

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

(860) 594-2875

<u>Docket No. 1005-C-48-T</u> (Case No. TX06-2110-25)

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE CITATION OF A STAR TAXI.

Final Decision

September 7, 2010

INTRODUCTION

A <u>Background</u>

By citation dated July 15, 2010, issued by the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended, A Star Taxi (hereinafter "respondent"), of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and holder of Taxicab Certificate Number 1213, was ordered to come before the department to answer 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 1213 should not be suspended or revoked or a civil penalty imposed for violation of Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as follows:

- -- Section 13b-96-30(a) and (b) for failure to produce records for inspection;
- -- Section 13b-96-41(c) for operating a taxi in an unsafe condition to wit: with a loose front suspension;
- -- Section 13b-96-49(a) for failing to inspect every three months to assure the vehicles are properly maintained and failure to keep a written record of such inspections.

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

B. Hearing

Pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the public hearing for this citation was held on August 26, 2010.

Notice of the citation and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the respondent and to such other parties as required by General Statutes Section 4-182, 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 General Statutes.

C. Appearances

The respondent appeared through its owner, Atiq Saleem and his cousin, Rhan Kahn. The respondent's mailing address is 285 Elm Street, Apt. A-6, Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Eugene Morris, public transit inspector with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit of the Department of Transportation presented the Regulatory and Compliance Unit's evidence.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The respondent is holder of taxicab Certificate Number 1213 and operates one vehicle in taxicab service.
- 2. During a combined Department of Motor Vehicles (D.M.V.) and Department of Transportation inspection at Bradley International Airport, a taxicab bearing marker plate number T5166T was stopped by the D.M.V. inspector.
 - 3. The taxicab was registered to the respondent.
 - 4. The taxicab was found to have a loose left front end suspension.
- 5. Eugene Morris, transportation inspector with the Regulatory and Compliance Unit of the D.O.T., who was on site at the time of the inspection, thereafter requested inspection records from the respondent.
- 6. The respondent failed to provide said inspection records, although the respondent provided the re-inspection record for the vehicle in question, which was repaired, re-inspected and approved for service.
- 7. The applicant will inspect its vehicles every three months and keep a record of said inspections.
- 8. In response to an order by the undersigned hearing officer, the respondent filed a vehicle maintenance log for the vehicle in question dating from January to August, 2010.

III. 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 in 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 supports the conclusions that he respondent violated Regulations of State Agencies Sections 13b-96-30(a) and (b), 13b-96-41(c) and 13b-96-49(a) for failure to produce records for inspection, operating a taxi in an unsafe condition to wit: with a loose front suspension and for failing to inspect and keep a written record every three months to assure the vehicles are properly maintained, respectively.

IV. ORDER

Based on the above A Star Taxi, LLC is hereby ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) each (for two violations) for violation of Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sections 13b-96-30(a) and (b), 13b-96-41(c) for operating a taxi in an unsafe condition and failing to inspect and keep a written record of such three month inspections. Further, A Star Taxi, LLC is ordered to pay One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for failing to produce records for inspection in violation of Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 13b-96-49(a) for failing to inspect every three months to assure the vehicles are properly maintained and failure to keep a written record of such inspections for a total civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300).

A Star Taxi, LLC shall make payment of said civil penalty by bank check, certified check or money order payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut" within 30 days from the date of this final decision.

It is further ordered that A Star Taxi, LLC provide to the Regulatory and Compliance Unit its three month inspection records beginning three months from the date of this final decision for a period of one year from said date.

Failure to comply with the orders herein stated may subject A Star Taxi, LLC to further citations, suspension or revocation. This final decision constitutes notice in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-182.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this the 7th day of September 2010.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Laila A. Mandour

Staff Attorney, III
Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration