

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 7123

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served April 9, 2003

Application of SUNNY'S COACH )  
SERVICES, INC., for a Certificate )  
of Authority -- Irregular Route )  
Operations )  
Case No. AP-2002-144

Applicant seeks a certificate of authority to transport passengers in irregular route operations between points in the Metropolitan District. The application is unopposed.

Applicant's owner and president, Shafqat I. Chaudry, is the owner and president of Sunny's Executive Sedan Service Incorporated, which has applied for a certificate of authority in Case No. AP-2002-145.

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 three buses leased from Sunny's Executive Sedan Service. Applicant's proposed tariff contains a daily charter sightseeing rate, an hourly charter rate, with a minimum charge, and airport transfer rates.

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.<sup>1</sup>

The three public interest factors warrant approval in this case. First, our finding of applicant's fitness permits an inference of Mr. Chaudry's fitness.<sup>2</sup> Second, there should be no adverse effect on competition from the decision of Mr. Chaudry to enter the market through two carriers instead of one carrier with two divisions.<sup>3</sup> Third, the employees of these commonly-controlled carriers presumably have an interest in their employers acquiring valuable new operating rights.<sup>4</sup>

Each carrier is admonished to keep its assets, books, finances and operations completely separate from the other's. Sharing of office space and leasing revenue vehicles from each other in accordance with Commission Regulation No. 62<sup>5</sup> will be allowed, but this should not be construed as permission to share revenue vehicles or operating authority.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Act of Sept. 15, 1960, Pub. L. No. 86-794, § 3, 74 Stat. 1031, 1050 (1960) (codified at DC Code Ann. § 1-2414 (1999)); 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).

<sup>2</sup> In re J & J Transportation, L.L.C., t/a AAA Transport and All American Transit, No. AP-00-72, Order No. 6014 (Oct. 4, 2000).

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> In re Faith Transp., Inc., No. AP-96-65, Order No. 4993 (Jan. 6, 1997).

<sup>5</sup> Regulation No. 62 in pertinent part permits a WMATC carrier to lease a revenue vehicle from another WMATC carrier, provided the lease is filed with the Commission and meets Regulation No. 62 requirements.

<sup>6</sup> Order No. 6014.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

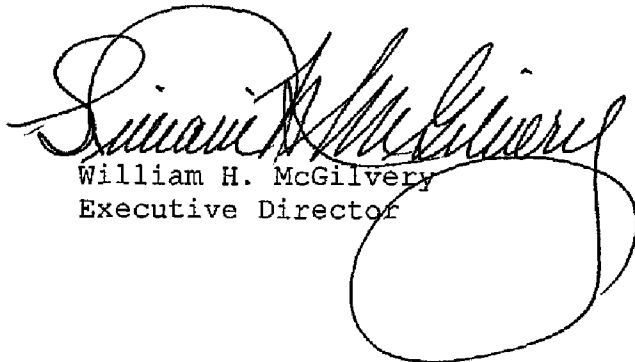
1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 782 shall be issued to Sunny's Coach Services, Inc., 4900 Leesburg Pike, #400, Alexandria, VA 22302-1108.

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