

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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In the Matter of Determining the )  
Proper Carrier Classification )  
of, and Complaint for Penalties )  
against: ) Docket No. TE-151982  
)  
JEET SIDHU a/k/a GEETAR SIDHU )  
d/b/a JJ LIMOUSINE, JJ LIMOUSINE )  
SERVICES, JJ'S BEST LIMOUSINE )  
SERVICE, and JJ LIMOUSINE )  
SERVICES, INC. )  
)

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BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING, VOLUME I  
Pages 1 - 59  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RAYNE PEARSON

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9:30 A.M.

July 6, 2016

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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FOR JEET SIDHU:

In Propria Persona

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael Turcott  
Nanette Goodin

\* \* \* \* \*

HEARING

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; JULY 6, 2016

2 9:30 A.M.

3  
4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5  
6 JUDGE PEARSON: We will be on the record.  
7 Today is Tuesday, July 6, 2016, and the time is  
8 9:30 a.m.

9 This is Docket TE-151982, which is captioned  
10 In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier  
11 Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against  
12 Jeet Sidhu a/k/a Geetar Sidhu, doing business as JJ  
13 Limousine, JJ Limousine Services, JJ's Best Limousine  
14 Service and JJ Limousine Services, Inc.

15 My name is Rayne Pearson. I'm the  
16 administrative law judge presiding over today's Brief  
17 Adjudicative Proceeding.

18 Let's start by taking appearances from both  
19 parties, and then we will talk about how we're going to  
20 proceed this morning. So let's go ahead and start with  
21 Commission Staff. Just a brief appearance is fine.

22 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Jennifer  
23 Cameron-Rulkowski, Assistant Attorney General, appearing  
24 on behalf of Staff.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.

1           And for the Company, if you could state your  
2 first and last name for the record.

3           MR. SIDHU: Jeet Sidhu.

4           JUDGE PEARSON: Could you spell your last  
5 name?

6           MR. SIDHU: S-I-D-H-U.

7           JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And can you please  
8 provide your address and telephone number?

9           MR. SIDHU: 15127 NW 24th Street, No. 268 --

10          JUDGE PEARSON: Will you slow down and speak  
11 closer to the microphone?

12          MR. SIDHU: 15127 NW 24th Street, No. 268,  
13 Redmond, Washington 98052.

14          JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And your phone  
15 number?

16          MR. SIDHU: (425) 454-5053.

17          JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And do you have an  
18 e-mail address?

19          MR. SIDHU: Yes, jeet@jjlimo.com.

20          JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And Jeet is spelled  
21 J-E-E-T?

22          MR. SIDHU: You're correct.

23          JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So this is a  
24 classification hearing that was brought by the  
25 Commission based on Staff's findings that you were

1 conducting business as a charter party or excursion  
2 service carrier without a required a certificate from  
3 the Commission.

4 If we determine here today that you are  
5 conducting such business, then we will issue an order  
6 requiring you to cease and desist all operations until  
7 you obtain a certificate from the Commission.

8 We also have a complaint for penalties that  
9 is somewhat of a separate issue. The complaint for  
10 penalties alleges that you have, in fact, engaged in  
11 activities as a charter party or excursion service  
12 carrier, so today is an evidentiary hearing to consider  
13 whether you should be classified as a charter party or  
14 excursion service carrier and whether penalties are  
15 appropriate.

16 And you're representing yourself this  
17 morning?

18 MR. SIDHU: Yes.

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And Mr. Sidhu, if you  
20 have any questions about applicable laws, just let me  
21 know. I'm assuming that you're fairly familiar with  
22 Commission laws and rules because you have operated as a  
23 permitted carrier in the past.

24 MR. SIDHU: Yes.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So Staff alleges that

1 you have at least twice offered to provide charter party  
2 or excursion carrier services without first having  
3 obtained the required certificate, and that you've also  
4 advertised to provide those services on your website.

5 MR. SIDHU: Yes.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So Staff is  
7 requesting penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation in  
8 the complaint.

9 So Staff will present its case first today,  
10 like we discussed briefly before we came on the record,  
11 and then you will have the opportunity to cross-examine  
12 Staff's witness, Mr. Turcott, who is seated over here to  
13 my right. And then after that you'll have a chance to  
14 testify, and Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski will have the  
15 opportunity to ask questions of you as well.

16 Do you have any questions about how --  
17 before we proceed?

18 MS. GOODIN: No.

19 MR. SIDHU: No.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So  
21 Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, you can begin whenever you're  
22 ready.

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you,  
24 your Honor.

25 I would first note for the record that I'm

1 not aware that the Company has provided documents that  
2 are responsive to the subpoena; however, it does appear  
3 that the Company has brought forward some documents  
4 which I assume we'll get to later in the case.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

6 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I believe, Judge  
7 Pearson, you have more or less summarized Staff's  
8 allegations; however, I'll add that the advertisement  
9 claim that Staff will be proving is based on the JJ's  
10 Best Limousine website.

11 And Staff also will be proving that  
12 Mr. Sidhu offered on June 9th to provide charter  
13 services to Mr. Turcott, who contacted JJ Limo under an  
14 assumed name, and also that Mr. Sidhu accepted a deposit  
15 in September 2015 and agreed to transport 20 high school  
16 students to a prom in Mill Creek.

17 Mr. Sidhu bears the burden of proving he did  
18 not engage in the business of a charter party carrier  
19 regulated under Chapter 81.70 of the Revised Code of  
20 Washington.

21 Since service of Order 01, Mr. Sidhu filed  
22 an incomplete application for charter and excursion  
23 authority. Staff's position thus far in the hearing is  
24 that, while this filing is a positive step, it does not  
25 excuse his violations of the law, and Staff does



1 anticipate recommending a penalty after Mr. Sidhu  
2 presents his case.

3 At this time, I would like to call  
4 Mr. Michael Turcott. And would you like him to sit here  
5 or shall he come to the witness spot?

6 JUDGE PEARSON: You're fine right there. If  
7 you could just stand and raise your right hand.

8  
9 MICHAEL TURCOTT, witness herein, having been  
10 first duly sworn on oath,  
11 was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13  
14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. You may be seated.

15 \*\*\* EXAMINATION BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI \*\*\*

16 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

17 **Q. Good morning, Mr. Turcott.**

18 A. Good morning.

19 **Q. Please state your name.**

20 A. Michael Turcott, T-U-R-C-O-T-T.

21 **Q. Please state the name of your employer.**

22 A. Washington Utilities and Transportation  
23 Commission.

24 **Q. In what position are you employed with the**  
25 **Commission?**

1 A. As a compliance investigator in the  
2 transportation safety section.

3 Q. And how long have you been employed in this  
4 position?

5 A. For the past nine months.

6 Q. Do you have prior experience working as an  
7 investigator?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Please briefly describe that prior experience.

10 A. I worked as a commissioned officer with the  
11 Washington State Patrol for 28 years, retiring in 2013;  
12 and in the interim working at the Department of  
13 Licensing managing the fraud investigation unit.

