

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546 NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546 Phone:

DOCKET NO. 1107-N-80-T

RE: APPLICATION OF ACEVEDO TAXI CAB DBA ACEVEDO TAXI CAB TO OPERATE ONE (1) MOTOR VEHICLE IN TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN AND TO AND FROM THE TOWNS OF BRANFORD, EAST HAVEN, HAMDEN, NEW HAVEN, NORTH HAVEN AND WEST HAVEN.

FINAL DECISION

August 6, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on July 13, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Acevedo Taxi Cab dba Acevedo Taxi Cab (hereinafter "applicant") with a mailing address of 624 Middletown Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06513 seeks authorization to operate one (1) motor vehicle in taxicab service within and to and from the towns of Branford, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven and West Haven.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, a public hearing on this application was held at the Department of Transportation in Newington, Connecticut on June 18 and July 16, 2015.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to such other parties as required by Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

The hearing on this matter was conducted by a hearing officer, designated by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

C. Appearances

Mr. Julio Acevedo appeared on behalf of the applicant. The applicant was represented by W. Martyn Philpot, Esq. who has a mailing address is 409 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The applicant seeks to operate one (1) taxicab within and to and from Branford, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven and West Haven.
- 2. The applicant has been a taxicab driver for several New Haven area taxicab services, in the past, but is currently not driving a taxi at this time.
- 3. Juan Perez will drive the 6 pm to 6 am shift. Mr. Acevedo will drive the 6 am to 6 pm shift for the company. Israel Mendoza may act as a substitute driver. There are also plans to hire and additional driver down the road.

- 4. The applicant will operate out of his home address and his wife will also help with the business.
 - 5. Mr. Acevedo is fluent in both Spanish and English.
- 6. Michael Cacioppo is a former taxicab driver. He believes there is a need for additional taxicab service in the New Haven area. He also supports the applicant as a man of character and integrity.
- 7. Felex Garci also supports both the applicant and the application. There is a need for more taxicab service in addition to the need for bilingual drivers.
 - 8. Carmelo Vasquez has waited for long periods for a taxicab on several occasions.
- 9. William Landon is a nurse with Paradigm Health Care in New Haven. He supports the application because in bad weather it's hard to get a taxicab.
- 10. Dwayne Greene, Renada Amin, Angel Acosta, Moses Ramos, and Wifredo Correa all testified as to the need in the New Haven area for reliable prompt taxicab transportation. They have experienced occasions of having to wait for a taxicab but have found the applicant to be very reliable and prompt.
 - 11. Mr. Acevedo had two minor criminal convictions from the 1970's.
 - 12. This application was not opposed.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over common carriers, which include each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in the State of Connecticut in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended. The Department is authorized to prescribe regulations with respect to fares, service, operation and equipment, as it deems necessary for the convenience, protection and safety of the passengers and the public.

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a), as amended, any person who applies for authority to operate a taxicab shall obtain from the Department a certificate of public convenience and necessity certifying that the public's convenience and necessity requires the operation of a taxicab or taxicabs for the transportation of passengers. No certificate shall be issued unless the department finds that the person is suitable to operate a taxicab service. In so doing, the department must take into consideration any convictions of the applicant under federal, state or local laws relative to safety, motor vehicle or criminal violations, the number of taxicabs to be operated under the certificate, the adequacy of the applicant's financial resources to operate the service, the adequacy of insurance coverage and safety equipment and the availability of

qualified operators.

With regard to suitability, the applicant submitted State Police Bureau of Identification Criminal History Form for Julio Acevedo which showed two minor convictions in the 1970's. These convictions are so old, they will not be held against the applicant. The applicant has years of experience driving a taxicab for several companies and is familiar with the rules and regulations regarding taxicab service. In addition to that, the applicant provided numerous character witnesses on his behalf. Based on the evidence presented, the applicant has proven his suitability to operate the proposed service.

As far as the applicant's financial suitability is concerned, the applicant presented evidence that he has \$130,839 in cash. The estimated start-up costs are \$11,209. The annual insurance premium is \$6,350. The applicant has the financial resources to fund the startup costs at the onset of the business. Based on the evidence provided, the applicant has shown the requisite financial ability to have this application granted.

The applicant testified that he has several individuals who can drive for his company so keeping the one vehicle on the road will not be a problem.

The applicant presented numerous witnesses who used his services when he was driving for various local taxicab companies and they want to continue to support him in his new business. All of these people have known Mr. Acevedo for a lengthy period of time and have seen the need for taxicab service in the New Haven area.

The applicant's customers spoke very highly of him and the service that he provided to them, as a past driver, including his professionalism and timeliness. As a result of his past business experience, the applicant already has an established clientele in the New Haven area and should have no problem handling this customer base and other individuals needing taxicab service. Based upon the evidence presented, the applicant has proven that public convenience and necessity requires a grant of this application.

IV. CONCLUSION

Therefore, based upon the above and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended, the application of Acevedo Taxi Cab dba Acevedo Taxi Cab is hereby granted and Certificate Number 1235 is hereby issued as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER 1235 FOR THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN TAXICAB SERVICE

Acevedo Taxi Cab dba Acevedo Taxi Cab is hereby permitted and authorized to operate one (1) motor vehicle in taxicab service within and to and from Branford, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven and West Haven to all points in Connecticut.

RESTRICTIONS

The applicant shall register the one vehicle granted under this certificate within thirty (30) days from the date of this decision.

This certificate may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational, i.e., its vehicles registered with taxicab plates thereunder, for not less than twenty-four (24) consecutive months. This certificate is transferable only with the approval of the department.

This certificate shall remain in effect until it is amended, suspended, or revoked by the department. Failure of the certificate holder to maintain proper insurance and/or to comply with all pertinent motor vehicle laws and other State statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the department, as this department may from time to time prescribe, shall be considered sufficient cause to amend, suspend or revoke this certificate.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this 6th day of August, 2015.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Judith Almeida

Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

JH Olm

Bureau of Finance and Administration