Docket No. TE-160460 - Vol. I

In the Matter of: A+ Pacific Limousine, Inc.

November 30, 2016



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15	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission	14	
16	1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest Olympia, Washington 98504-7250	15	
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19	DEPORTED DV. CHERRII VAI OMITH CORP. CCC.	19	
20	REPORTED BY: SHERRILYN SMITH, CCR# 2097	20	
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Page 5 Page 7 5 7 So I think what we should do is go off the 1 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. record for about 15 minutes, give him a window of time 2 So just to go over for the record, the to arrive. If he does not, then we can come back on 3 certificate of service, it looks like on September the record and I will entertain a motion for default 4 29th, an individual was served at the address that is at that time. 5 known to be Mr. Polyukh's address; is that correct? MR. SHEARER: Sounds good, Your Honor. 6 MR. SHEARER: That's correct. That's 6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. 7 7 his residential address. 8 MR. SHEARER: Thank you. 8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okav. 9 JUDGE PEARSON: So we will be in recess. 9 And it was a male, likely fitting Mr. Polyukh's description, who refused to identify 10 (A brief recess.) 10 JUDGE PEARSON: So we will be back on himself, but did confirm that it was Mr. Polyukh's 11 11 the record following a brief recess. The time is now 12 home; is that correct? 12 10:15 a.m., and A+ Limousine, Inc. has failed to make 13 MR. SHEARER: That appears to be the an appearance at this morning's hearing. 14 14 case, yes, Your Honor --15 Mr. Shearer, I will turn it over to you. 15 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. 16 MR. SHEARER: Thank you, Your Honor. 16 MR. SHEARER: -- from the sworn 17 I would like to begin by noting that the 17 statement from the process server. 18 defendant has not appeared today and offer documents 18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. 19 showing a declaration of service to the defendant 19 Then that certainly qualifies as effecting dated 9/30/2016. It shows that the individual was service, so the motion for default is granted. 20 20 served at his residential address. I would also note 21 21 And now we can move on to dispose of the 22 that the Commission has previously served this 22 substantive issues in the case. I can swear in 23 individual in this proceeding by mail. The document 23 Mr. Turcott at this time. 24 24 was -- proper postage, properly addressed, and sent via First-Class Mail. It was -- delivery was refused, 25 Page 6 Page 8 6 8 and it was rejected, and then we took the next step of INVESTIGATOR TURCOTT, witness herein, having been 2 first duly sworn on oath, was performing personal service. examined and testified as 3 I have listed that as Exhibit No. BP-1 in 3 Staff's exhibit list, the declaration of personal 4 follows: service. I would first ask to have that admitted. 5 JUDGE PEARSON: You may be seated. 6 JUDGE PEARSON: I will admit that, but I 6 will mark it as Exhibit MT-1, with Mr. Turcott as the INVESTIGATOR TURCOTT: (Complies.) 7 7 8 sponsoring witness. 8 JUDGE PEARSON: Go ahead, Mr. Shearer. (Exhibit No. MT-1 admitted.) 9 MR. SHEARER: For everybody's sake, Your 9 MR. SHEARER: That's fine. Honor, I was just going to point out that it may be 10 10 JUDGE PEARSON: Okav. helpful to have Exhibit MT-1 out for reference. 11 11 12 MR. SHEARER: We put it as -- I think 12 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. MR. SHEARER: We will go through the the thought was to put it as the attorneys, because 13 the Attorney General's Office engaged the process process of authentication and everything. 14 14 JUDGE PEARSON: Great. 15 server. 15 16 MR. SHEARER: I am sure he will refer to JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. 16 17 MR. SHEARER: That's just an 17 it off and on throughout his testimony. administrative detail. 18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. 18 MR. SHEARER: Just one more 19 JUDGE PEARSON: Yes. Typically we do 19 clarification. There are appendices to this that were 20 have the Staff person sponsor that. 20 21 MR. SHEARER: That's fine, Your Honor. 21 in the initial report, but there are also page numbers at the bottom, in the center of the page. 22 Next, because the Defendant is not present, 22 has failed to appear after being properly served, I 23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. would ask the Commission to find the defendant in 24 default. 25 25