14 Q. Please briefly describe your responsibilities as  
15 they pertain to this matter.

16 A. My responsibilities are to investigate  
17 potentially unlicensed charter and excursion companies,  
18 provide technical assistance, encourage companies to  
19 become compliant with regulations, and otherwise proceed  
20 with investigations and complaints against the Company.

21 Q. Are you familiar with JJ Limousine Services,  
22 Inc.?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And how did you become familiar with  
25 JJ Limousine?

1           A.     JJ Limousine, Inc., was a company investigated  
2 previously by Pam Smith, one of my peers in the unit.  
3 Pam Smith was a compliance investigator that left the  
4 agency for other employment.

5           Ms. Smith had prepared a case involving  
6 JJ Limousine to the point where a complaint was prepared  
7 with violations identified. The case had stalled out as  
8 we were unable to identify or locate the Company owner  
9 for service of the documents.

10          **Q.     And have you investigated JJ Limousine?**

11          A.     Yes.

12          **Q.     This proceeding has been brought against**  
13 **Mr. Jeet Sidhu, doing business as JJ Limousine.**

14                 **Does Mr. Sidhu own JJ Limousine?**

15          A.     Yes.

16          **Q.     In the course of your work, do you ever go out**  
17 **into the field to observe charter bus activity?**

18          A.     Yes.

19          **Q.     And when was the last time that you went out in**  
20 **the field to observe charter bus activity?**

21          A.     Saturday, June 4th of this year.

22          **Q.     Did you observe any vehicles that you believe**  
23 **are operated by JJ Limo?**

24          A.     Yes, I did.

25          **Q.     What type of vehicle did you observe?**

1           A.     A large black ElDorado bus, similar in size to  
2 the busses we're all familiar with as city transit  
3 busses, a large square bus. And this vehicle was  
4 painted black, and I had seen images of it before, and  
5 particularly was able to verify that this was a vehicle  
6 of interest by the license plate number AWF9394.

7           **Q.     And did you verify that the license plate**  
8 **matches licensing records naming Mr. Sidhu?**

9           A.     Yes.

10          **Q.     And that's why you believe that the vehicle is**  
11 **operated by Mr. -- by JJ Limo?**

12          A.     That's correct.

13          **Q.     Was Mr. Sidhu present?**

14          A.     He was not.

15          **Q.     Did you speak with the driver of the vehicle?**

16          A.     I did speak with the driver, Mr. Edmond Lartey.

17          **Q.     And did you ever speak with Mr. Sidhu that**  
18 **evening?**

19          A.     I did speak with Mr. Sidhu on the phone.  
20 Mr. Lartey offered to call Mr. Sidhu, and dialed the  
21 number on his phone, or actually brought it up, it was a  
22 contact on Mr. Lartey's phone, and handed me the phone  
23 and I spoke with Mr. Sidhu.

24          **Q.     And did you tell Mr. Sidhu about the**  
25 **Commission's complaint against him and the hearing?**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you have copies of Order 01, the subpoena,  
3 and Ms. Smith's investigation report with you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what did you do with those documents?

6 A. I gave those to Mr. Lartey. We had a  
7 discussion -- myself, Mr. Lartey, L-A-R-T-E-Y, and on  
8 the phone with Mr. Sidhu -- to make arrangements to have  
9 those documents provided to Mr. Sidhu. All parties  
10 agreed that the employee would deliver the documents to  
11 the owner, Company owner, Mr. Sidhu.

12 Q. And do you believe that that is, in fact, what  
13 happened?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Did you have any further contact with Mr. Sidhu?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. All righty. Can you please describe that  
18 further contact?

19 A. The following week, Tuesday, June 7th -- I'm  
20 sorry -- Monday, June 6th, I e-mailed Mr. Sidhu at the  
21 e-mail address on the website and thanked him for his  
22 cooperative conversation on Saturday night, and verified  
23 that he received the documents from his employee. And  
24 he responded that he did, and further followed up and  
25 verified his residential address that he provided on the

1 phone, 1428 140th Court SE, Apartment 1002, Bellevue,  
2 Washington 98007, and he confirmed that I had his  
3 address correct.

4 **Q. Please refer to Exhibit No. MT-1.**

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 **Q. Does this exhibit contain a true and accurate**  
7 **copy of the e-mail that you received from Mr. Sidhu that**  
8 **you just discussed?**

9 A. Yes.

10 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I offer Exhibit  
11 No. MT-1 for admission into evidence.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Sidhu, do you have any  
13 objection to admitting this e-mail into evidence?

14 MR. SIDHU: Yes, I've --

15 JUDGE PEARSON: You're okay with it?

16 MR. SIDHU: Yeah.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I will admit that and  
18 mark it as Exhibit MT-1.

19 (Exhibit No. MT-1 was marked and  
20 admitted into evidence.)

21 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

22 **Q. Now, you testified that you also investigated**  
23 **JJ Limousine as well as Staff person Pam Smith.**

24 **Would you characterize your investigation as a**  
25 **follow-up investigation?**

1 A. Yes, exactly.

2 Q. And as part of your investigation, did you  
3 review any documents associated with Pam Smith's  
4 investigation?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Please direct your attention to Exhibit  
7 No. MT-2. Please identify this document.

8 A. Exhibit MT-2 is Staff investigation of  
9 JJ Limousine Services, Incorporated, Docket TE-151982,  
10 prepared by Pam Smith in December 2015.

11 Q. And is this one of the documents that you  
12 reviewed?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. And is Exhibit No. MT-2 a true and accurate copy  
15 of the Staff investigation report authored by Pam Smith  
16 that you reviewed?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. All right. Please direct your attention to  
19 Exhibit No. MT-3. Please identify this document.

20 A. Exhibit MT-3 is a declaration of Pam Smith with  
21 respect to Docket TE-151982.

22 Q. All right. And what was the purpose of this  
23 document, as far as you can tell?

24 A. The purpose of Ms. Smith's declaration is to  
25 capture and document the status -- current status of

1 this investigation, as she was leaving employment with  
2 the Commission, so that other Staff could follow up and  
3 know where the case was at that time.

4 **Q. And is this one of the documents that you**  
5 **reviewed?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. Is Exhibit No. MT-3 a true and accurate copy of**  
8 **the declaration of Pam Smith that you reviewed?**

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 **Q. Now, please turn to the first attachment to**  
11 **Ms. Smith's declaration. Can you please identify this**  
12 **document?**

13 A. This is a printout of a website screen, the date  
14 is February 10th, 2016, 11:32 a.m., from the State of  
15 Washington business licensing service in regards to  
16 JJ Limousine -- JJ's Best Limousine Service.

