

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

HIGH SOCIETY TRANSPORTATION
LLC

DOCKET TE-210619

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL
DOTSON

I, Michael Dotson, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state of Washington, and competent to be a witness.
2. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a compliance investigator in the Transportation Safety Division. As a compliance investigator, my responsibilities include conducting investigations into the operations of regulated and unregulated transportation companies. As part of those duties, I investigate charter party and excursion service carriers that may be operating without the required Commission-issued certificate.
3. On November 19, 2019, the Commission received an application from High Society Transportation LLC (High Society or Company) to provide charter party and excursion carrier services in the state of Washington, which was assigned to Docket TE-190966. In the application, the Company provided UBI: 604-017-131; phone number: (509) 925-3303; highsocietytransportation.com as its website address; brandon@highsocietytransportation.com as its email address; 302 W 5th Street, Cle Elum, Washington, 98922, as its physical and mailing address; listed Brandon Russell as the governing person; and identified that the Company operated one motor vehicle: a 26-passenger 2006 Ford with license plate BIE1523.¹
4. On March 9, 2020, the Commission dismissed High Society's charter party and excursion carrier service application for failing to provide a Uniform Motor Carrier Certificate of Insurance (Form E) in Docket TE-190966.²
5. On August 4, 2021, I visited the Company's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/highsocietytransportationllc. On the Facebook page's "About" page, High Society provided the phone number (509) 925-3303; an email address

¹ See Attachment A for a copy of the Company's application for charter party and excursion carrier services in Docket TE-190966.

² See Attachment B for a copy of the application dismissal letter in Docket TE-190966.

brandon@highsocietytransportation.com; a website address of www.highsocietytransportation.com, and a location of 302 Fifth Street W., Cle Elum, Washington.³

6. On August 4, 2021, I searched Commission records, which showed that High Society did not have the required authority to provide charter party or excursion carrier service in the state of Washington.⁴
7. On August 4, 2021, I searched Washington Department of Revenue's (DOR) Business Licensing Service for UBI number 604-017-131, which produced records showing that High Society has an active business license. The record showed Brandon Russell as the governing person with an address of 302 W 5th St., Cle Elum, Washington, 98922.⁵
8. On August 4, 2021, I searched the Washington Department of Licensing's DRIVES application for vehicle information on license plate BIE1523, which produced records showing that the passenger bus, referenced in High Society's November 19, 2019, charter party and excursion carrier application, was registered to High Society at the physical and mailing address of 302 W 5th St., Unit A, Cle Elum, Washington, 98922, and showed a current registration.⁶
9. On August 4, 2021, I contacted High Society through its Facebook page and asked if the Company could provide transportation for 18 passengers from North Bend to Seattle and back on either August 15 or August 26, 2021. High Society responded immediately that it was booked for August 28, but that August 15 was available. High Society then responded that the bus seated 26 passengers, the hourly rate was \$325, provided phone number (509) 834-8522, and stated that I was communicating with "Brandon."⁷
10. Based on paragraphs 3 through 9 above, Commission staff finds that High Society operated as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without first obtaining the required certificate from the Commission.

DATED this 28th day of October 2021, at Lacey, Washington.

/s/ Michael Dotson
MICHAEL DOTSON

³ See Attachment C for a copy of the Facebook "About" page, captured on August 4, 2021.

⁴ See Attachment D for a copy of the Commission records documenting the Company's inactive status, captured on August 4, 2021.

⁵ See Attachment E for a copy of DOR's Business Licensing Service, captured on August 4, 2021.

⁶ See Attachment F for a copy of the Department of Licensing's DRIVES report, captured on August 4, 2021.

⁷ See Attachment G for a copy of the Facebook conversation, captured on August 4, 2021.

