

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 7194

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served May 19, 2003

Application of CRESCENT MOON)
TRANSPORTATION & TOUR, INC, for)
a Certificate of Authority --)
Irregular Route Operations)

Case No. AP-2003-22

Applicant seeks a certificate of authority to transport passengers in irregular route operations between points in the Metropolitan District, restricted to transportation in vehicles with a seating capacity of less than 16 persons only, including the driver. The application is unopposed.

Applicant's owner and president, Mouhsen M. Dabbourah, is the owner and president of Crescent Moon Limousine Service, Inc., WMATC Carrier No. 612.

Applications for certificates of authority are governed by Title II of the Compact, Article XI, Section 7. Applications for approval of common control are governed by Article XII, Section 3.

I. CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

Article XI, Section 7(a), authorizes the Commission to issue a certificate of authority if it finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

Applicant proposes commencing operations with one van. Applicant's proposed tariff contains airport transfer rates as well as an hourly charter rate with a minimum charge.

Applicant verifies that: (1) applicant owns or leases, or has the means to acquire through ownership or lease, one or more motor vehicles meeting the Commission's safety requirements and suitable for the transportation proposed in this application; (2) applicant owns, or has the means to acquire, a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that provides the minimum amount of coverage required by Commission regulations; and (3) applicant has access to, is familiar with and will comply with the Compact, the Commission's rules, regulations and orders, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations as they pertain to transportation of passengers for hire.

Based on the evidence in this record, the Commission finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

II. COMMON CONTROL

Article XII, Section 3(a)(iii) & (c), authorizes the Commission to approve common control of two or more WMATC carriers, through ownership of stock or other means, if the Commission finds that common control is consistent with the public interest. The public interest analysis focuses on the fitness of the controlling party, the resulting competitive balance, and the interest of affected employees.¹

The three public interest factors warrant approval in this case. First, a presumption of the controlling party's fitness obtains where the controlling party, in this case Mr. Dabbourah, controls an existing WMATC carrier.² There is nothing in the record to rebut that presumption in this case. Second, there should be no adverse effect on competition from the decision of Mr. Dabbourah to expand service in the Metropolitan District through a new corporation.³ In fact, the insurance premium savings to the controlled group from not having to insure vans for \$5 million should make the operations controlled by Mr. Dabbourah more competitive with other WMATC carriers. Third, applicant avers that Commission approval of this application will have no effect on existing employees.

Each carrier is admonished to keep its assets, books, finances and operations completely separate from the other's. Sharing of office space will be allowed, but this should not be construed as permission to share revenue vehicles or operating authority.⁴

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 800 shall be issued to Crescent Moon Transportation & Tour, Inc, 105 E. Annandale Road, #206A, Falls Church, VA 22046.

¹ Act of Sept. 15, 1960, Pub. L. No. 86-794, § 3, 74 Stat. 1031, 1050 (1960) (codified at DC CODE ANN. § 9-1103.01 (2001)); In re Cavalier Transp. Co., Inc., t/a Tourtime America, Ltd., & Tourtime America Motorcoach, Ltd., No. AP-96-21, Order No. 4926 (Sept. 12, 1996).

² In re RMA Coach, LLC, No. AP-01-113, Order No. 6515 (Jan. 29, 2002).

³ See In re Angelic Luxury Coach, Inc., No. AP-02-16, Order No. 6628 (Apr. 23, 2002) (same).

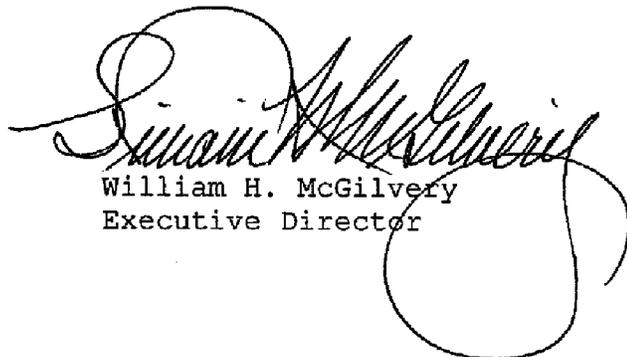
⁴ Order No. 6628; Order No. 6515.

2. That applicant may not transport passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District pursuant to this order unless and until a certificate of authority has been issued in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3. That applicant is hereby directed to file the following documents within thirty days: (a) evidence of insurance pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 58 and Order No. 4203; (b) an original and four copies of a tariff or tariffs in accordance with Commission Regulation No. 55; (c) a vehicle list stating the year, make, model, serial number, fleet number, license plate number (with jurisdiction) and seating capacity of each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (d) a copy of the for-hire vehicle registration card, and a lease as required by Commission Regulation No. 62 if applicant is not the registered owner, for each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (e) proof of current safety inspection of said vehicle(s) by or on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Virginia; and (f) a notarized affidavit of identification of vehicles pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 61.

4. That the grant of authority herein shall be void and the application shall stand denied upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy the conditions of issuance prescribed herein.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS YATES, MILLER, AND MCDONALD:



William H. McGilvery
Executive Director