17 **Q. All right. And what is the exact business name**  
18 **that's listed there?**

19 A. It's JJ's Best Limousine Service, and the trade  
20 name is the same, JJ's Best Limousine Service.

21 **Q. And is Jeet Sidhu listed in this record as well?**

22 A. Yes, he is.

23 **Q. Now, about your follow-up investigation, did you**  
24 **document your follow-up investigation of JJ Limousine?**

25 A. Yes.



1       **Q.     Please direct your attention to Exhibit**  
2 **No. MT-4. Please identify this document.**

3       A.     Exhibit MT-4 is Staff investigation of  
4 JJ Limousine Services, Inc., prepared by myself.

5       **Q.     And is Exhibit No. MT-4 a true and accurate copy**  
6 **of the report that you prepared documenting your**  
7 **investigation of JJ Limousine?**

8       A.     Yes.

9       **Q.     Based on your investigation, have you identified**  
10 **any information in Ms. Smith's investigation report that**  
11 **has changed?**

12       A.     We reviewed -- essentially, no. There were some  
13 additional business licensing records that had expired  
14 and were no longer accessible, but Ms. Smith's report,  
15 notwithstanding those documents, is unchanged.

16       **Q.     And does your supplemental report reflect the**  
17 **current business licensing service records associated**  
18 **with this company?**

19       A.     Yes, it does.

20       **Q.     And has any other information changed in any**  
21 **way?**

22       A.     No.

23                   MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Your Honor, I offer  
24 Exhibit Nos. MT-2, MT-3 and MT-4 for admission into  
25 evidence.

1 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Sidhu, do you have any  
2 objection to those exhibits being admitted into  
3 evidence?

4 MS. GOODIN: I would think so because you're  
5 talking --

6 JUDGE PEARSON: I need you to identify  
7 yourself as well.

8 MS. GOODIN: My name is Nanette Goodin. And  
9 from what I can see, it looks like Pam Smith prepared  
10 something for JJ Limousine Services, Inc., and then he's  
11 preparing -- oh, the same thing, JJ Limousine Services,  
12 Inc., and the other stuff is for JJ's Best Limousine,  
13 two separate companies.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: So you're -- but both of  
15 those companies were named in the complaint, so --

16 MS. GOODIN: I understand that, but --

17 JUDGE PEARSON: So what's the basis for your  
18 objection?

19 MS. GOODIN: Because you're listing all of  
20 them, and you're talking about two different companies.  
21 You're grouping everything together. Her investigation  
22 was under -- for JJ Limousine Services, Inc., an old  
23 company.

24 MR. SIDHU: It's closed down.

25 MS. GOODIN: And it was closed. So I am --

1 JUDGE PEARSON: Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, do  
2 you want to respond?

3 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Yes, your Honor.

4 The order instituting the special proceeding  
5 and the complaint was brought against Jeet Sidhu, doing  
6 business as as many different company names as seemed to  
7 be out there. And so at the bottom, the -- this  
8 proceeding is brought against Mr. Sidhu.

9 MS. GOODIN: Okay.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: You'll have an opportunity  
11 to speak. So I'm going to overrule your objection and  
12 admit each of these exhibits into the record as MT-3 --  
13 or MT-2, MT-3 and MT-4, because I agree with  
14 Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski that Mr. Sidhu is operating under  
15 a number of different entity names. It was difficult  
16 for Staff to identify which one he was using at any  
17 given time, but ultimately the complaint was brought  
18 against Mr. Sidhu himself.

19 (Exhibit Nos. MT-2, MT-3 and MT-4  
20 were marked and admitted into  
21 evidence.)

22 JUDGE PEARSON: You may proceed.

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you,  
24 your Honor.

25 / / /

1 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

2 Q. Now, I'd like to move on to the certificate  
3 status of this carrier.

4 Has Mr. Sidhu ever held a charter certificate?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. Did he receive a charter certificate  
7 on September 8, 2006, in Docket TE-061343?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. Please refer to Ms. Smith's  
10 investigation report, and this is Exhibit No. MT-2, and  
11 please turn to page 4.

12 Can you please explain what the table on page 4  
13 represents?

14 A. The table on page 4 depicts the certificate  
15 status of JJ Limousine over a period of years, different  
16 dates authority was suspended, if the suspension was  
17 lifted, if the authority was cancelled or reinstated.  
18 There are 14 different licensing actions on this company  
19 in the past -- or since 2006.

20 Q. And referring to the table on page 4, when is  
21 the last time that JJ Limousine held authority from the  
22 Commission?

23 A. JJ Limousine last held authority up until  
24 July 9th, 2015.

25 Q. And is that the date that authority was

1 cancelled?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was the cancellation voluntary or involuntary?

4 A. Voluntary.

5 Q. Has Mr. Sidhu or JJ Limousine held any authority  
6 from the Commission since the July 2015 cancellation?

7 A. No.

8 Q. According to the table on page 4, Mr. Sidhu's  
9 certificate was cancelled three other times.

10 Do you know the reason the certificate was  
11 cancelled the other times?

12 A. Yes, it was cancelled due to failure to provide  
13 proof of insurance.

14 Q. Now, please refer to page 5 of the report. It  
15 states there that JJ Limousine is not currently licensed  
16 as a limousine carrier through the Department of  
17 Licensing.

18 Have you checked with the Department of  
19 Licensing recently as to whether this is still the case?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And when did you check?

22 A. Thursday of last week.

23 Q. Has Mr. Sidhu applied for operating authority  
24 from the Commission since the July 2015 cancellation?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. When did the Commission receive his application?

2 A. I believe it was June 10th of this year.

3 Q. Please refer to Exhibit MT-5. Is this a true  
4 and accurate copy of the application that Mr. Sidhu  
5 submitted June 10th, 2016?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was the application complete?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did the Commission notify Mr. Sidhu that his  
10 application was incomplete?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Please refer to Exhibit No. MT-6. Is this a  
13 true and accurate copy of the Commission's notice to  
14 Mr. Sidhu concerning his incomplete application?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. To your knowledge, has Mr. Sidhu completed the  
17 application?

18 A. To my knowledge, he has not.

19 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I offer Exhibits  
20 MT-5 and MT-6 for admission into evidence.

21 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Sidhu, do you have any  
22 objection?

23 MR. SIDHU: The application Mr. Turcott send  
24 me, I working for the insurance and what he wants.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. We'll get to that.

1 Right now I just need to know if you have any issue with  
2 this being admitted into the record. It's the  
3 application that you filed with the Commission on  
4 June 10th.

5 MR. SIDHU: Yeah.

6 MS. GOODIN: He did this.

7 MR. SIDHU: Yeah, he did that.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So you're fine with  
9 that?

10 MR. SIDHU: Yes.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then I will admit  
12 that and mark it as Exhibit MT-5.

13 (Exhibit No. MT-5 was marked and  
14 admitted into evidence.)

15 JUDGE PEARSON: And then the next was the  
16 notice that was mailed to you on June 14th.

17 MR. SIDHU: E-mailed letter?

18 JUDGE PEARSON: And you're okay with that as  
19 well?

20 MR. SIDHU: I -- yes, I got an e-mail and a  
21 letter.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then I'll admit that  
23 and mark it as MT-6.

24 (Exhibit No. MT-6 was marked and  
25 admitted into evidence.)

1 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

2 Q. All right. Mr. Turcott, please refer to  
3 Ms. Smith's investigation report, that is MT-2, and turn  
4 to page 71.

5 Can you please identify this document?

6 A. Yes. This is a declaration of Michael Hornsby,  
7 provided October 27th, 2015, with regards to Docket  
8 TE-151982.

