Service Date: August 19, 2023

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

DOCKET TV-230496

JUSTIN HIGBEE D/B/A J & S MOVERS; JNS MOVERS INC.

DECLARATION OF JAQUANDRIA EWANIKA

I, Jaquandria Ewanika, 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 April 26, 2023, I searched Commission records to determine if J & S Movers and JNS Movers Inc. (Company) have a household goods moving permit and found no results.
- 3. On April 26, 2023, I found advertisements on Yelp and Facebook for J & S Movers, which identified itself as a household goods moving company. The advertisements offered to provide household goods moving services in multiple areas of Washington state and provided the following contact information: (360) 522-1796, jandsmovers1@gmail.com as an email address, and jandsmovers.com as a website address. The Company's website offered to conduct moves in Port Orchard, Washington, and Kitsap County and provided the following contact information: (360) 522-1796 and an email address of jandsmovers1@gmail.com.¹
- 4. On April 26, 2023, I searched the telephone number listed on the J & S Movers website, using the TLOxp system and the results produced the name Justin Higbee as being associated with that telephone number.
- 5. On April 26, 2023, I searched the Washington Department of Revenue's database for the name Justin Higbee. The results produced a company called JNS Movers Inc. with the registered agent's name listed as Justin Higbee. ²

¹ See Attachment A for a copy of the Yelp, Facebook, and website advertisements, captured on April 26, 2023.

² See Attachment B for a copy of the company's license information with the Washington Department of Revenue.

- 6. On April 27, 2023, Staff sent Justin Higbee d/b/a JNS Movers Inc. and J & S Movers a compliance letter informing Justin Higbee that JNS Movers Inc. and J & S Movers must cease and desist operating as a household goods carrier in Washington State until they obtain the required household goods carrier permit.³
- 7. On May 1, 2023, a person who identified themselves as Justin Higbee called me and stated that they did not believe their advertisements were in violation because they do not mention they have a truck in the advertisements. They also stated that they do not mention they have a truck until people call. They stated they would remove the advertisements when they could and would call licensing to "figure everything out."
- 8. On June 2, 2023, I discovered that the J & S Movers' website was still active and offering to perform moves in Washington state. Under an assumed name, I sent an email to jandsmovers1@gmail.com, which was the email address listed on the J & S Movers website and asked for a quote on a move from a two-bedroom apartment in Port Orchard, Washington, to another apartment in Port Orchard. On that same day, Justin Higbee responded to the email stating that they could perform the move for \$160 per hour with a 3-hour minimum with an estimated completion time of 4-6 hours.⁴
- 9. On June 2, 2023, I responded to Justin Higbee's email and asked what day they were available and if they provided a truck. On that same day, Justin Higbee responded and stated that they would provide a truck and could perform my move on June 7, 2023.⁵
- 10. On June 5, 2023, I discovered that on October 14, 2019, Justin Higbee d/b/a The Northwest Movers was sent a compliance letter ordering The Northwest Movers to cease and desist operations has a household goods carrier in Washington state without first obtaining the required permit.⁶

DATED this day August 1, 2023, at Lacey, Washington.

/s/Jaquandria Ewanika
Jaquandria Ewanika
Compliance Investigator, Consumer Protection

³ See Attachment C for a copy of the April 27, 2023, compliance letter sent to the company.

⁴ See Attachment D for a copy of the email quote from the company.

⁵ See Attachment E for a copy of the email from the company confirming they will provide a truck.

⁶ See Attachment F for a copy of Oct. 14, 2019, compliance letter sent to Justin Higbee d/b/a The Northwest Movers.