BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

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SATWINDER SINGH, D/B/A LUXURY1 LIMO, LLC, BLACK CAR SEATTLE, LLC, LUXURY LIMOS & TOURS, ET AL. **DOCKET TE-190842**

COMMISSION STAFF'S MOTION TO IMPOSE SUSPENDED PENALTY

I. INTRODUCTION

In Docket TE-190842 the Commission imposed a penalty on Satwinder Singh, d/b/a Luxury1 Limo, LLC, Black Car Seattle, LLC, Luxury Limos & Tours, et al. (Luxury1 Limo or Company) for violating RCW 81.70.260(1), but suspended a portion of that penalty on the Company's compliance with certain conditions. One of these conditions required the Company to 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. Staff performed a follow-up investigation and determined that the Company continued to operate as a charter party or excursion service carrier without first obtaining the required certificate for such operations from the Commission. The

II. RELIEF REQUESTED

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission order Luxury1 Limo to pay the \$9,000 penalty that the Commission imposed, but then suspended, in Docket TE-190842.

Commission, consequently, should impose the suspended penalty.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

3 On April 12, 2017, Luxury1 Limo filed with the Commission an application for charter and excursion carrier authority. 1

On May 31, 2017, the Commission granted Luxury1 Limo a certificate to provide charter and excursion carrier authority.²

On June 27, 2019, Luxury1 Limo filed with the Commission a request to cancel its certificate to provide charter and excursion service in the state of Washington.³ That same day, the Commission issued a cancellation letter in Docket TE-190541, notifying the Company that its charter and excursion carrier authority was cancelled and that the Company must cease all operations associated with the certificate.⁴

On November 1, 2019, the Commission issued Order 01, Order Instituting Special Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; Notice of Hearing; and Subpoena Duces Tecum in this Docket, TE-190842.⁵

On December 6, 2019, Luxury1 Limo filed with the Commission an application to reinstate its charter and excursion authority.⁶

On December 10, 2019, the Commission entered Order 02 in Docket TE-190842.⁷ In Order 02, the Commission imposed a penalty of \$10,000 on Luxury1 Limo for two violations of RCW 81.70.260(1) for operating as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington after the cancellation of its certificate.⁸

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 $^{^1}$ Declaration of Jason Hoxit ("Hoxit Decl.") at \P 3.

 $^{^{2}}$ *Id.* at ¶ 4.

³ *Id.* at \P 5.

⁴ *Id*.

⁵ *Id.* at \P 6.

⁶ Id. at \P 7.

⁷ See generally In re Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against Satwinder Singh d/b/a Luxury1 Limo, LLC, Docket TE-190842, Order 02 (Dec. 10, 2019) ("Order 02").

⁸ Id. at 4-5 ¶ 20.

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The Commission, however, suspended \$9,000 of the penalty that it imposed, conditioned on the Company's ongoing compliance with two conditions. The first condition required the Company to permanently refrain from further operations as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without obtaining the required certificate from the Commission. The second condition required the company to pay the remaining \$1,000 penalty in accordance with a defined payment schedule.

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On February 18, 2020, the Company paid the \$1,000 portion of the penalty that was not suspended. 12

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On June 23, 2020, the Commission issued Order 03/01, Order Dismissing

Application without Prejudice and Cancelling Payment Arrangement in Dockets TE-180596 and TE-191008, cancelling the Company's payment arrangement in Docket TE-180596 and dismissing its application to reinstate charter and excursion carrier authority in Docket TE-191008.¹³

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On September 22, 2020, Commission staff (Staff) received a complaint pertaining to the Company alleging that it was operating as a charter or excursion carrier without the required authority from the Commission.¹⁴

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In September and October 2020, Staff performed a follow-up investigation of Luxury1 Limo to check for compliance with Order 02 in Docket TE-190842. ¹⁵ In the course of that review, Staff determined that the Company failed to comply with the condition in

⁹ *Id*.

¹⁰ *Id*.

¹¹ *Id*.

¹² Hoxit Decl. at ¶ 11.

 $^{^{13}}$ *Id.* at ¶ 14.

¹⁴ *Id*. at ¶ 15.

¹⁵ *Id.* at ¶ 15-30.

Order 02 in Docket TE-190842 that it refrain from operations as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without first obtaining the required certificate from the Commission. Staff documented, as detailed in the Declaration of Jason Hoxit filed concurrently with this Motion, that the Company continued to advertise, operate, and/or offer charter party or excursion service without the required authority from the Commission. Commission.

IV. STATEMENT OF ISSUES

Should the Commission order Luxury1 Limo to pay the \$9,000 portion of the penalty the Commission imposed on the Company, but then suspended, in Docket TE-190842?

V. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

Staff relies on the record in Docket TE-190842 as well as the Declaration of Jason Hoxit and associated attachments, filed concurrently with this Motion.

VI. ARGUMENT

In Order 02 in this Docket, the Commission suspended a \$9,000 portion of the \$10,000 penalty it imposed against the Company "for a period of two years from the date of this Order, and waived thereafter, provided Satwinder Singh, d/b/a Luxury1 Limo, LLC, refrains permanently 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." Based on its investigation conducted in September and October 2020, Staff determined that the Company continued to operate as a charter party or excursion service carrier without first obtaining the required certificate for such operations from the

17 *Id*.

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¹⁶ *Id*.

¹⁸ Order 02 at 4-5 ¶ 20.

Commission. The Commission should, accordingly, find that the Company violated the terms of the penalty suspension and order the Company to pay the \$9,000 portion of the penalty imposed in Docket TE-190842 that was conditionally suspended in Order 02.

VII. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion and order the Company to pay the \$9,000 portion of the penalty imposed but conditionally suspended in Docket TE-190842.

DATED this 16th day of November 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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