

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 7841

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 12, 2004

Application of PARA-MED TRANSPORT)
SERVICES INC., Trading PARA-MED VA,)
for a Certificate of Authority --)
Irregular Route Operations)

Case No. AP-2003-143

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.

Applicant is controlled by Paramed Medical Transportation, Inc., WMATC No. 206, which owns fifty percent of applicant's shares.

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 operating under the trade name "PARA-MED OF VIRGINIA" and commencing operations with one van. Applicant's proposed tariff contains rates for District of Columbia Medicaid and non-Medicaid transportation, including rates for transportation to and from Northern Virginia. Applicant's principal place of business is located in Maryland. The application is supported by proof of registration of the trade name with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

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.¹

The three public interest factors warrant approval in this case. First, as an existing WMATC carrier, Paramed Medical Transportation is entitled to a presumption of fitness.² There is nothing in the record to rebut that presumption in this case. Second, there should be no adverse effect on competition from the decision of Paramed Medical Transportation to expand service in the Metropolitan District through a newly created subsidiary instead of a new division.³ Finally, the existing employees of Paramed Medical Transportation should not be adversely affected by our approval of this application. Launching a new service through an affiliate tends to shield employees of the preexisting carrier from the consequences of any unprofitable operations under the new one.⁴

Each carrier is admonished to keep its assets, books, finances and operations completely separate from the other's. Sharing of

¹ Act of Sept. 15, 1960, Pub. L. No. 86-794, § 3, 74 Stat. 1031, 1050 (1960) (codified at DC CODE ANN. § 9-1103.04 (2004)); 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).

² In re Ontime Transp. Inc. & Ken-Dan Transp. Inc., No. AP-02-123, Order No. 7002 (Jan. 21, 2003); In re Executive Coach, Ltd., & Executive Sedan Mgmt. Servs., Inc., t/a Washington Car & Driver, No. AP-02-75, Order No. 6797 (Sept. 3, 2002); In re We Care Project, Inc., & VOCA Corp. of Wash., DC, No. AP-96-47, Order No. 4959 (Oct. 24, 1996); In re Old Town Trolley Tours of Wash., Inc., & D.C. Ducks, Inc., No. AP-96-44, Order No. 4941 (Sept. 25, 1996).

³ In re Laidlaw Transit Servs., Inc., No. AP-98-33, Order No. 5415 (Sept. 25, 1998).

⁴ Id.

office space will be allowed, but this should not be construed as permission to share revenue vehicles or operating authority.⁵

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

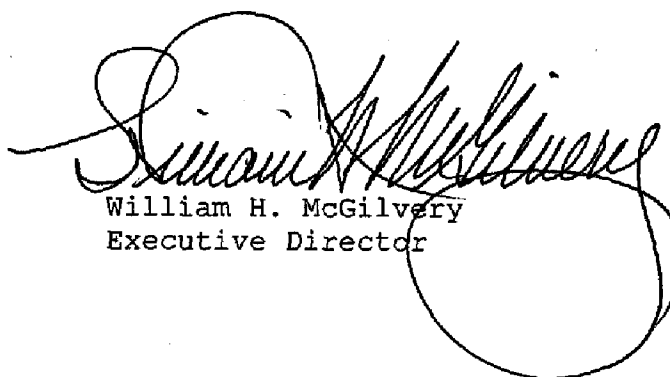
1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 888 shall be issued to Para-Med Transport Services Inc., trading as PARA-MED OF VIRGINIA, 23230 Ridge Road, Germantown, MD 20876.

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 the 180-day maximum permitted in Commission Regulation No. 66: (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

⁵ In re Alterna-Trans Inc., No. AP-03-36, Order No. 7245 (June 16, 2003).