9 Q. And what was the purpose of the transportation  
10 described in this declaration?

11 A. My understanding is Mr. Hornsby was arranging  
12 transportation for his daughter's homecoming or  
13 prom-type event.

14 Q. And how many people were to be transported?

15 A. As I recall, it was 20, but I'm looking for it  
16 in the document.

17 Q. Please refer to paragraph 2.

18 A. Yes, 20 is correct.

19 Q. And did Mr. Hornsby pay for the transportation?

20 A. Mr. Hornsby made a deposit towards the  
21 transportation, but I don't believe he paid the full  
22 fare or contract.

23 Q. All right. And did JJ Limousine provide the  
24 transportation?

25 A. No.



1 Q. And why not?

2 A. Mr. Hornsby learned that JJ Limousine did not  
3 have charter authority from the Commission and chose to  
4 cancel the contract and not do the trip because of that.

5 Q. All right. And do you know if Mr. Hornsby ever  
6 received a refund of his deposit?

7 A. He did not.

8 Q. And did you have contact with Mr. Hornsby  
9 regarding the refund?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And was that recently?

12 A. It was within the last week or so.

13 Q. All right. Now, I'm going to ask you to turn to  
14 your supplemental report, and that's Exhibit No. MT-4,  
15 and please turn to Appendix A6, which is on page 22.

16 Please identify this document.

17 A. This is a screen image obtained from the  
18 JJ Limousine -- JJ's Best Limousine Service website,  
19 www.jjlimo.com.

20 Q. And is the document at Appendix A6 a true and  
21 correct of the screen image you made of the JJ Limousine  
22 website?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And when did you create the screen image?

25 A. June 28th, 2016.

1 Q. And how do you connect the website to Mr. Sidhu?

2 A. Well, a number of ways. The e-mail address that  
3 I used to correspond comes from that domain name. He  
4 has the trade name at the top of his website, and the  
5 phone number on the website matches the phone numbers  
6 that he's provided on the current application and  
7 previous applications.

8 Q. And when did you last check the JJ Limousine  
9 website?

10 A. This morning.

11 Q. Now, I want to go back to the business licensing  
12 record that was attached to Ms. Smith's declaration, and  
13 this is Exhibit No. MT-3. And this record is for UBI  
14 No. 603-545-868, and it's also attached to your  
15 supplemental report.

16 So let's go there now to MT-4, and turn to page  
17 20.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Now, referring to this record, when was the  
20 trade name JJ's Best Limousine Service first issued?

21 A. September 24th, 2015.

22 Q. All right. Now, I want you to turn your  
23 attention back to the website, which begins on page 22,  
24 and I want to direct your attention to the hourly rates  
25 page of the website on page 27.

1           Please review that list and state which vehicles  
2 seat more than 14 passengers.

3           A.     The fourth vehicle, black limo bus,  
4 30-passenger; the black limo bus, 26-passenger; black  
5 limo bus, another listing for 26-passenger; pearl white  
6 Escalade, 20 passengers; white Hummer, 22 passengers;  
7 black 2010 limo bus, 38 passengers; and white Escalade,  
8 20 passengers.

9           **Q.     And why is it relevant to this case if a vehicle**  
10 **seats more than 14 passengers?**

11          A.     The vehicles with seating capacity of greater  
12 than 14 passengers clearly fall under UTC authority as a  
13 charter vehicle, and a certificate of authority is  
14 required to operate those or to advertise those.

15          **Q.     All right. Please turn to page 25. This is the**  
16 **web page captioned Our Fleet-Gallery.**

17                 **Can you tell if the vehicle you observed on**  
18 **June 4th matches any of the vehicles listed in JJ's**  
19 **advertised fleet?**

20          A.     The copy I have is kind of hard to see, but the  
21 upper left image resembles very closely the vehicle that  
22 I am familiar with from June 4th, and I've seen other  
23 photos of, the large black bus.

24          **Q.     And is that vehicle listed in the list of**  
25 **vehicles lower down on the page, do you believe?**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Which vehicle might that be?

3 A. The 40-passenger party bus. When I clicked on  
4 that link, a larger image of that black bus came up.

5 Q. Please turn the page to page 26.

6 And you just testified that you clicked on the  
7 link. Is this the page that came up when you clicked on  
8 the link?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. All right. Let's turn to page 16 of your  
11 supplemental report.

12 Is this the vehicle registration associated with  
13 the vehicle that you observed in June and that you've  
14 testified about earlier?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And is Mr. Jeet Sidhu listed as the registered  
17 owner on this registration?

18 A. Yes, he is.

19 Q. All right. I'd like to switch gears here a  
20 little bit and talk about the offer.

21 In your supplemental report, you discuss  
22 receiving an offer of transportation from JJ Limousine  
23 on page 4.

24 How did you contact JJ Limousine?

25 A. I used the contact function on the website.

1 There's a place to fill in your name and so on to  
2 inquire about transportation or to otherwise contact the  
3 company. I used that feature on the website.

4 **Q. Did you receive the offer via e-mail?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. And how many people did JJ Limousine offer to**  
7 **transport for you?**

8 A. I requested 30 -- transportation for 30  
9 passengers. The reply was that he could offer me a  
10 40-passenger party bus to meet my needs.

11 **Q. And when did you receive this offer?**

12 A. The same day, June 9th.

13 **Q. All right. I'm going to ask you to turn to page**  
14 **21.**

15 **Is this a true and correct copy of the e-mail**  
16 **offer that you received from JJ Limousine?**

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 **Q. So did you receive this offer three days after**  
19 **receiving confirmation from Mr. Sidhu that he had**  
20 **received the Commission's complaint and notice of this**  
21 **hearing?**

22 A. Yes.

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: All right. At this  
24 time, Judge Pearson, I have no further questions for  
25 Mr. Turcott, but I would like to recall Mr. Turcott

1 after the Company presents its case.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. Okay.

3 Mr. Sidhu, do you have any questions for  
4 Mr. Turcott?

5 MR. SIDHU: No.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So before I swear you  
7 in Mr. Sidhu, I just need to take a brief recess for  
8 about two minutes. So we will be off the record and  
9 come back after a short break.

10 MR. SIDHU: Okay.

11 (A break was taken from

12 10:06 a.m. to 10:08 a.m.)

13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So we will be back on  
14 the record following a brief recess.

15 And Mr. Sidhu, if you would please stand and  
16 raise your right hand, I will swear you in.

17  
18 JEET SIDHU, witness herein, having been  
19 first duly sworn on oath,  
20 was examined and testified  
21 as follows:

22  
23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead and have a  
24 seat. And again, please be sure to speak directly into  
25 the microphone so the court reporter can hear you, and

1 speak slowly.

2 And you can go ahead when you're ready.

3 MS. GOODIN: I didn't understand what the  
4 question was.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: This is his opportunity to  
6 respond to Staff's allegations, if he has anything that  
7 he wants to tell the Commission, any mitigating factors.