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1	EXAMINATION	1	So after providing technical assistance when
2	BY MR. SHEARER:	2	companies fail to respond and become licensed with us,
3	Q Good morning, Mr. Turcott.	3	I gather evidence and prepare an investigative report
4	A Good morning.	4	for classification and penalties if appropriate.
5	Q Let's begin with your exhibit. You have a	5	Q Thank you, Mr. Turcott.
6	copy of your exhibit in front of you. Do you	6	If I turn to Page 4 of your Staff
7	recognize that document, Mr. Turcott?	7	investigation report it says "INVESTIGATION," and
8	A I do.	8	there is a subheading named "Overview."
9	Q What is that document?	9	A Yes.
10	A This is my investigative report pertaining to	10	Q Now, this is a summary of your report; is that
11	Docket No. TE-160460, A+ Pacific Limousine.	11	correct?
12	Q And do you have personal knowledge of this	12	A It is.
13	document and its contents?	13	Q And you propose five separate violations; is
14	A Yes.	14	that correct?
15	Q And does this document accurately summarize	15	A That's correct.
16	your investigation and findings in this Docket 160460	16	MR. SHEARER: Your Honor, I'm going
17	against A+ Pacific Limo, Inc.?	17	to for ease of understanding, I am going to go
18	A Yes.	18	through these in order.
19	Q Thank you, Mr. Turcott.	19	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.
20	MR. SHEARER: Your Honor, I would move	20	MR. SHEARER: I'll go through each one.
21	to admit Exhibit MT-1, the Staff investigation of A+	21	BY MR. SHEARER:
22	Pacific Limo, Inc.	22	Q Let's begin with the first one, Mr. Turcott.
23	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I will admit	23	Do you see that there? It says, "A+ Pacific
24	that. I will mark it MT-2.	24	advertised party bus services on its company website."
25	(Exhibit No. MT-2 admitted.)	25	A Yes.
	Page 10		Page 12
1	MR. SHEARER: I apologize.	1	Q Mr. Turcott, did you visit the company's
2	JUDGE PEARSON: That's okay.	2	website?
3	MR. SHEARER: Yes, MT-2. Excuse me.		
١.		3	A I did.
4	And I realize now that, in authenticating the	3	A I did. Q When did you do that?
5	And I realize now that, in authenticating the document, I overlooked Mr. Turcott's name. I will ask		
	_	4	Q When did you do that?
5	document, I overlooked Mr. Turcott's name. I will ask	4 5	Q When did you do that? A Several times throughout the past year,
5 6	document, I overlooked Mr. Turcott's name. I will ask Mr. Turcott to spell his last name for the record.	4 5 6	Q When did you do that? A Several times throughout the past year, beginning in approximately November of 2015, I went to
5 6 7	document, I overlooked Mr. Turcott's name. I will ask Mr. Turcott to spell his last name for the record. INVESTIGATOR TURCOTT: My last name is	4 5 6 7	Q When did you do that? A Several times throughout the past year, beginning in approximately November of 2015, I went to Google and I typed in "party bus Tri-Cities," as I
5 6 7 8	document, I overlooked Mr. Turcott's name. I will ask Mr. Turcott to spell his last name for the record. INVESTIGATOR TURCOTT: My last name is Turcott, T-U-R-C-O-T-T.	4 5 6 7 8	Q When did you do that? A Several times throughout the past year, beginning in approximately November of 2015, I went to Google and I typed in "party bus Tri-Cities," as I guess a standard procedure to search and locate
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	Page 13		Page 15
1	qualify it as a party bus under our rules and	1	Q Your second alleged violation indicates that
2	statutes. In particular, it has perimeter seating	2	this company advertised party bus services on a
3	inside. This is looking at the photos depicted on the	3	Facebook page; is that correct, Mr. Turcott?
4	website. Perimeter seating, which allows the	4	A That's correct.
5	occupants to stand and circulate throughout the	5	Q And did you visit the company's Facebook page?
6	vehicle. It also has some fancy lighting, fog	6	A Yes, I did.
7	machines, strobe light, and it appears to have at	7	Q And when did you do that, Mr. Turcott?
8	least some kind of beverage service, where people can	8	A A number of times throughout the
9	consume beverages on the vehicle while they are	9	investigation. On April 22nd, 2016, specifically I
10	traveling.	10	visited and obtained screen images of the website, of
11	It also has flat-screen TVs, DVD, CD player,	11	the Facebook page.
12	and a premium sound system with 4,000 watts of power.	12	Q And what did you find in your visits to the
13	Q And these are all listed on the company's	13	company's Facebook page?
14	website?	14	A The company has its name, A+ Pacific
15	A That's correct.	15	Limousine, as the name on the Facebook page. It has
16	Q And you may have mentioned this, Mr. Turcott,	16	the phone number (509) 585-7717 displayed on the
17	but did you document that information on the company's	17	Facebook page, as well as the location address, 1625
18	website in your investigation report?	18	South Rainier Street, Kennewick, Washington. It has a
19	A Yes, I did. I obtained screen images of the	19	small image on the front of a of a number of
20	website as described.	20	vehicles, including what appears to be the Blue Bird
21	Q And just for everyone's give everyone a	21	bus from the website.
22	shortcut. Where in your investigation report did you	22	Farther down the time line there is an image
23	show that?	23	posted of the Blue Bird bus. I believe it's parked at
24	A Those appear in Appendix E. That's correct,	24	a winery. The license plate displayed on the bus is
			A lile Adem 00007V Verme relieb thereas BOI meaning
25	Appendix E, Edward.	25	A, like Adam, 90887Y, Young, which through DOL records
25		25	
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25 1 2		1 2	
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24 now, Your Honor, and Mr. Turcott.

