

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 19,291

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 15, 2021

ZEREYAKOB ASSEFA HAYLEMARIAM, )  
Trading as SHALOM TRANSPORTATION )  
SERVICE, Suspension and )  
Investigation of Revocation of )  
Certificate No. 1952 )

Case No. MP-2021-013

This matter is before the Commission on respondent's failure to respond to Order No. 19,247, served February 10, 2021.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Under the Compact, a WMATC carrier may not engage in transportation subject to the Compact if the carrier's certificate of authority is not "in force."<sup>1</sup> A certificate of authority is not valid unless the holder is in compliance with the Commission's insurance requirements.<sup>2</sup>

Commission Regulation No. 58 requires respondent to insure the revenue vehicles operated under Certificate No. 1952 for a minimum of \$1.5 million in combined-single-limit liability coverage and maintain on file with the Commission at all times proof of coverage in the form of a WMATC Certificate of Insurance and Policy Endorsement (WMATC Insurance Endorsement) for each policy comprising the minimum.

Certificate No. 1952 was rendered invalid on January 31, 2021, when the \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement on file for respondent terminated without replacement. Order No. 19,234, served February 1, 2021, noted the automatic suspension of Certificate No. 1952 pursuant to Regulation No. 58-12, directed respondent to cease transporting passengers for hire under Certificate No. 1952, and gave respondent 30 days to replace the terminated endorsement and pay the \$100 late fee due under Regulation No. 67-03(c) or face revocation of Certificate No. 1952.

Respondent thereafter paid the late fee and submitted a \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement, and the suspension was lifted in Order No. 19,247. However, because the effective date of the new endorsement is February 5, 2021, instead of January 31, 2021, leaving a 5-day gap in required insurance coverage, the order gave respondent 30 days in accordance with Regulation No. 58-14(a) to: (1) verify

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<sup>1</sup> Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 6(a).

<sup>2</sup> Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 7(g).

cessation of operations as of January 31, 2021; and (2) produce copies of respondent's pertinent business records from November 1, 2020, to February 10, 2021.

Respondent has yet to respond to Order No. 19,247.

**II. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

Regulation No. 58-14(b) states that upon the failure of a carrier to comply timely with the requirements of Regulation No. 58-14(a), "the Executive Director shall issue an order directing the carrier to show cause why a civil forfeiture should not be assessed against the carrier and/or why the carrier's operating authority should not be suspended or revoked."

Pursuant to Regulation No. 58-14(b), respondent shall have 30 days to show cause why the Commission should not assess a civil forfeiture against respondent, and/or suspend or revoke Certificate No. 1952.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That respondent shall have 30 days to show cause why the Commission should not assess a civil forfeiture against respondent, and/or suspend or revoke Certificate No. 1952, for knowingly and willfully violating Regulation No. 58 and the orders issued in this proceeding.

2. That respondent may submit within 15 days from the date of this order a written request for oral hearing, specifying the grounds for the request, describing the evidence to be adduced and explaining why such evidence cannot be adduced without an oral hearing.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey M. Lehmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey M. Lehmann  
Executive Director