8 MR. SIDHU: Yes, I do.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

10 \*\*\* DIRECT TESTIMONY BY JEET SIDHU \*\*\*

11 MR. SIDHU: Since 2010, you saw my license  
12 has been off and on, off and on, because once I sell the  
13 bus, I don't have a license. And when I buy a new one,  
14 I reinstate. That's what I was doing in 2014. I gave  
15 back all the vehicles I have in the list, everything  
16 back to the bank.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: You gave them back to the  
18 bank?

19 MR. SIDHU: Yeah, to the bank.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: So you're saying that -- did  
21 you say in 2015 or 2014?

22 MR. SIDHU: 2014.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: In 2014.

24 MR. SIDHU: From 2013 to 2014, I start  
25 giving back all the busses, all -- every car to the

1 bank.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So do you own any  
3 busses now?

4 MR. SIDHU: Let me finish.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

6 MR. SIDHU: I did that because I was going  
7 blind.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

9 MR. SIDHU: And I got to go, in order to do  
10 my eye surgery, so I went back and forth to Singapore,  
11 back and forth. So I don't have any cars, but I still  
12 keep the phone number and the -- maintain the website.

13 And I came back 2015, I say, okay, I have to  
14 have something to make some money, so I bought the bus.  
15 And the bus was not good to run yet, and I was --  
16 meanwhile, I was making money by farming out jobs to  
17 other companies and making some cut out of it. That's  
18 what I've been doing.

19 And until I bought the bus, I said now -- I  
20 did speak to somebody in -- I think it's March or April  
21 that I go -- I can't remember who I speak to, but I say,  
22 I bought a bus, but I want to register this as -- but I  
23 will need a UTC license. How do I go -- do I still keep  
24 the same? Because I close down JJ Limousine Services,  
25 Inc.



1                   And he said, when you open a new company,  
2 you want to have the bus registered, just call us and  
3 put the application in and we'll do it.

4                   So I waited for the bus to be ready to go,  
5 and then that's why I say I have no cars, all the fleet  
6 on that is all -- I own nothing. Only the 40-passenger  
7 bus and the town car. That's about what I have now.

8                   And I -- Mr. Turcott sent me the e-mail  
9 saying that this vehicle's -- I say, no, I farm out the  
10 job to Brar Limo Service and bus service, and he did  
11 check. It's true that he got a charter license. I've  
12 been giving him all the jobs and making some money  
13 off --

14                   JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. What was the name of  
15 the company that you're giving your jobs to?

16                   MR. SIDHU: Brar Limo and Town Car Service.

17                   JUDGE PEARSON: Brar?

18                   MR. TURCOTT: B-R-A-R --

19                   JUDGE PEARSON: Brar?

20                   MR. SIDHU: Yeah.

21                   MR. TURCOTT: B-R-A-R is the last name,  
22 your Honor, of the owner.

23                   JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

24                   MR. SIDHU: Two years ago I was working with  
25 A&E Limo Service, but since I was going back and

1 forth -- so when I came back, I didn't deal with them no  
2 more. But I was dealing Brar, and I was dealing with a  
3 couple more people, like Latin Limousine Service for  
4 Hummers, you know, for the SUVs, I use him. The busses,  
5 I use Brar. And I also use Blessed Limo. Whoever I  
6 know they are licensed, I give the job to them, and I  
7 just make some money out of it. That's what I've been  
8 doing until today.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So how do you explain  
10 what was going on on June 4th, I believe, when  
11 Mr. Turcott saw the bus and talked to your driver? What  
12 was going on then?

13 MR. SIDHU: I was working on getting the  
14 quote for the insurance thing, and I told him, I say,  
15 June 6 or 7, I'm going to send the application -- the  
16 Monday or Tuesday I'm gonna send the application. So I  
17 said -- you know, I just went and put the application,  
18 but since he talked to me, I respond to him, I told him  
19 everything on the phone.

20 And on the following day when I'm there, he  
21 told me I couldn't come until Tuesday, I call him on  
22 Tuesday and we spoke on the phone, and I put in the  
23 application, and I -- she send me saying that the  
24 registration have to be changed and then the insurance,  
25 find registration.

1 I called the dealer, I say, look, I have to  
2 have this DBA, and they are -- they are -- they have to  
3 do it for me. I cannot do it. Because I went to  
4 Department of Licensing, they said, no, you have to  
5 bring the title so we can do it. So I don't own the  
6 title, so I told them to do it.

7 And my insurance agent, I have an e-mail  
8 here, she's working on it until now, which I think I  
9 will kick her out and get another company.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I just have -- my  
11 question has to do with, you said you were giving all of  
12 the business away, except we have evidence in Staff's  
13 investigation report that you took a deposit from  
14 someone back in September of 2015, and that your bus was  
15 providing service on June 4th.

16 So I'm curious about what the extent of your  
17 personal operations were, because clearly you weren't  
18 giving all of the business away.

19 MR. SIDHU: September 15th of '15, you  
20 say --

21 JUDGE PEARSON: Um-hmm.

22 MR. SIDHU: -- I collected a deposit? You  
23 say I collect a deposit, you say?

24 JUDGE PEARSON: Right. The \$318 deposit  
25 from Michael Hornsby.

1 MR. SIDHU: I don't recall who he is. I  
2 don't know who he is. If I collect a deposit, I, in  
3 fact, don't do a service, I refund back the money. I'm  
4 a very honest guy. And I never -- that name do not ring  
5 a bell to me. If he -- if he think I never refund his  
6 deposit, he can put a dispute on the credit card, which  
7 I don't have dispute until today.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Do you have anything  
9 else that you want to add?

10 MR. SIDHU: I want to just say that, you  
11 know, I start back, refresh, yes, I did a mistake on  
12 June 4th. I agree with that mistake. But the others, I  
13 don't think that I did anything wrong.

14 And I'm trying to start back again this  
15 business, but I close down JJ Limousine Service long  
16 time ago. I said, no, I don't do the business. I am  
17 going blind. Truly, I cannot see. I look there, I  
18 can't even see you. I don't drive. I don't do nothing.

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Do you have anything  
20 else you want to add or can we let Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski  
21 ask you some questions?

22 MR. SIDHU: No. Nothing more to say.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead.

24 MR. SIDHU: Thank you, your Honor.

25 / / /

1       \*\*\* CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI \*\*\*

2 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

3       Q.     **Good morning, Mr. Sidhu.**

4       A.     Good morning.

5       Q.     **You had testified that, in addition to the**  
6 **Lartey vehicle, that you also -- that you also own or**  
7 **possess a town car?**

8       A.     Yes, I do.

9       Q.     **All right. How many passenger seats are there**  
10 **behind the driver in the town car?**

11      A.     Three.

12      Q.     **All right. And these two vehicles, do you own**  
13 **them?**

14      A.     The town car I own, but the bus, I think --  
15 there's some payment to pay. There's a lien on the bus.

16      Q.     **You own it, but there's a lien on it --**

17      A.     Yeah.

18      Q.     **-- is that correct?**

19      A.     Yes. It's a lease.

20             MS. GOODIN: It's almost paid off.

21             MR. SIDHU: Almost paid off.

22 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

23      Q.     **It's financed. All right. So in other words,**  
24 **you have -- you're paying off a vehicle loan on the bus?**

25      A.     Yes.

1 Q. All right. And is the bus in your name,  
2 Mr. Sidhu?

3 A. Yes, it's under my name. And I attempt to  
4 change to my name, d/b/a JJ's Best Limo.

5 Q. And the registration that Mr. Turcott testified  
6 about, is that the registration of the vehicle that  
7 we're discussing now?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. All right. And you testified that you were  
10 working on getting insurance.

