## BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

BLESSED LIMOUSINE INC.

**DOCKET TE-151667** 

COMMISSION STAFF'S RESPONSE TO BLESSED LIMOUSINE, INC.'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO COMPLY WITH FINANCIAL PENALTY VIA PAYMENTS

## I. BACKGROUND

1

On January 26, 2016, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") entered its Final Order, Order 03, in Docket TE-151667 in the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties against Blessed Limousine, Inc. ("Order 03"). Order 03 imposed penalties against Blessed Limousine, Inc. ("the Company") and suspended part of those penalties subject to certain conditions.

2

On February 1, 2016, through its attorney, David Ruzumna, the Company filed a Motion for Leave to Comply with Financial Penalty via Payments. This motion acknowledges that the Company accepts Order 03, but cannot make full payment of the unsuspended penalties and requests the ability to pay in installments.

3

Commission Staff ("Staff") files this response pursuant to WAC 480-07-375 and supports the establishment of a payment plan that would permit the Company to pay its penalty amount in installments.

RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR LEAVE TO COMPLY WITH FINANCIAL PENALTY VIA PAYMENTS

## II. RESPONSE TO MOTION

Staff supports establishing a payment plan for the Company to pay the unsuspended penalty amount from Order 03, but would like additional clarity for the schedule of installments and for the conditions of those installments.

4

5

Staff recommends that the Company be allowed to pay the unsuspended penalty amount of \$4,000.00 in 20 consecutive monthly installments of a minimum of \$200.00 per month, each of which is due and payable no later than the 5th day of each month beginning February 5, 2016. If no more than \$200.00 is paid each month, the final installment of \$200.00 would be required on September 5, 2017. See Staff's Proposed Installment Schedule below.

Proposed Installment Schedule			
Installment	Due Date		Amount
1	February 5, 2016		\$200.00
2	March 5, 2016		\$200.00
3	April 5, 2016		\$200.00
4	May 5, 2016		\$200.00
5	June 5, 2016		\$200.00
6	July 5, 2016		\$200.00
7	August 5, 2016		\$200.00
8	September 5, 2016		\$200.00
9	October 5, 2016		\$200.00
10	November 5, 2016		\$200.00
11	December 5, 2016		\$200.00
12	January 5, 2017		\$200.00
13	February 5, 2017		\$200.00
14	March 5, 2017		\$200.00
15	April 5, 2017		\$200.00
16	May 5, 2017		\$200.00
17	June 5, 2017		\$200.00
18	July 5, 2017		\$200.00
19	August 5, 2017		\$200.00
20	September 5, 2017		\$200.00
		Total:	\$4,000.00

6

Staff recommends that the Company be allowed to make additional payments in advance of these due dates or pay an increased amount on these due dates, if it so desires, for the purpose of discharging its full payment obligation early, but that no additional payment or increased amount will relieve the Company of its obligation to make its timely monthly installment of \$200.00 until the full unsuspended amount of \$4,000.00 is satisfied.

7

Staff recommends that, should the Company fail to pay any installment by the due date, or fail to pay at least the minimum amount of \$200.00 by the due date, the entire remaining balance of payments and the entire suspended portion of the penalty become immediately due and payable without further Commission order.

8

Staff recommends that, should the Company fail to comply with any condition of Order 03, Paragraph 19,<sup>1</sup> the entire remaining balance of payments and the entire suspended portion of the penalty become immediately due and payable without further Commission order.

9

Staff notes that the conditions of Order 03 require the Company to cease and desist offering, advertising, and providing charter party or excursion carrier services and provide

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Order 03, Paragraph 19 states:

<sup>&</sup>quot;We impose a penalty of \$10,000 and suspend a \$6,000 portion of the penalty for a period of two years subject to the following conditions:

<sup>1)</sup> Blessed Limousine must pay the \$4,000 penalty amount that is not suspended within 10 business days of the date of this Order;

<sup>2)</sup> Blessed Limousine must either file a complete application for a certificate to operate as a charter party or excursion carrier no later than February 10, 2016, or provide documentation to the Commission's satisfaction that Blessed Limousine no longer advertises or offers to provide charter party or excursion carrier services;

<sup>3)</sup> Blessed Limousine must cease and desist offering, advertising, and providing charter party or excursion carrier services unless and until it obtains the required certificate from the Commission;

<sup>4)</sup> Blessed Limousine must allow Staff to inspect any vehicles the Company owns and uses for charter party or excursion carrier services; and

<sup>5)</sup> Blessed Limousine must comply with applicable statutes and Commission rules for a period of two years from the effective date of this Order.

If the Company complies with these conditions, the Commission will waive the suspended portion of the penalty."

documentation to that effect unless it obtains the required certificate from the Commission.<sup>2</sup> Staff is willing to assist the Company in its endeavor to comply with the Commission's order: should the Company request its assistance, Staff would review, provide feedback, and also provide technical assistance regarding the Company's advertising.

10

Staff recommends that, consistent with Order 03, the suspended \$6,000.00 penalty amount should be suspended for, and waived after, 24 months from entry of Order 03 (January 26, 2018), provided that the Company, upon inspection by Staff, incurs no repeat violation of RCW 81.70.220(1) during that time. Staff will commence a review within 24 months from the date Order 03 was entered and provide a recommendation as to whether the suspended penalty should be waived or imposed.

## III. CONCLUSION

11

Staff supports the establishment of a payment plan that would permit the Company to pay its penalty amount in installments and offers its recommendations in this Response to provide clarity for establishing such a plan.

DATED February \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT W. FERGUSON Attorney General

1 (1/4

ANDREW J. O'CONNELL Assistant Attorney General

Counsel for Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff

45887

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Order 03, ¶ 19.