



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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June 11, 2021

NOTICE REQUIRING STAFF RESPONSE
(By Friday, June 18, 2021)

RE: *In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against Black Tie Limousines, Inc., d/b/a Black Tie Wine Tours, Black Tie, Black Tie Transportation, and Walla Walla Wine Tours,*
Docket TE-190303

TO ALL PARTIES:

On May 1, 2019, the commission entered Order 01, Order Instituting Special Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; and Notice of Mandatory Appearance at Hearing (Complaint), pursuant to RCW 81.04.510, initiating this docket on its own motion. The Complaint alleged that Black Tie Limousines, Inc., d/b/a Black Tie Wine Tours, Black Tie, Black Tie Transportation, and Walla Walla Wine Tours (Black Tie or Company), violated RCW 81.70.220 by advertising and offering to provide charter party or excursion service in the state of Washington without the required certificate for such operations.

On June 4, 2019, the Commission held a special proceeding and subsequently issued Order 02, Stipulated Initial Order Classifying Respondent as Charter Party or Excursion Service Carrier; Ordering Respondent to Cease and Desist; Imposing and Suspending Penalties on Condition of Future Compliance (Order 02). Order 02, among other things, assessed a penalty of \$10,000, a \$9,500 portion of which was suspended for a period of two years subject to the condition that Black Tie permanently refrain from further operations as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without first obtaining the required certificate from the Commission.

On May 7, 2021, Commission staff (Staff) filed a Motion to Impose Suspended Penalties (Motion) in this docket. In its Motion, Staff alleges that while conducting a follow-up investigation, Staff found evidence that the Company continued to operate as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without first obtaining the required certificate from the Commission.

On May 19, 2021, the Company sent a letter to the Commission explaining that the Company had thought that it had complied with licensing requirements and requesting leniency regarding the penalty.

The Commission interprets pleadings and motions to effect just results.¹ The Commission exercises its discretion to consider the Company's email as a request for mitigation of the penalty.

To assist the Commission in evaluating the Company's request, the Commission requires Staff to file a response in the form of a letter addressed to the undersigned administrative law judge indicating its position regarding the Company's request no later than **5 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021.**

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That Staff must file a response to Black Tie's request for mitigation no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021.

/s/ Rayne Pearson
RAYNE PEARSON
Administrative Law Judge

¹ WAC 480-07-395.