11 Does that mean that this bus currently is not  
12 insured?

13 A. No, it was insured under my personal name, but  
14 now I switch over for the 5 million liability.

15 Q. Do you operate any other vehicles that are owned  
16 by any other person or entity?

17 A. No, I don't.

18 Q. You testified that you farm out business. Do  
19 you also farm out limo business?

20 A. Everything, limo, town car, busses, charter  
21 busses.

22 Q. And how do you ensure that you're farming out  
23 your business to carriers that have the proper licensing  
24 either under Department of Licensing or this Commission  
25 or any other regulatory entity?

1 A. I ask for their paperwork. Before I give them  
2 any job, show me your paperwork. I say, I'm not doing  
3 this for the last one year or two years. I'm doing this  
4 long time.

5 Q. Do you keep copies of that paperwork?

6 A. I -- I -- I did have, but I close down my  
7 office, I move everything. Everything like, it's in the  
8 storage now. I closed down my office.

9 Q. So you don't keep copies of the license -- of  
10 the licenses or permits or certificate of the companies  
11 that you farm out business to?

12 A. As I say, I did, but I closed down my office and  
13 moved everything into storage, and everything's in the  
14 storage. I do have copies, yeah.

15 Q. And do any transportation companies refer  
16 business to you?

17 A. Not at all.

18 Q. Do you own a uniform carrier registration  
19 number?

20 A. Now?

21 Q. I'm sorry. Was your answer no?

22 A. You mean now?

23 Q. Now, yes.

24 A. I applied for.

25 Q. When did you apply?

1 A. June 10, 2016.

2 Q. And a quick question about your name.

3 Do you also go by the name of Geetar,  
4 G-E-E-T-A-R?

5 A. No.

6 Q. All right. Would you agree to refund  
7 Mr. Hornsby's deposit if we placed you in contact with  
8 Mr. Hornsby?

9 A. I'd love to.

10 Q. All right. Now I'm going to ask you a couple of  
11 questions about a Yelp review that Mr. Turcott  
12 identified, and I'm going to ask you to look at  
13 Exhibit No. MT-4, and to turn to page 5.

14 And do you recall seeing this review before?

15 A. Yeah, I remember that one.

16 Q. You remember that one?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. All right. On the second page of the printout  
19 of the review, which is page 6 --

20 A. Um-hmm.

21 Q. -- in the paragraph that's labeled 4, it states  
22 there that the door didn't open correctly on one side  
23 and you had to stick your hand up in some hole to open  
24 the door. It seemed patched together inside and was  
25 just a hot mess. And it goes on.



1 Is this -- was this a vehicle that you own?

2 A. No.

3 **Q. Whose vehicle is this?**

4 A. Brar Limo Service. Brar. It's a 30-passenger.

5 **Q. Is this particular vehicle advertised on the**  
6 **JJ Limo website?**

7 A. Yes.

8 **Q. All right. Let's --**

9 A. No, it's not there.

10 **Q. I'm sorry?**

11 A. It's not there. I just added it.

12 **Q. I see.**

13 A. It should be there. I don't know -- no, I don't  
14 know.

15 **Q. So do you know whether or not repairs were made**  
16 **to this bus to repair the door?**

17 A. Yeah. Rick said the one door was messed up, so  
18 he went to fix it.

19 **Q. I'm sorry, Mr. Sidhu. This was -- you said this**  
20 **was Jim Brar's vehicle or this is someone --**

21 A. Brar, Rick Brar.

22 **Q. Oh, Rick Brar.**

23 A. He fixed the bus up there.

24 **Q. Have you personally observed that the vehicle is**  
25 **fixed?**

1 A. Yes. When I got the call -- when I got the  
2 call, the next day I called him and asked him, and he  
3 talked to his driver, and I told him, look, what  
4 happened to the door? He said, we'll fix it. He said,  
5 the handle broke on the bus, the lever.

6 Q. When you say the next day, what are you  
7 referring to, the next day after what?

8 A. Somebody called me from the rental place. The  
9 one who rented the bus called me and complained, so I  
10 said -- I said, I'll get back to you. So I get back to  
11 her after the next day. I said, let me check with the  
12 owner.

13 So I checked with him. I say, is this what  
14 happened? He said, yeah, it happened when the bus got  
15 there, and the lever just broke off when -- and he'll  
16 fix it. So I called back to the person and said -- and  
17 I didn't know -- I didn't know she put it on Yelp.

18 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I have no further  
19 questions for Mr. Sidhu.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.

21 So if you would like to recall Mr. Turcott  
22 at this time.

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Your Honor, I  
24 believe that Mr. Sidhu brought some documents with him.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Oh, all right.

1 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I would like to take  
2 a brief recess to review those documents and also have a  
3 brief discussion with Staff.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

5 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. We'll be off the  
7 record then.

8 (A break was taken from  
9 10:27 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.)

10 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. We are back on  
11 the record following a brief recess.

12 And Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, you can proceed  
13 when you're ready.

14 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you,  
15 your Honor.

16 \*\*\* DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI \*\*\*  
17 BY MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI:

18 **Q. Mr. Turcott, are you recommending that a penalty**  
19 **be assessed against JJ Limousine?**

20 A. Yes, I am.

21 **Q. And what is the basis of the penalty?**

22 A. Your Honor, the basis of our recommendation for  
23 penalty is the Company's history as well as the  
24 Commission's enforcement policy in Docket A-120061.

25 **Q. And what amount of penalty does Staff recommend**

1 that the Commission assess against JJ Limousine?

2 A. Staff recommends the maximum penalty of \$5,000  
3 for each of three violations, for a total of \$15,000.

4 Q. And are these three violations based on the  
5 website advertisement, the e-mail offer and the  
6 agreement with Mr. Hornsby?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All righty. And are you recommending the  
9 maximum penalty, then, for each of these violations?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And are you recommending that the full \$15,000  
12 be due and payable now?

13 A. Yes, your Honor. We would recommend that the  
14 maximum be imposed; however, we would like to recommend  
15 suspension of \$10,000 of the penalty on a number of  
16 conditions.

17 Q. And what are the conditions that you recommend?

18 A. We'd like to see Mr. Sidhu either operate a safe  
19 and legally certificated charter company, as appears to  
20 be his desire and his passion, or to cease and desist  
21 immediately, which includes no trips, no advertising,  
22 cease operating for a period of one year with the 10,000  
23 held in suspension.

24 Q. And you stated that the penalty recommendation  
25 considers Mr. Sidhu's history of compliance. And does

1 it also consider his willingness or lack thereof to  
2 comply with State laws requiring charter party carriers  
3 to obtain a certificate before engaging in business as a  
4 charter party carrier under RCW 81.70?

