

STATE OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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February 14, 2020

Mark L. Johnson Executive Director and Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Luxury1 Limo, LLC Commission Staff Recommendation to Deny Request for Dismissal of Imposed Penalty Docket TE-180596

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On July 25, 2018, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) penalized Luxury1 Limo, LLC (Luxury1 Limo or Company) \$1,400 for violations of Washington Administrative Code 480-30-221, Vehicle and Driver Safety Requirements.

On August 29, 2018, the Company requested mitigation, and on September 21, the Commission issued Order 01, Denying Mitigation; Suspending Penalty, in Part (Order 01). Order 01 suspended \$700 of the penalty for two years subject to the conditions: (1) Luxury 1 Limo does not incur any repeat violations of acute or critical regulations; (2) the Company pay the \$700 portion of the penalty that was not suspended; and (3) the Company submit a "15-day letter" to Commission staff (Staff) within 10 days of the effective date of Order 01 containing a detailed plan for correcting and avoiding future violations.

On November 2, 2018, Staff filed a letter in this docket informing the Commission that Luxury1 Limo had failed to pay the remaining penalty or submit its 15-day letter. Staff recommended that the suspended portion of the penalty be imposed.

On November 21, 2018, the Commission imposed the entire \$1,400 penalty against Luxury1 Limo for failure to comply with the terms of Order 01.

On November 21, 2018, the Commission's financial services reported receiving a \$700 payment from Luxury1 Limo.

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On June 27, 2019, Staff completed a follow-up safety investigation with Luxury1 Limo. During this investigation, Staff identified repeat acute and critical violations. The same date, Luxury1 Limo submitted a voluntary cancellation of its charter authority with the Commission. The repeat violations would have been cause for imposing the \$700 suspended penalty and additional violations would have resulted in additional penalties had the company not voluntarily cancelled its certificate.

On October 25, 2019, the Commission entered Order 01 in docket TE-190842 alleging that Luxury1 Limo violated RCW 81.70.260 by offering and advertising charter party or excursion services without the required certificate for such operations.

On December 10, 2019, the Commission entered Order 02 in docket TE-190842 in which the Commission ordered: (1) Satwinder Singh, d/b/a/ Luxury1 Limo, LLC, is classified as a charter party or excursion service carrier; (2) Luxury1 Limo was ordered to immediately cease and desist charter party or excursion services within the state of Washington without first obtaining a certificate from the Commission; and (3) Luxury1 Limo was assessed a penalty of \$10,000, with \$9,000 of that penalty suspended for a period of two years, provided that Luxury1 Limo refrain permanently from further operations as a charter party or excursion services without first obtaining the required certificate of the Commission. The Company is currently making payments on the \$1,000 portion of the penalty that is not suspended.

On December 9, 2019, Luxury1 Limo filed an application for reinstatement of its charter and excursion service certificate.

On January 27, 2020, Luxury1 Limo submitted to this docket a request that the \$700 unpaid be dismissed, citing that payment of the \$700 penalty would create a "difficult financial situation."

Because of the Company's failure to meet any of the conditions in Order 01 and continued noncompliance with Commission regulations, Staff does not support Luxury1 Limo's request to dismiss the \$700 penalty.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Sharp, Motor Carrier Safety Supervisor, Transportation Safety at <u>Jason.Sharp@utc.wa.gov</u> or at (360) 664-1238.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mathew Perkinson MATHEW PERKINSON Assistant Director, Transportation Safety