Service Date: March 21, 2018

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties against: **DOCKET TV-180207**

EMMANUEL SAMUELS AND ALEX SAMUELS d/b/a SAMUELS BROTHERS, L.L.C.

DECLARATION OF BRIAN BRAUN

Brian Braun, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declares as follows:

- 1. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a Compliance Investigator in the Consumer Protection Section. As a Compliance Investigator, my responsibilities include conducting investigations regarding the business practices of regulated utility and transportation companies. As part of those duties, I investigate household goods carriers that may be operating without the required Commission permit.
- 2. On Jan. 30, 2018, I found numerous advertisements on craigslist.org for Samuels Brothers movers that featured a logo for Samuels Brother's Movers (logo), telephone numbers of (425) 626-8399 and (206) 509-7394, and the web address of www.samuelsbrothersmovers.com.¹
- 3. On Jan 30, 2018, I searched Commission records and verified that Samuels Brothers is not a permitted household goods carrier.²
- 4. On Jan. 30, 2018, I visited the website www.samuelsbrothersmovers.com. I found a link to Samuels Brothers Facebook page, a link to Samuel Brothers Instagram account, telephone numbers (206) 503-7394 and (425) 626-8399, Yelp.com reviews, and biographical information about Emmanuel and Alex Samuels.³
- 5. On Jan. 30, 2018, I searched Washington Secretary of State's website for Samuels Brothers. The results produced a contact name/governing individual of Emmanuel Samuels with an address of 510 W Casino Road #10, Everett, WA 98204.⁴

¹ See Attachment A for craigslist.org ads, printed on Jan. 30, 2018

² See Attachment B for a copy of Commission record, printed March 6, 2018.

³ See Attachment C for a copy of samuelsbrothersmovers.com, printed on Jan. 30, 2018.

⁴ See Attachment D for a copy of the Washington Secretary of State's formation of LLC, printed on Jan. 30, 2018.

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6. On Jan. 30, 2018, I searched Facebook.com for an Emmanuel Samuels. The results produced Mr. Samuels' Facebook page where he states that he is the "Company owner at Samuels Brothers L.L.C." ⁵

- 7. On Jan. 30, 2018, I searched Facebook.com for a Samuels Brothers L.L.C. The results produced Samuels Brothers L.L.C.'s Facebook page where it states that they offer "March Special \$90.00 And[sic] hour for two men and one truck!!!!", the logo, telephone numbers (425) 626-8399 and (206) 503-7394, web address of www.samuelsbrothersmovers.com, and the biographical information about Emmanuel and Alex Samuels. 6
- 8. On Jan. 30, 2018, I searched yelp.com for Samuels Brothers. The results produced a claimed Yelp account for Samuels Brothers Movers with the telephone number (425) 626-8399, a web address for samuelsbrothersmovers.com, the logo, reviews that mention Emmanuel and Alex, and the biographical information about Emmanuel and Alex Samuels.7
- 9. On Jan. 30, 2018, I searched instagram.com for Samuels Brothers. I found a description of "We are a Washington state based moving company that provides outstanding customer service at affordable prices www.samuelsbrothersmovers.com", a picture of the ad, "March Special \$90.00 And [sic] hour for two men and one truck!!!!", the logo, and photographs of individuals putting house hold goods in a box truck.⁸
- 10. On Feb. 1, 2018, a compliance letter was sent to Emmanuel Samuels of Samuels Brothers, L.L.C. notifying Mr. Samuels to cease and desist operations as a household goods carrier in Washington State until he obtains the required household goods carrier permit from the Commission.⁹
- 11. On Feb. 27, 2018, I called (206) 503-7394 using an assumed name, to obtain a quote for a moving services; including workers and a truck. I asked who I was speaking with and the person identified himself as Alex and confirmed that he was the owner. I was quoted a price of \$110 per hour for two men and a truck with a three hour minimum.
- 12. On Feb. 27, 2018, I received a confirmation via email. 10

DATED this 12 day of March, 2018, at Olympia, Washington.

BRIAN BRAUN

⁵ See Attachment E for a copy of the facebook.com page, printed on Jan. 30, 2018.

⁶ See Attachment F for a copy of the facebook.com page, printed on Jan. 30, 2018.

⁷ See Attachment G for a copy of the yelp.com page, printed on Jan. 30, 2018.

⁸ See Attachment H for a copy of the Instagram.com page, printed on Jan. 31, 2018.

⁹ See Attachment I for a copy of compliance letter, dated Feb. 1, 2018.

¹⁰ See Attachment J for a copy of the email, dated Feb. 27, 2018