ATTACHMENT A

TE-190966



621 Woodland Square Loop SE
 Lacey, WA 98503
 P.O. Box 47250
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250
 Phone: 360-664-1222
 e-mail: Transportation@utc.wa.gov

APPLICATION FOR CHARTER AND EXCURSION CARRIER SERVICES CERTIFICATE

(For Official Use Only)	Company ID:	Docket TE-
111 0268 232 01 <u>25.00</u>		
111 0268 232 02 <u>09/09/2007</u>	Date Filed:	Safety Inspection:
111 0268 232 03	Reg Fees:	Insurance:
111 0268 <u>1057</u>	DOL:	SOS:
Receipt ID: <u>\$ 225</u>	Payment ID:	CH -

Passenger Charter and Excursion Carrier Services WAC 480-30	Fee Required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Authority	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer an existing certificate to a new owner or business structure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If transfer, complete Attachment A. 	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstate a previously cancelled certificate; WAC-480-30-121 .	\$200.00
Plus,	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Fee - In accordance with RCW 81.70.350 "Regulatory Fees", the Commission requires Charter and Excursion companies to file reports of the number of vehicles operated by the company and pay the sum of \$25 for each vehicle operated. There is a minimum fee of \$25.	
Total number of vehicles to be operated <u>1</u> x \$25 per vehicle	= \$ <u>25</u>
Total due (\$200, plus, \$25 per vehicle)	= \$ <u>225</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change - WAC 480-30-146	\$ 35.00
Application to change a company's corporate name, change a trade name, add a new trade name or change the surname of an individual owner or partner.	
Company Name: <u>High Society Transportation LLC</u>	

SECTION 1 – APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name: High Society Transportation LLC
The legal name must match your registration with [Department of Revenue](#)

Trade Name(s) (if any): _____
Trade name(s) must be registered under your [UBI number](#)

Mailing Address:

Physical Address:

Street 302 W 5th St Street Same as mailing

City Cle Elum City _____

State/Zip WA 98922 State/Zip _____

Phone Number: 509-925-3303 Fax Number: _____

UBI #: 604 017 131 E-Mail: brandon@highsocietytransportation.com

Website: highsocietytransportation.com

Type of business structure

Individual Partnership Corporation Other (LP, LLP, LLC)

If a Partnership, Corporation, or Other, list the name, title, and percentage of partner's share or stock distribution for major stockholders:

Name	Title	Stock Distributions or Percentage of Shares
<u>Brandon Russell</u>	<u>CEO</u>	<u>100%</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List other certificates or permits held with the commission: _____

USDOT # 3102048 If you don't have a USDOT #, go online at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/online-registration or contact the Washington State Patrol at 360-596-3810 for assistance.

Business Operations

Describe the type of tours/excursions you plan on providing: Private Parties, wine tour, craft brew tour, concerts, festivals, weddings, corporate events.

Have you or your company ever been cited for business-related violation of state laws or commission rule or any other federal or state agency?

No Yes If yes, please explain _____

SECTION 2 – EQUIPMENT

Describe the equipment that will be used (attach additional sheet if necessary). All vehicles must pass a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspection before an application is granted. All fields are required. Per [WAC 480-30-036 \(2\)](#), "Party bus" means any motor vehicle whose interior enables passengers to stand and circulate throughout the vehicle because seating is placed around the perimeter of the bus or is nonexistent and in which food, beverages, or entertainment may be provided. A motor vehicle configured in the traditional manner of forward-facing seating with a center aisle is not a party bus.

Year	Make	License Number	Vehicle ID number	Seating Capacity	Party Bus Vehicle (Y/N)
2006	Ford	BIE1523	1FD0AF56PK6EA71332	26	(Y/N)

SECTION 3 – SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

In each of the categories shown below, list the person and position responsible for understanding and complying with the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations \(FMCSR\)](#) and Washington State laws and rules. Please refer to the WAC rules, fact sheets and publication "Your Guide to Achieving a Satisfactory Safety Rating" for assistance with requirements.

SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE (CDL) STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 383). If you operate commercial motor vehicles, your drivers must have a valid CDL. ▪ DRIVER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 391). Each of your drivers must meet minimum qualification requirements. You must maintain driver qualification files for each driver. ▪ DRIVERS HOURS OF SERVICE (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 395). Each of your drivers must maintain hours of service logs. You must maintain true and accurate hours of service records for each driver. ▪ CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL USE AND TESTING (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 382 and Part 40). If you operate commercial motor vehicles, your drivers must be in a Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing program. You must have a alcohol and controlled substances testing program. ▪ INSPECTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 396). You must systematically inspect, repair and maintain all motor vehicles. ▪ SAFETY REGULATIONS, GENERAL (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 390). You must follow safety regulations. ▪ DRIVING COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 392). You must follow regulations for driving commercial motor vehicles. ▪ PARTS AND ACCESSORIES NECESSARY FOR SAFE OPERATION (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 393). You must maintain parts and accessories in safe condition. 	
Name:	Position:

OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	
List the person and position responsible for understanding and complying with the requirements of each category shown below.	
ANNUAL REPORTS AND REGULATORY FEES. You must file an annual safety report and pay regulatory fees by May 1 of each year.	
Name: <u>Brandon Russell</u>	Position: <u>CEO</u>
STATE OF WASHINGTON GENERAL LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. You must comply with the regulations of local, state, and federal agencies such as, but not limited to: Department of Labor and Industries , Department of Licensing , Secretary of State , Department of Revenue, Internal Revenue Service and Employment Security.	
Name: <u>Brandon Russell</u>	Position: <u>CEO</u>

SECTION 4 – DECLARATION OF APPLICANT


I understand that filing this application does not in itself constitute authority to operate as a passenger charter and excursion carrier.

As the applicant for a passenger charter and excursion certificate, I understand the responsibilities of a charter and excursion carrier, and I am in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations governing business in the State of Washington.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information contained in this application is true and correct.

I certify that I am the applicant or I am authorized to execute and file this document on behalf of the applicant.

Printed name of applicant Brandon Russell

Signature of applicant 

Date 11/14/19 County, State WA

ATTACHMENT B



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

March 9, 2020

High Society Transportation LLC
302 W 5th Street, Unit A
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Re: TE-190966 - Dismissing Application

Dear High Society Transportation LLC:

On November 19, 2019, High Society Transportation LLC filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) an application requesting authority to operate as a Charter and Excursion Bus carrier in the state of Washington.

On November 19, 2019, December 20, 2019, and January 21, 2020, the Commission sent High Society Transportation LLC notices describing the application requirements the company had not satisfied. Despite this notice, High Society Transportation LLC has not met the following requirements as of the date of this letter: High Society Transportation LLC has not provided a Uniform Motor Carrier Certificate of Insurance (Form E) from the insurance company.

Accordingly, the application filed by High Society Transportation LLC in TE-190966 for Charter and Excursion Bus authority is dismissed for failure to meet the application requirements.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Licensing Services at 360-664-1222. You may also email us at transportation@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Stillwell".

Suzanne Stillwell
Licensing Services Manager

Respect. Professionalism. Integrity. Accountability.

NOTICE: The Commission has delegated to the Licensing Services Manager the authority to take the action described in this letter under applicable law. You may seek Commission review of this decision. Your request should be addressed to Mark L. Johnson, Secretary, 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503, PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. You may also email your request to records@utc.wa.gov. You must file a request for Commission review no later than 14 days after the date of this letter.

ATTACHMENT C

High Society Transportation LLC

Like Follow Share ... Call Now Send Message

FIND US

- 302 Fifth Street W. Cle Elum, Washington [Get Directions](#)
- m.me/highsocietytransportationllc
- Call (509) 925-3303

HOURS

Always Open

BUSINESS INFO

Business Details

Parking	Street, parking lot and valet parking
Price Range	\$\$\$

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO

- brandon@highsocietytransportation.com
- <http://www.highsocietytransportation.com>

MORE INFO

- About**
Luxury transportation at it's finest. Serving Cle Elum, Roslyn, Suncadia and Ellensburg .
- Limo Service · Business Service**

High Society Transportation LLC
@highsocietytransportationllc

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ATTACHMENT D

Companies Cases

Copy/Link Company History Contacts Industries Cases

Edit Cancel Remove Permits & Insurance

[View Version History](#)

