

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2735

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served July 17, 1985

Application of V.I.P. TOURS for )  
Temporary Authority to Conduct )  
Special Operations -- Day's Inn- )  
Capital Centre )

Case No. AP-85-23

By application filed July 11, 1985, V.I.P. Tours ("V.I.P." or "applicant") seeks temporary authority to transport passengers, together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicle with passengers, in special operations between Day's Inn-Capital Centre, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, Va., \*/ and points in the District of Columbia, restricted to round-trip lectured sightseeing tours and further restricted to transportation of passengers in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15 passengers or less (including the driver).

Applicant currently holds Certificate No. 85 which authorizes transportation as follows:

IRREGULAR ROUTES:

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

- (a) transporting schoolchildren between the Georgetown Day School, Washington, D.C., on the one hand, and, on the other, points in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Md.; and
- (b) transporting passengers, restricted to lectured, round-trip sightseeing tours, between Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and points in that part of the District of Columbia south of a line beginning at the junction of Constitution Avenue, N.W., and Rock Creek Parkway, N.W., thence

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\*/ To the extent that this application could be interpreted to seek authority to transport passengers between points solely within Virginia, the same is hereby dismissed pursuant to the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 1(b).

along Constitution Avenue, N.W., to 17th Street, N.W., thence along 17th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to 10th Street, N.W., thence along 10th Street, N.W., to F Street, N.W., thence along F Street, N.W., to 9th Street, N.W., thence along 9th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to Constitution Avenue, N.W., thence along Constitution Avenue to its junction with 2nd Street, N.E.

RESTRICTED IN (a) and (b) above to the transportation of passengers in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15 passengers or less (including the driver).

Applicant would provide the proposed service using its existing fleet of three 15-passenger vans.

Applicant's proposed tariff includes a four-hour "Building Tour" for \$15.50 (\$9.25 for children) and a six and one-half hour "Combination Tour" for \$21.75 (\$12.40 for children). There is no extra charge on either tour for children under five, and a discounted rate of \$13 for the Building Tour and \$18 for the Combination Tour is offered "senior citizens, handicapped persons and military personnel (traveling with groups of 10 to 14 persons)." A review of applicant's WMATC Tariff No. 1 indicates tours of similar name and duration for \$3 less than the proposed rates with a slightly different discount arrangement. Thus, it would appear that in general applicant proposes a \$3 surcharge for service originating at Day's Inn rather than in that section of downtown Washington where V.I.P. is authorized to operate.

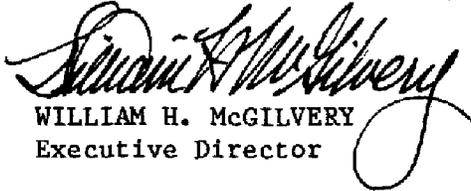
The application includes a notarized letter of support from Constance Crayton, general manager of Day's Inn-Capital Centre. According to Ms. Crayton, Day's Inn requires transportation for between five and 20 persons per day. Gray Line Sightseeing Tours picks up motel guests at 7:25 a.m. and returns them at 7 p.m. Gray Line formerly offered an afternoon and an evening service both of which have been curtailed. Ms. Crayton attested that guests at Day's Inn require a service which would enable guests to take half-day tours, specifically service which would enable them to leave the motel after 7:25 a.m. and return prior to 7 p.m. In addition, a personalized service including one which would be available at night would better serve Day's Inn guests.

Applications for temporary authority are processed pursuant to the provisions of the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). In view of the allegation of immediate and urgent need, this order will provide notice of this application and a brief time will be provided for the filing of protests, if any. No extension of time will be

granted. The application is available for inspection at the office of the Commission during its regular business hours.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that any person desiring to protest this application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14, at the office of the Commission, Suite 316, 1625 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, no later than Wednesday, July 24, 1985, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest on counsel for applicant, Joel C. Weingarten, Esquire, Suite 914, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, Md. 20814.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

  
WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY  
Executive Director