

File STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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DOCKET NUMBER 0712-C-185-T

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE CITATION OF GREENWICH TAXI, INC.

Final Decision

July 8, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

By citation dated May 23, 2008, by the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "Department"), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-103, as amended, Greenwich Taxi, Inc. (hereinafter "respondent"), holder of Certificate Number 93, was ordered to come before the Department to answer the allegations made therein.

Pursuant to said citation, the respondent was directed to appear at the Newington office of the Department of Transportation to show cause why Certificate Number 93, issued for the operation of taxicab service, should not be suspended or revoked or a civil penalty imposed for violation of its certificate pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, et seq.

More specifically, it is alleged that on or about November 30, 2007, the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96 and Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies Section 13b-96-44(c) for operating without dome lights.

The citation was served upon the respondent by first class and certified mail and recited the Department's reasons for issuing it.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the public hearing for this citation was held on June 24, 2008.

Notice of the citation and the hearing to be held thereon was given to the respondent and to such other parties as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended.

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

C. Appearances

Anthony Boskello, the respondent's Vice President, appeared on behalf of the respondent at the hearing. The respondent's mailing address is Greenwich Plaza, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

Eugene Morris, Transportation Public Transit Inspector with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit, acted as a witness on behalf of the Department.

Wayne Sinclair, from the Regulatory and Compliance Unit acted as a case presenter in this matter.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The respondent is the holder of Certificate 93 in the name of Greenwich Taxi, Inc. and is authorized to operate fifty-four motor vehicles in taxicab service in Greenwich.
- 2. On November 30, 2007, the respondent allowed two of its taxicabs (T4863T & T3230T) to operate in taxicab service without dome lights in violation of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 13b-96-44(c).
 - 3. The respondent recently checked all of the dome lights on its taxicabs and had them mounted to the roof of the vehicles.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the operation of motor vehicles in taxicab service in the State of Connecticut accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, the Department may amend or for sufficient cause suspend or revoke any such permit. Further, the Department may impose a civil penalty on any person who violates any provision of the governing chapter or any regulation adopted under Section 13b-96, as amended, with respect to fares, service, operation or equipment, in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars per day for each violation.

The evidence shows that on November 30, 2007, the respondent violated a Department regulation by failing to have dome lights on its taxicabs. Specifically, the respondent violated Section 13b-96-44(c). Mr. Boskello testified that he thought that if the taxicabs were leaving town or were off duty, they did not need to have dome lights on the cars. Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 13b-96-44(c) requires that every taxicab shall be equipped with an operating exterior taxicab dome light on the roof which shall be illuminated at all times when the vehicle is in service.

The testimony of Mr. Morris reflects that there were passengers in the taxicabs when he saw them operate without dome lights. Mr. Boskello submitted proof that he recently had the dome lights mounted on the roofs and one of the drivers in question had left the company. These actions do not negate the fact that the respondent was still out of compliance with regard to the dome lights. For this reason, the respondent will be assessed a \$100 civil penalty for failing to have a dome light on two of its taxicabs on November 30, 2007.

IV. ORDER

Based on the above, the respondent is hereby ordered to pay to the Department of Transportation, a civil penalty in the amount of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100), by certified check, bank check or money order made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Connecticut," within thirty (30) days from the date of this final decision.

Failure of the respondent to comply with this order shall result in revocation without further proceeding This final decision constitutes notice in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-182(c).

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this the 8th day of July 2008.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Judith Almeida, Esq. Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration