



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1507-NGOV-74-L

RE: APPLICATION OF CONNECTICUT BRANCHES, LLC TO OPERATE SEVEN (7) MOTOR VEHICLES, HAVING A SEATING CAPACITY OF LESS THAN ELEVEN (11) ADULTS, IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS FOR HIRE BY VIRTUE OF A CONTRACT WITH, OR A LOWER TIER CONTRACT FOR, ANY FEDERAL, STATE OR MUNICIPAL AGENCY BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT FROM A HEADQUARTERS IN WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT.

FINAL DECISION

September 1, 2015

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Application

By application filed on July 2, 2015 with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-103(a)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Connecticut Branches, LLC (hereinafter "applicant") whose mailing address is P.O. Box 3824, Woodbridge, Connecticut, seeks authorization to operate seven (7) motor vehicles, having a seating capacity of less than eleven (11) adults, in the transportation of passengers for hire by virtue of a contract with, or a lower tier contract for, any federal, state or municipal agency between all points in Connecticut from a headquarters in the town of Woodbridge.

### B. Hearing

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 13b-103(a)(3), a public hearing on this application was held on August 25, 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, pursuant to General Statutes Section 13b-103(a)(1). Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's web site at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov).

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

### C. Appearances

Connecticut Branches, LLC appeared, without counsel, through its members, Jodie Simpson, Joseph Baxter, and Chris McCurry. The applicant's mailing address is P.O. Box 3824, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525.

No opposition was presented to this application.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The applicant currently is a credentialed provider for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and provides school transportation to DCF clients. The applicant seeks to expand its transportation service to include livery transportation for DCF clients.

2. The applicant has been providing services to the agency clients over the past several months and has been providing timely transportation for agency clients.

3. DCF would like to contract with the applicant to have the applicant provide non-emergency transportation to its clients and livery services to clients and their families for family visits.

4. Jodie Simpson, Joseph Baxter, and Chris McCurry, owners and members of the applicant have no criminal conviction history.

5. The applicant will be providing transportation for the agency's clients from the New Haven, Meriden, Waterbury and other areas across the state.

6. The applicant currently provides approximately 60 to 80 one way trips per day for 25 to 30 clients. The addition of this authority will allow the applicant to increase their transportation services across the state. The authority for which the applicant is applying will allow the company to maintain stability for clients who are transported to family visitation or medical appointments and for whom the consistency of drivers is important.

7. Ann Adams, Director of Credentialing for the agency, supports the grant of authority for seven (7) vehicles to the applicant to enable the applicant to provide continuing transportation services to agency clients.

8. The applicant currently owns and operates seven (7) vehicles in school transportation which will be used to provide livery services for DCF clients who require livery transportation, including after school visitation.

9. Because the applicants currently operate the seven vehicles it seeks authorization for, there will be no additional costs or expenses of operation. The average bank balance for the applicant is \$7,653. The applicant has a net income of \$113,838 for the calendar year to date July 6, 2015. Its accounts receivables are \$125,306 as of July 6, 2015, its accounts payable is \$34,787 and are all current.

10. The record is unclear about the actual address of the applicant. Testimony showed the address of record in Woodbridge and official filings showed an address in Bethany.

11. DCF will provide an executed contract with the applicant if and when the authority is granted.

12. No opposition was presented to the instant application.

### III. DISCUSSION

The department has jurisdiction over each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a motor vehicle in livery service, pursuant to General Statutes Section 13b-102, as amended. In determining whether a livery permit should be granted, the department shall take into consideration the present or future public convenience and necessity. The applicant must prove that the public's convenience and necessity will be improved by the proposed service. Additionally, the applicant must show the suitability of the applicant or the suitability of the management if the applicant is a limited liability company or corporation, the financial responsibility of the applicant, the ability of the applicant efficiently and properly to perform the service for which authority is requested and the fitness, willingness and ability of the applicant to conform to the provisions of the statutes and the requirements and regulations of the department thereunder, in accordance with General Statutes Section 13b-103.

In support of financial wherewithal, the applicant provided documentation showing that

it has cash on hand in the amount of \$7,653. The applicant is currently in operation. The ability of the applicant to provide additional transportation will increase its profits and allow the business to remain viable. In addition, the applicant's proposed service will provide a much needed transportation network for the clients of DCF.

The applicant's member/owners have no criminal convictions. The applicant provides services to the agency currently. The additional authority will enable the applicant to provide full service to agency clients who may be unable to get transportation elsewhere. No negative evidence was introduced on the record indicating that the applicant's management was not suitable to provide the requested service.

Lastly, in support of public convenience and necessity, the Director of Credentialing on staff with the Department of Children and Families supports a grant of authority for seven vehicles to allow the applicant to provide transportation to the agency's clients. The applicant will continue to provide transportation in the New Haven, Meriden, Waterbury and related area offices of the agency.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Connecticut Branches, LLC possesses the suitability and financial wherewithal to operate the proposed service and the public convenience and necessity will be improved by a grant of seven (7) motor vehicles for transportation for hire by virtue of a contract with the Department of Children and Families, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103(a)(3).

#### V. ORDER

Based upon the entire record and the evidence presented therein, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103(a)(3), as amended, the application of Connecticut Branches, LLC is hereby granted and Permit Number 3463, is hereby issued follows:

#### LIVERY PERMIT NO. 3502

#### DURATIONAL LIVERY SERVICE UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DOCKET NO. 1507-NGOV-74-L - GRANTED SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Connecticut Branches, LLC is hereby permitted and authorized to operate SEVEN (7) motor vehicles, having a seating capacity of eleven (11) adults or less, for the provision of transportation for hire by virtue of a contract with the Department of Children and Families from a headquarters in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

#### **RESTRICTIONS:**

**1. Prior to the registration of its vehicles, and within FIFTEEN (15) days of this date of this Final Decision, the applicant must provide an updated filing with the Office of the Secretary of the State showing its proper address.**

**2. Prior to the registration of its vehicles, and within FIFTEEN (15) days of this date of this Final Decision, the applicant must provide an executed contract with**

the Department of Children and Families for the provision of service to the agency.

**3. The applicant must register its SEVEN (7) vehicles within 30 days of the date of this Final Decision. Failure to do so may result in suspension, revocation or imposition of a civil penalty.**

**This Final Decision constitutes notice within the meaning of, and in accordance with, Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-182(c).**

The authority for seven (7) motor vehicle granted in this Permit shall be durational in nature and shall exist only for the period of time that the Permit holder has a current and continuing contract in effect for the provision of service with the Department of Children and Families.

The Permit holder shall notify the Department of any termination of its contract with Department of Children and Families or the cessation of the active provision of service thereunder. The Permit holder shall file with the Department on an annual basis, upon registration or re-registration of the motor vehicle authorized in this decision, a current, executed copy of the extension of said contract. Failure to file an extension of the contract or a new executed contract with the Department of Children and Families shall void the authority for the vehicle authorized pursuant to this contract.

This Permit is not transferable and shall remain in effect until revoked by the Department or until the contract under which this authority is granted has expired. Failure of the Permit holder to maintain proper insurance and/or comply with all pertinent motor vehicle laws and other State statutes and/or rules, regulations and orders of the Department shall be considered sufficient cause to amend, suspend or revoke said Permit.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2015.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Bureau of Finance and Administration