25 BY MR. SHEARER:

Q And now on to the third alleged violation.

25 This is a violation for advertising party bus services

Docket No. TE-160460 - Vol. I 11/30/2016 Page 17 Page 19 on rentalimo.com; is that correct? A Yes. I was posing as a consumer and I emailed A That's correct. the company at the email address service@limo01.com, 2 2 Q And did you visit rentalimo.com? and I requested a quote for the bus. When I said A Yes, I did. "bus" as a consumer, I had been to the website and I Q And when did you do that, Mr. Turcott? 5 had seen what the company refers to as its bus, which A A number of times. In particular, April 22nd, 6 was the 20-passenger Blue Bird. 7 2016, I visited the website and obtained screen I requested transportation on March 19th. I 7 received a reply. The email was sent March 4th. The 8 images. 8 9 Q And what did you find, Mr. Turcott? 9 reply was sent later on March 4th, offering the bus on A Well, rentalimo.com is a site where a consumer March 19th, as requested. The reply actually states, 10 10 11 can go online and select the city that they need 11 "The limo bus is available on March 19th, 2016." I transportation service. Upon selecting the Kennewick think it is very clear what transportation was being 12 13 or Tri-Cities area, A+ Pacific Limousine comes up. 13 offered. And it indicates a price for six hours of The website displays a number of vehicles. There are \$805. And that was signed, "Best Regards, Anna, A+ 14 14 four vehicles, in fact. The first three appear to be Pacific Limousine," with the 509 phone number we have 15 15 limousines. They appear to fall within that seen before and the web address limo01.com. 16 16 14-passenger, behind-the-driver criteria that DOL will 17 Q Thank you, Mr. Turcott. 17 authorize a limousine operation. For administrative purposes, can you point us 18 18 to the portion of your investigation report with that 19 The fourth vehicle, however, it looks to be 19 the same large white Blue Bird bus that we have seen email and response in it? 2.0 20 21 on Facebook and at the A+ Pacific website. When the 21 A Yes. This was Appendix M, like Mary. Appendix M is an email string, or chain, back and customer clicks on that bus a pop-up window emerges, 22 22 and it has some information here that is helpful. It 23 forth between myself and the company, and the 23 24 indicates 20 passengers. There is a list of --24 March 4th correspondence is at the bottom of that INVESTIGATOR TURCOTT: And these are all 25 25 chain. Page 18 Page 20 in the appendix, Your Honor. Q Thank you, Mr. Turcott. 1 1 A -- a number of amenities that again meet the We will move on to the second email. Did you 2 2 statutory definition of a party bus, as far as the email this company on or about March 30th, 2016? 3 amenities. At the bottom of that pop-up it says, A I did. 4 "This vehicle is provided by A+ Pacific Limousine." I Q And can you please explain the contents of 5 construed this as advertising party bus services for a that email? 20-passenger vehicle provided by A+ Pacific. A Yes, I emailed and replied to Anna at A+ 8 BY MR. SHEARER: 8 Pacific Limousine. I indicated that I wanted to look 9 Q And there is literally a list of amenities for 9 at another date for 20 folks, 20 people to go to a this bus on rentalimo.com, and you captured that in 10 baseball game, and I provided some dates, and I asked 10 your Appendix G; is that correct? if the limo bus was available. These were dates in 11 11 June we were looking at, June 17th, 18th, or 19th. A That's correct. 12 12 Q For the last two violations alleged in this 13 13 And that was -- that email was sent report, we have email communications between you and March 30th, about 10:49 in the morning, and I received the company; is that correct? a reply actually within less than 15 minutes, again 15 15 16 A Yes, it is. 16 signed by Anna at A+ Pacific Limousine, again offering 17 MR. SHEARER: So I will start with the the bus on either of those days, either the 17th, 17 first one, Your Honor. 18th, or 19th. And then I followed up asking the cost 18 18 19 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. 19 for that, and verifying that it would haul -- the BY MR. SHEARER: 20 vehicle would accommodate 20 adults. And again Anna 20 21 Q Mr. Turcott, did you email A+ Pacific Limo on 21 replied by 3:12 that afternoon offering the limo bus

