

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

GARZA WINE TOURS LLC

DOCKET TE-180220

DECLARATION OF  
JASON HOXIT

Jason Hoxit, 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 Safety and Consumer Protection Division. 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 charter and excursion carriers that may be operating without the required Commission certificate.
2. On Oct. 18, 2017, I received a tip via e-mail with an attachment that included a web address concerning a potential non-certificated charter and excursion carrier.<sup>1</sup> On the company's website it specifically stated, "[l]et Garza Wine Tours give you a personal Wine Tour for ... groups of up to 14 people in an unmarked vehicle for hire. You do the wine tasting and we'll do the driving."<sup>2</sup> The website also advertised, "[w]ine tasting transportation service to local wineries ... 10 passenger van \$70.00 an hour with 5 hour minimum ... 14 passenger van \$80.00 an hour with 5 hour minimum."<sup>3</sup>
3. On Nov. 2, 2017, I searched Commission records and found that Garza Wine Tours LLC is not a certificated charter and excursion carrier.
4. On Nov. 2, 2017, I searched the Business Licensing Service through the Washington State Department of Revenue's website for Garza Wine Tours LLC. I found the governing person of Carmen Ceron-Garza with a mailing address of 2716 Melrose Street, Unit 93, Walla Walla, WA 99362. I also found that Garza Wine Tours LLC did not have any limousine endorsements, nor did Garza Wine Tours LLC have any other for hire endorsement.<sup>4</sup>
5. On Nov. 9, 2017, I sent a compliance letter to Carmen Ceron-Garza, notifying Ms. Ceron-Garza to cease and desist operations as a charter and excursion carrier in the state

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.garzawinetours.net>

<sup>2</sup> See Attachment A for a copy of the company website's "Tours" page, captured on Nov. 2, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> See Attachment B for a copy of the company website's "Home" page, captured on Nov. 2, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> See Attachment C for a copy of the Dept. of Revenue's BLS search results, captured on Nov. 2, 2017.

of Washington until she obtains the required charter and excursion certificate from the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

6. On Dec. 4, 2017, I emailed Garza Wine Tours LLC at info@garzawinetours.net, notifying the company that it failed to respond to the compliance letter. I requested that Garza Wine Tours LLC respond immediately, and attached a copy of the Nov. 9, 2017 compliance letter to the email.<sup>6</sup>
7. On Mar. 2, 2018, I completed an online contact form through Garza Wine Tours LLC's website under an assumed name to receive an offer for charter and excursion carrier services. I requested to book a wine tour for a party of 14 to 16 people on Jun. 29, 2018.<sup>7</sup>
8. On Mar. 2, 2018, Garza Wine Tours LLC responded from info@garzawinetours.net and offered a "14 passenger van for 5 hours at [a] \$450.00 flat rate paid in cash." Garza Wine Tours LLC also stated that it "require[d] a \$120.00 deposit on [the] vehicle that can be paid over the phone."<sup>8</sup>
9. On Mar. 5, 2018, I emailed Garza Wine Tours LLC and asked if the company could confirm that the 14 passenger van would be available on Jun. 29, 2018, to take our group from a hotel to multiple wineries in the area.<sup>9</sup>
10. On Mar. 5, 2018, Garza Wine Tours LLC replied via email, notifying me that "[y]es we have the 14 passenger van available for the 29th of June. I have put it on hold for you but we will need your deposit to secure it."<sup>10</sup>
11. On Mar. 6, 2018, I visited Garza Wine Tours LLC's website, which still advertised "[w]ine tasting transportation service to local wineries ... 10 passenger van \$70.00 an hour with 5 hour minimum ... 14 passenger van \$80.00 an hour with 5 hour minimum".<sup>11</sup>
12. On Mar. 6, 2018, I searched Commission records to see if Garza Wine Tours LLC was a certificated charter and excursion carrier. Records show that Garza Wine Tours LLC is not a certificated charter and excursion carrier in the state of Washington.<sup>12</sup>

DATED this 13th day of March, 2018, at Olympia, Washington.

---

JASON HOXIT

---

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment D for a copy of compliance letter, dated Nov. 9, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> See Attachment E for a copy of the email sent to Garza Wine Tours LLC, dated Dec. 4, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> See Attachment F for a copy of the completed form through Garza Wine Tours LLC's website, dated Mar. 2, 2018

<sup>8</sup> See Attachment G for a copy of the email from Garza Wine Tours LLC, dated Mar. 2, 2018.

<sup>9</sup> See Attachment H for a copy of the email to Garza Wine Tours LLC, dated Mar. 5, 2018.

<sup>10</sup> See Attachment I for a copy of the email from Garza Wine Tours LLC, dated Mar. 5, 2018.

<sup>11</sup> See Attachment J for a copy of the website, captured on Mar. 6, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> See Attachment K for a copy of Commission record, captured Mar. 6, 2018.