

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2872

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served June 20, 1986

Application of Eugene H. George)
T/A SILVER STAR SIGHTSEEING TOURS)
for Temporary Authority to Conduct)
Special Operations, Econo Lodge and)
Comfort Inn, Arlington, Va.)

Case No. AP-86-23

By application filed June 13, 1986, and completed on June 19, 1986, Eugene H. George trading as Silver Star Sightseeing Tours ("Silver Star" or "applicant") seeks temporary authority to transport passengers together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicles with passengers, in special operations from the Econo Lodge, 6800 Lee Highway and the Comfort Inn, 1211 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Va., to points in the District of Columbia and Arlington County, Va., and return, restricted to round-trip sightseeing service in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15 persons or less and further restricted against transportation solely between points in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Applicant currently holds certificate No. 108 which authorizes transportation as follows:

IRREGULAR ROUTES:

SPECIAL OPERATIONS, transporting passengers and their baggage in the same vehicles with passengers, in round-trip sightseeing service, from Econo-Travel Motor Hotel, 3335 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va.; Quality Inn-Governor Motel, 6650 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax County, Va.; Econo Lodge, 421 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Va.; Stratford Motor Lodge, 300 West Broad Street, Falls Church, Va.; Travelodge Seven Corners, 6111 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax County, Va.; and Best Western Falls Church Inn, 6633 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax County Va.; to points in the District of Columbia and Arlington County, Va.; and return.

RESTRICTED to service in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15

passengers or less (including the driver) and further restricted against transportation solely between points in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Applicant's proposed tariff for a 5-hour sightseeing tour indicates an adult fare of \$20.00 and a reduced fare of \$10.00 for children under the age of 10, when accompanied by a parent. The tour would include stops at the United States Capitol, the White House, the Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, the Viet Nam Memorial and a riding tour of other points of interest, with substitutions made as necessary. This appears to be the same tour applicant offers under his current authority.

The application includes a notarized letter of support dated May 19, 1986, from Mr. Ed McCamley, proprietor of the White Dove Gift Shop which is located in the Comfort Inn. Mr. McCamley, is responsible for guest transportation as part of his lease agreement with the Inn. According to the letter, Mr. McCamley receives frequent requests from hotel guests for transportation services into and around the District of Columbia. No carrier currently provides sightseeing service to the Comfort Inn. Nor has any carrier other than applicant proposed such service. If this application is granted Mr. McCamley estimates at least two or three people a day would use applicant's service. Mr. McCamley also states that the proposed service would enable the Comfort Inn to compete more effectively with hotels in the area that offer special transportation service to their guests. An insert placed at the end of the McCamley letter indicates that information contained in the letter represents the opinions of Mr. McCamley and should not be construed as opinions or representations of the Comfort Inn. However, a notarized letter dated June 3, 1986, was submitted by Mr. Michael Weiner in support of the application. Mr. Weiner is responsible for the daily operation of the Comfort Inn. Mr. Weiner stated that the applicant's proposed service would benefit hotel guests and would enable the Inn to compete with other hotels in the area that offer similar sightseeing services to their patrons.

A notarized letter dated May 19, 1986, was also submitted by the desk manager of the Econo Lodge, Ms. Barbara Becker. Ms. Becker stated that she receives frequent requests from guests for District of Columbia sightseeing transportation but no company currently originates such a service from the Econo Lodge. Nor has any other carrier proposed such service. Ms. Becker estimates that 10-15 persons a week during off-peak and 20-30 persons a week during peak season will use the proposed service. The hotel's need for the service is particularly acute now as the busy summer tourist season is about to start.

The applicant asserts that the aforementioned letters represent that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service. Applicant further states that a grant of temporary authority would complement existing services inasmuch as the Comfort Inn and Econo Lodge are within five minutes driving time from hotels now on Mr. George's route.

The application contains an equipment list showing a ten-passenger van and a seven-passenger limousine. Applicant's insurance certificate shows that only the van is insured as required by Commission Regulation No. 62-03. Applicant will be required to resolve this matter during the protest period.

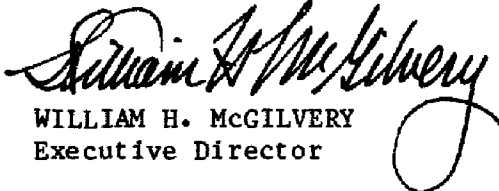
The standards for temporary authority are set forth in the Compact at Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). The essential elements are (1) an immediate and urgent need for service (2) no carrier capable of meeting such need, and (3) fitness of the applicant. In view of the allegations of immediate 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.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. 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 June 30, 1986, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest on counsel for applicant, Joel C. Weingarten, Esq., 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 914, Bethesda, Md. 20814.

2. That applicant shall resolve the insurance matter discussed hereinbefore not later than June 30, 1986.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