5 A. That's correct.

6 **Q. And can you -- can you elaborate a bit on what**  
7 **you considered?**

8 A. Yes. This company, as we've mentioned earlier  
9 this morning, since 2006 has been in and out of  
10 compliance as far as a certificate 14 times. Staff is  
11 quite familiar with this company.

12 This company made local news in 2013 when their  
13 vehicle broke down on I-405 with 20 high school students  
14 headed to a dance. That was May 14th, and on May 21st,  
15 the Company submitted an application for a charter  
16 certificate.

17 The Company has been very hard to contact,  
18 nonresponsive to technical assistance. Investigator  
19 Betty Young, investigator Pam Smith and I have all  
20 worked with the Company over the years. Pam Smith  
21 received incorrect information when she called the  
22 Company. She was told the Company was shutting down.  
23 The Company operates out of a Pony Express mailbox  
24 store. There is no physical location for the Company.

25 After voluntarily cancelling in July of 2015,

1 the website stayed up. The Company continued to offer  
2 and provide transportation. We talked about three  
3 violations in the complaint. We also know -- let me  
4 just -- I'll go through all seven of them.

5 Michael Hornsby booked a trip, October 2015; Pam  
6 Smith booked a trip in November; in February, the bus  
7 was at the Tukwila Family Fun Center full of  
8 Skyline High School -- or after transporting Skyline  
9 High School students; Deb Sisk (phonetic) of Puyallup,  
10 we talked about her experience on Yelp in April of this  
11 year; May 21st was a prom night, the bus was observed  
12 parked in downtown Seattle; and I contacted the bus on  
13 June 4th with a load of Mount Si High School students;  
14 and I booked a trip on July 9th. So consistently, over  
15 the past nine months, the Company has operated after  
16 voluntarily surrendering his certificate.

17 Our enforcement policy puts the safety of the  
18 traveling public first. We consider -- when we make our  
19 recommendations, we consider harm to the public; number  
20 of customers affected; history of past compliance and  
21 violations; is the Company cooperative and responsive;  
22 does the Company come into compliance or continue its  
23 violations; as well as the number of violations and the  
24 likelihood of recurrence.

25 **Q. And you just talked about booking your trip.**

1           That trip that you booked, was that -- you  
2           stated July, I believe, just a moment ago. Did you mean  
3           June?

4           A.    My mistake. June 9th, 2016.

5           **Q.    Thank you.**

6                    MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Your Honor, I do  
7           have a brief closing argument if you would like to hear  
8           that.

9                    JUDGE PEARSON: Yes. I just want to clarify  
10          Staff's recommendations.

11                   So the Company must either complete its  
12          application or cease and desist -- and also cease and  
13          desist until that application is approved.

14                   MR. TURCOTT: That's correct.

15                   JUDGE PEARSON: Do you have a deadline by  
16          which you'd like to see the application completed as a  
17          condition of the suspension, or just -- either don't  
18          operate or complete the application by whatever date?

19                   MR. TURCOTT: Your Honor, we've been in  
20          contact with the Company for almost a month now,  
21          since -- over a month, since June 4th. Mr. Sidhu is  
22          working hard on his application, it appears. And I  
23          think that we would go another 15 days and expect it all  
24          to be completed, or to have the website down.

25                   JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Website down and

1 application completed within 15 days?

2 MR. TURCOTT: One or the other.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: One or the other.

4 MR. TURCOTT: Either have it all done,  
5 submitted and complete, or make the decision not to do  
6 the business at this time.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And what about --  
8 does Staff have any desire to inspect the vehicle? Do  
9 you want to attach that condition, or have you done that  
10 already?

11 MR. TURCOTT: I believe that's part of the  
12 application process.

13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

14 MR. TURCOTT: They will -- field staff will  
15 assist with that and help the vehicle -- help the  
16 Company at that point.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you for that  
18 clarification.

19 You can go ahead and make a closing  
20 statement now.

21 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you,  
22 your Honor.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure.

24 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Pursuant to RCW  
25 81.70.220, it is illegal to engage in the business of a



1 charter party carrier within the state of Washington  
2 without first obtaining a certificate from the  
3 Commission or registering as an interstate carrier.

4 "Charter party carrier" is defined at RCW  
5 81.70.020 as "every person engaged in the transportation  
6 over any public highways in this state of a group of  
7 persons who, pursuant to a common purpose, and under a  
8 single contract, acquire the use of a motor vehicle to  
9 travel together as a group to a specified destination,  
10 or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in  
11 advance or modified by the chartered group after leaving  
12 the place of origin.

13 "Engaging in the business of a charter party  
14 carrier includes advertising or soliciting, offering or  
15 entering into an agreement to provide such service. Any  
16 person who engages in the business of a charter party  
17 carrier without the required certificate is subject to a  
18 penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation under RCW  
19 81.70.220.

20 "It is also unlawful for a charter party  
21 carrier whose license has been cancelled to conduct any  
22 operations as such a carrier. The Commission may assess  
23 penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation under RCW  
24 81.70.260."

25 For the purposes of Chapter 81.70 RCW, the

1 definition of "motor vehicle" is "every self-propelled  
2 vehicle with seating capacity for seven or more persons,  
3 excluding the driver."

4           The Department of Licensing regulates  
5 limousine carriers that operate vehicles seating up to  
6 14 passengers, not including the driver. For reference,  
7 see the Department of Licensing regulation, WAC  
8 308-83-010.

9           The overlapping jurisdiction between  
10 Department of Licensing and the Commission in regulating  
11 charter party carriers has long been -- has been long  
12 since resolved, and jurisdiction divides at the  
13 14-passenger mark.

14           This means that charter carriers operating  
15 vehicles seating more than 14 passengers, excluding the  
16 driver, must have a certificate for the Commission.

17           And for reference, see In Re: Determining  
18 the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for  
19 Penalties against DKRR, Inc., doing business as Five  
20 Star Limousine Services, Docket TE-121686, Order 03,  
21 final order, served April 11, 2013, and Order 02,  
22 initial order, served March 7, 2013.

23           Regarding classification of this carrier,  
24 Staff has provided evidence demonstrating that  
25 JJ Limousine has been operating as a charter party

1 carrier in Washington, and Staff does not believe that  
2 JJ Limousine has met its burden to prove that it should  
3 not be classified as a charter party carrier.

4 Staff has shown that JJ Limousine entered  
5 into an agreement with Mr. Hornsby to transport 20 high  
6 school students to a prom in Mill Creek, Washington,  
7 last fall.

8 JJ Limousine advertises on its website  
9 transportation and party busses and other vehicles that  
10 seat more than 14 passengers.

11 Mr. Sidhu has explained that he's farming  
12 out transportation, but we simply don't have any  
13 evidence beyond what he's said here today about which  
14 vehicles he's operating and exactly which companies are  
15 transporting passengers. He has brought no  
16 documentation or anything to support some of his  
17 statements.

18 When Mr. Turcott contacted JJ Limousine  
19 posing as a customer, JJ Limousine offered to transport  
20 30 passengers in a 40-person party bus to the Meridian  
21 Grange in Kent, Washington.