Title* High Society Transportation LLC

DBA Names

Company Legacy ID

Unified Business Identifier 604017131

Regulatory Status Inactive

Contact Name Brandon Russell

Contact Title CEO

Contact Phone 509-925-3303

Contact E-Mail Address brandon@highsocietytransportation.com

Contact Fax

Address Change Date

Physical Address Street 302 W 5th Street, Unit A

Physical Address City Cle Elum

Physical Address State WA

Physical Address Zip 98922

Mailing Address Street 302 W 5th Street, Unit A

Mailing Address City Cle Elum

Mailing Address State WA

Mailing Address Zip 98922

Website

Comments

Company ID 20,645

Version: 8.0
Created at 10/31/2019 10:51 AM by ■ Chiles, Pam (UTC)
Last modified at 3/9/2020 10:51 AM by ■ Villar, Eric (UTC)

Edit Cancel

ATTACHMENT E



License Information:

Entity name: HIGH SOCIETY TRANSPORTATION LLC

Business name: HIGH SOCIETY TRANSPORTATION LLC

Entity type: [Limited Liability Company](#)

UBI #: 604-017-131

Business ID: 001

Location ID: 0001

Location: Active

Location address: 302 W 5TH ST
CLE ELUM WA 98922-1031

Mailing address: 244 ROCKY RIVER RD.
ELLENSBURG WA 98926

Excise tax and reseller permit status: [Click here](#)

Secretary of State status: [Click here](#)

Governing People May include governing people not registered with Secretary of State

Governing people	Title
RUSSELL, BRANDON	

ATTACHMENT F

Vehicle Information

VIN	Scale Weight	GVWR
1FDAF56PX6EA71332	13220	Class 6 - 19,501 - 26,000
Model Year	Color 1	Gross Weight
2006	BLACK	20000
Make	Color 2	Equipment #
KYLCO		
Model	Use Type	Fleet #
LIMOUSINE BUS	For Hire	
Body Style	Value Year	Value Code
Limousine	2018	10000.0000
Current Odometer	Previous Odometer	
0	0	


Title Information

Last Transaction	Last Tran Date	County
Vehicle Renewal	16-Apr-2021	19
Previous Transaction	Previous Tran Date	Status
Vehicle Renewal Notice	08-Dec-2020	Issued
Total Fees Paid	Months of Reg	
206.50	10	
Title #	Title Issued	
1721346161	12-Mar-2018	

Registered Owner

Registered	:	HIGH SOCIETY TRANSPORTATION LLC
Mailing Address	Residential Address	
302 W 5TH ST UNIT A CLE ELUM WA 98922-1031 Location Code: 1901	302 W 5TH ST UNIT A CLE ELUM WA 98922-1031 Location Code: 1901	

Registration

Type	Transaction	From	Expiration	Cancelled	Registration	Plate/Decal Type	Plate/Decal Number	Tab Type	Tab Number
On-Road	Renewal	16-Apr-2021	27-Feb-2022	28-Feb-2022	RG70792898 	Standard Passeng	BIE1523	R22	N019411

ATTACHMENT G



High Society Transportation LLC



High Society Transportation LLC

Typically replies within a few hours

Limo Service



11:20 AM

Hi there, I see you have/had a party bus. Are you still running it? I was hoping to take a trip with some buds up to a Mariners game later this month. Let me know! Thanks

Hi Jake yes we do have a party bus and it is still running what day were you looking at to go to the Mariners game?

I was looking 15th or the 26th, still not 100% sure, need to check schedules.

The bus is booked on the 28th but it is available on the 15th

Cool, that will probably work. Can you do North Bend to the game and back, with some tooling around time before the game? There should be around 18 of us? Not sure how big the average party bus is.

The bus seats 26 and the hourly rate is \$325

Oh, even better. Perfect, may be able to get some more folks then. I still need to nail down everyone, but I'll let you know soon. I appreciate the quick response.

You bet feel free to call or text me at 509-834-8522 my name is Brandon