

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 19,892

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served September 12, 2022

Application of BETTER BUSINESS)
CONNECTION, INC., Trading as BBC) Case No. AP-2022-124
EXPRESS and as ABE'S LIMOUSINE &)
TOURS, to Amend Certificate of)
Authority No. 227)

Better Business Connection, Inc., trading as BBC Express and as Abe's Limousine & Tours, holds Certificate of Authority No. 227. This entity has filed an application to remove the trade name "Abe's Limousine & Tours" from its certificate and to add the trade names "Connect," "Connect BBC," and "Connect Better Business Company."

This is the third application of this type filed by applicant. Applicant first filed an application to remove the trade name Abe's Limousine & Tours and to add the trade names Connect and Connect Better Business Company in 2019. The application was approved by the Commission, but the reissuance of a certificate of authority was expressly made contingent on applicant filing additional documents and passing a vehicle inspection conducted by Commission staff.¹ Applicant failed to satisfy the conditions for reissuance of its certificate within the time allotted, thereby voiding the Commission's approval.²

Applicant filed a second application to remove the trade name Abe's Limousine & Tours and to add the trade names Connect, Connect BBC, and Connect Better Business Company, which was approved last year. Once again, the reissuance of a certificate of authority was expressly made contingent on applicant filing additional documents and passing a vehicle inspection conducted by Commission staff.³ Applicant was granted an extension of time to comply,⁴ but ultimately failed to satisfy the conditions for reissuance of operating authority within the additional

¹ See *In re Better Bus. Connection, Inc., t/a BBC Express & as Abe's Limousine & Tours*, No. AP-19-205, Order No. 18,537 (Dec. 9, 2019) (conditionally approving change in trade names on Certificate No. 227).

² See *id.* (grant of authority void upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy conditions of reissuance); Commission Regulation No. 66-01 (failure to comply with conditions of grant within 180 days voids approval).

³ See *In re Better Bus. Connection, Inc., t/a BBC Express & as Abe's Limousine & Tours*, No. AP-21-048, Order No. 19,335 (Apr. 12, 2021) (conditionally approving change in trade names on Certificate No. 227).

⁴ *In re Better Bus. Connection, Inc., t/a BBC Express & as Abe's Limousine & Tours*, No. AP-21-048, Order No. 19,528 (Sept. 27, 2021).

time allotted, thereby voiding the Commission's approval for a second time.⁵

Under Commission Regulation No. 54-08, the Executive Director may approve an application to change a trade name. A trade name application by an applicant with a principal place of business in the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia shall include proof of trade name registration in the jurisdiction where applicant's principal place of business is located.

Applicant's principal place of business is located in Virginia. The application is supported by proof of registration of the new trade names with the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Accordingly, the application shall be conditionally approved.

In closing, it is noted that in the event applicant fails to successfully obtain an amended certificate of authority in this proceeding for failure to timely satisfy the conditions stipulated in this order, the three-strike rule in Regulation No. 66-01 will bar applicant from reapplying for a period of one year as measured from the end of the 180-day compliance period associated with this application.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 227 shall be reissued to Better Business Connection, Inc., trading as BBC Express, as Connect, as Connect BBC, and as Connect Better Business Company, 22664 Relocation Drive, #106, Sterling, VA 20166-2316.

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 reissued 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; (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,

⁵ See Order No. 19,335 (grant of authority void upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy conditions of reissuance); Commission Regulation No. 66-01 (failure to comply with conditions of grant within 180 days voids approval).

the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Virginia; and (f) the original Certificate No. 227 reissued March 4, 2016.

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 reissuance prescribed herein.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffrey M. Lehmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jeffrey M. Lehmann
Executive Director