22 The Commission should classify JJ Limousine  
23 as a charter party carrier, and as Mr. Turcott  
24 recommended, issue a cease and desist order against  
25 JJ Limousine.

1           Regarding the complaint against the Company,  
2 Staff recommends that the Commission find JJ Limousine  
3 committed three violations of RCW 81.70.220 and RCW  
4 81.70.260 for a total of three violations.

5           And you heard Mr. Turcott testify that the  
6 maximum penalty of \$5,000 should be assessed for each of  
7 these three violations, and this is appropriate given  
8 Mr. Sidhu's decade of experience with the Commission's  
9 certificate requirement.

10           JJ Limousine has held a charter certificate  
11 on and off since 2006. JJ Limousine first received  
12 charter authority on September 8, 2006, in Docket  
13 TE-061343.

14           And as Mr. Turcott has testified, and  
15 referring to the chart in Ms. Smith's investigation  
16 report, JJ's authority was cancelled several times due  
17 to a failure to file proof of insurance. The Company's  
18 authority was also reinstated several times.

19           We know that Mr. Sidhu is currently working  
20 on filing an application, but that application is  
21 currently incomplete. Staff is very concerned that one  
22 of the items missing is proof of insurance. We  
23 understand that Mr. Sidhu is working to get that  
24 resolved today; however, that's even a little too late.

25           After a decade of losing and regaining

1 charter authority, Mr. Sidhu certainly knows he needs  
2 insurance, and should be familiar with the Commission's  
3 liability insurance requirements, and he definitely  
4 knows that he requires a charter certificate.

5           Mr. Sidhu has received technical assistance  
6 throughout the years. During one of the times when  
7 JJ Limousine did not have a certificate in 2009, the  
8 Company sent Mr. Sidhu a technical assistance letter  
9 advising him to file an application as the Commission  
10 had received information that he was operating as a  
11 charter carrier. This letter is at pages 74 to 75 in  
12 Ms. Smith's investigation report.

13           Again, during another certificate gap in  
14 2012, the Commission sent Mr. Sidhu a technical  
15 assistance letter advising him to file an application as  
16 the Commission had received information that he was  
17 operating as a charter carrier. This letter is at pages  
18 76 to 77 in Ms. Smith's investigation report.

19           In 2013, when JJ Limousine did not hold a  
20 certificate, the Company was caught operating without a  
21 certificate, and this is what Mr. -- this is what  
22 Mr. Turcott testified about. This was the  
23 transportation of high school students in Snohomish  
24 County.

25           At that time, Staff reminded Mr. Sidhu that

1 he must cease providing all charter and excursion  
2 services subject to Commission regulation until the  
3 Commission granted the Company's certificate, and Staff  
4 warned that if it found evidence that JJ Limo provided  
5 additional passenger transportation services without the  
6 required certificate, Staff would ask the Commission to  
7 take enforcement action against JJ Limo, including  
8 assessing monetary penalties.

9           Staff's technical assistance e-mail is at  
10 page 70 in Ms. Smith's investigation report. And  
11 despite the technical assistance, the warning and the  
12 knowledge of the Commission's requirements, Mr. Smith  
13 continued to engage -- I'm sorry -- Mr. Sidhu continued  
14 to engage in business as a charter party carrier without  
15 a certificate.

16           And not only this, but a mere three days  
17 after speaking with Mr. Turcott and learning of the  
18 enforcement proceeding against JJ Limousine, the Company  
19 once again offered to provide charter transportation.

20           The maximum penalty is appropriate in this  
21 case. We are happy -- we were happy to hear Mr. Sidhu  
22 testify that he would work with Mr. Hornsby to offer a  
23 refund of Mr. Hornsby's deposit, and we look forward to  
24 working with Mr. Sidhu on that issue.

25           And that concludes Staff's case.

1 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.

2 Mr. Sidhu, did you have anything you'd like  
3 to say in closing, or did you want to respond to Staff's  
4 recommendation?

5 MS. GOODIN: I do. As far as Mr. Hornsby is  
6 concerned, I think there's only the evidence that --  
7 it's a declaration. There's nothing to say whether he  
8 actually even purchased services, that's A, because he's  
9 saying he farmed that out.

10 Also, Mr. Turcott on his e-mail, obviously a  
11 30-passenger bus, that was a 2008. JJ Limousine does  
12 not own a 2008 30-passenger bus. It's a 2001  
13 40-passenger bus. So I think on those two violations  
14 that you're wanting to charge \$5,000 for each, I don't  
15 think either one of those can be proven beyond a  
16 reasonable doubt that JJ's Best Limousine provided  
17 service and/or response to that.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: Can I get you to state and  
19 spell your name again?

20 MS. GOODIN: Yeah. It's Nanette,  
21 N-a-n-e-t-t-e.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Sorry. N-a --

23 MS. GOODIN: N-a-n-e-t-t-e, Goodin,  
24 G-o-o-d-i-n.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: And what is your role with

1 the Company?

2 MS. GOODIN: I'm just a friend. I'm his  
3 driver.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: You're what?

5 MS. GOODIN: I'm his driver today.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Is there anything  
7 you'd like to say, Mr. Sidhu?

8 MS. GOODIN: He's basically saying that  
9 either one of those charges that he's being assessed for  
10 were not his vehicles.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: So I understand what you're  
12 talking about, the e-mail back to Mr. Turcott. But what  
13 is the other vehicle that he's denying ownership of?

14 MS. GOODIN: Well, the Hornsby -- I mean,  
15 there's no -- it's a declaration, but there's -- that  
16 was farmed out to another company. I don't know that --  
17 we don't even know that he collected any money. It's a  
18 declaration that just states that he made a deposit.  
19 Well, where's the evidence that shows there was a  
20 deposit that was accepted by JJ Limousine Service? You  
21 know, I don't think there's any evidence there other  
22 than the declaration that he made.

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: May I respond,  
24 your Honor?

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure.



1 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: So in order to show  
2 that a carrier is operating, what we need is an  
3 agreement to transport passengers, and that's what  
4 Mr. Hornsby's declaration shows is that there was --  
5 that a trip was booked with JJ Limousine, and that's --  
6 that's what is required in order to show that a carrier  
7 is engaging in charter party carrier transportation.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Did you have anything  
9 further?

10 MS. GOODIN: You're saying it's booked  
11 through but farmed out to another company?

12 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: From the customer's  
13 perspective --

14 MS. GOODIN: He's obviously calling  
15 JJ Limousine.

16 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: From the customer's  
17 perspective, the customer is booking a trip with  
18 JJ Limousine.

19 MS. GOODIN: Right. I understand that.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Anything further, Mr. Sidhu?

21 MR. SIDHU: (Nods head.)

22 JUDGE PEARSON: No? Okay.

23 Well, thank you for coming here today. I  
24 will take everything that was said here today and all of  
25 the exhibits under advisement, and issue an order

1 reflecting my decision within the next ten days.

2 MR. SIDHU: Okay.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

4 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you,  
5 your Honor.

6 MS. GOODIN: Thank you.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Then we are adjourned.

8 Thank you.

9 (Hearing concluded at 11:02 a.m.)

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