

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 18,428

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served October 16, 2019

Application of THE VANMAR, INC., )  
for a Certificate of Authority -- )  
Irregular Route Operations )

Case No. AP-2019-118

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.

The Compact, Title II, 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 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.

Normally, such evidence would establish an applicant's fitness, but this applicant has a history of regulatory violations.

**I. HISTORY OF VIOLATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY**

Applicant held WMATC Certificate of Authority No. 2893 from September 23, 2016, to October 12, 2018, when it was revoked for applicant's willful failure to pay a \$250 civil forfeiture,<sup>1</sup> which had previously been assessed against applicant for knowingly and willfully failing to timely verify cessation of operations and produce certain

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<sup>1</sup> *In re Vanmar, Inc.*, No. MP-17-100, Order No. 17,863 (Oct. 12, 2018).

business records in compliance with Regulation No. 58-14(a) and Order No. 17,163.<sup>2</sup>

The revocation order gave applicant 30 days to surrender Certificate No. 2893 and file a notarized affidavit and supporting photographs verifying removal of WMATC markings from applicant's vehicles. Applicant did not comply.

Applicant reapplied for operating authority earlier this year, but that application was dismissed without prejudice for want of prosecution.<sup>3</sup>

## II. LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE COMPLIANCE

When an applicant or a person controlling an applicant has a record of violations, or a history of controlling companies with such a record, the Commission considers the following factors in assessing the likelihood of applicant's future compliance: (1) the nature and extent of the violations, (2) any mitigating circumstances, (3) whether the violations were flagrant and persistent, (4) whether the controlling party has made sincere efforts to correct past mistakes, and (5) whether the controlling party has demonstrated a willingness and ability to comport with the Compact and rules and regulations thereunder in the future.<sup>4</sup>

Applicant's failure to verify cessation of operations and produce business records as directed warranted the assessment of a civil forfeiture, and applicant's failure to pay the civil forfeiture warranted revocation of Certificate No. 2893. Furthermore, applicant's failure to respond to the revocation order by surrendering Certificate No. 2893 and confirming removal of vehicle markings persisted for several months. On the other hand, concurrently with filing the instant application, applicant paid the outstanding \$250 civil forfeiture, surrendered Certificate No. 2893, and submitted a notarized affidavit and supporting photographs evidencing removal of WMATC markings from applicant's vehicles. There is no evidence of post-revocation operations in the record.

The Commission has found other applicants fit under similar circumstances.<sup>5</sup> Applicant shall serve a one year period of probation as a means of ensuring prospective compliance.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *In re Vanmar, Inc.*, No. MP-17-100, Order No. 17,337 (Dec. 5, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> *In re Vanmar, Inc.*, No. AP-19-070, Order. No. 18,174 (May 21, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> *In re Metro Transcare LLC*, No. AP-17-047, Order No. 17,193 at 3 (Sept. 8, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., *In re Galaxy Limo. Servs., LLC*, No. AP-15-099, Order No. 16,044 (Dec. 11, 2015) (timely cessation of affiliate operations, surrender of affiliate certificate, payment of outstanding affiliate fees, confirmation of no vehicle markings); *In re Henka Int'l, Inc., t/a Worldwide Tours & Travel*, No. AP-03-184, Order No. 8035 (May 27, 2004) (no evidence of

### III. CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence in this record, and considering the terms of probation and other conditions prescribed herein, 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.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 2893 shall be issued to The Vanmar, Inc., 2811 12th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-2402.

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 and present its revenue vehicle(s) for inspection within the 180-day maximum permitted in Commission Regulation No. 66: (a) evidence of insurance pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 58; (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; and (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.

4. That applicant shall be placed on probation for a period of one year commencing with the reissuance of Certificate No. 2893 in accordance with the terms of this order and that a willful violation of the Compact, or of the Commission's rules, regulations or orders thereunder, by applicant during the period of probation shall constitute grounds for immediate suspension and/or revocation of applicant's operating authority without further proceedings, regardless of the nature and severity of the violation.

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post-suspension operations and satisfactory accounting for vehicles and vehicle markings).

<sup>6</sup> See Order No. 16,044 (same); Order No. 8035 (same).

5. 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 MAROOTIAN, HOLCOMB, AND RICHARD:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffrey M. Lehmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent.

Jeffrey M. Lehmann  
Executive Director