22

23

24

25

Q And can you please explain the contents of

22 or about March 4th, 2016?

A Yes, I did.

that email?

23

for \$805 for six hours, and confirming that it would

MR. SHEARER: Your Honor, we have gone

accommodate 20 adults.

Q Thank you, Mr. Turcott.

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	Page 21		Page 23
	EXAMINATION OF DAVE PRATT 21		23
	- -		
	Harry with the a five stabilities at 1, 1, 21, 77, 1, 17		has the decomposite. Mr. Turnell and the Office Nation
1	through the five violations that Staff found. If you	1	has the documents. Mr. Turcott gave the CliffsNotes
2	have any questions for Mr. Turcott, he is your	2	version today, for us to get through what we needed to
3	witness.	3	have in the record. Certainly we are willing to do
4	JUDGE PEARSON: I do not. The only	4	that if you think it would be helpful.
5	issue that remains at this point is Staff's penalty	5	JUDGE PEARSON: I think that the
6	recommendation.	6	evidence in the record is sufficient at this juncture
7	MR. SHEARER: And we were going to ask	7	because we have walked through each of the violations
8	that we were going to have Mr. Pratt testify to a	8	and how they were found.
9	recommended penalty, instead of Mr. Turcott.	9	At this point I will issue an order reflecting
10	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.	10	that A+ Pacific Limousine, Inc. was held in default,
11	Mr. Pratt, if you would please stand and raise	11	classifying the company as a charter party and
12	your right hand.	12	excursion carrier, and imposing Staff's recommended
13	MR. PRATT: (Complies.)	13	penalties. And I will certainly do that in less than
14	with tradition (complical)	14	ten days.
15	DAVE PRATT, witness herein, having been	15	MR. SHEARER: Thank you, Your Honor.
16	first duly sworn on oath, was	16	We have nothing further.
	examined and testified as follows:		-
17	examined and testined as follows.	17	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.
18	HIDOE DEADOON. TI	18	We will be off the record.
19	JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.	19	(Proceedings concluded 10:44 a.m.)
20		20	
21	EXAMINATION	21	
22	BY MR. SHEARER:	22	
23	Q Good morning, Mr. Pratt. Are you aware of	23	
24	Mr. Turcott's investigation report?	24	
25	A Yes, I am.	25	
	Page 22		Page 24
	EXAMINATION OF DAVE PRATT 22		24
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1		1	
1	Q And if you could turn I don't know if you	1	24 CERTIFICATE
2	Q And if you could turn I don't know if you have a copy. Sorry.	2	CERTIFICATE
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