your Honor, for taking this letter into consideration. Before I let you go I want you to know these last thoughts. My life was altered December 29th 2008. It was God's plan to have prison renew me. It allowed me to discover myself and my purpose. I never knew who I was nor what I wanted out of life. But now I Know! I've overcome my addictions and removed the corruption from my life .

Today I'm conscious of my choices. I know now that my choices today will forever affect my life for tomorrow. I know your successes and failures have a lot to do with the people you surround yourself with. Most importantly, I've learned to appreciate the small and subtle things like freedom, family, love, and making a positive difference in other people's lives.

I can't change my past, but I can have a say in my future.

Therefore, I will continue to motivate myself by thinking about who I never want to be again. And I will put one foot in front of the other, until I have fulfilled God's purpose.

Thank you again, Your Honor, for genuinely taking the time to consider my application.

Whatever your decision is, I trust, it will be made with honest judgement.

Sincerely,

Camano Gahagan

AmericaM Movers LLC.

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