ITEM 8

BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: July 13, 2020

To: Board of Transportation Commissioners

From: Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager

Subject: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION OF VAFA MEDICAL TRANSPORTATIONS FOR THREE UNRESTRICTED NON-AMBULATORY PASSENGER VEHICLE PERMITS

RECOMMENDATIONS

That your Board:

a. Find that Vafa Medical Transportations, based upon evidence of patients in need of transportation; public convenience and necessity, requires the operation of three unrestricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicles.

b. Grant three unrestricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits to Vafa Medical Transportations contingent upon:

1. The applicant filing with the Department in such form as the Department requires, and thereafter keeping in full force and effect a policy of automobile liability insurance acceptable to the City Attorney and the City Risk Manager;

2. The drivers and attendants obtaining the required permits;

3. The applicant obtaining commercial or exempt registration for the vehicles;

4. The vehicles passing Department inspection;

5. The applicant complying with all Board rules and regulations and City ordinances pertaining to the operation of non-ambulatory passenger vehicles;

6. The applicant charging only those rates for non-ambulatory passenger vehicle service as set forth in Board Order No. 602 (Ordinance No. 182,502) and successor regulations; and

7. The vehicles must be placed into service within 120 days after the Board of Transportation Commissioners (Board) approval, or such authority shall become invalid.
Upon written request and for good cause, the Department, in its discretion, may grant an extension of time beyond the initial 120-day period after Board approval. Any request for an extension beyond the initial deadline date must be received prior to the 120-day deadline. Furthermore, if an extension is granted, only one extension may be allowed per application.

INITIATED BY

On March 11, 2020, the Department received an application from Arash Vafakhah, CEO of Vafa Medical Transportations, 7048 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park, California 91303, requesting three non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits to be used as gurney vans (Attachment 1). On June 9, 2020, Mr. Vafakhah submitted additional documents needed to complete the application.

DISCUSSION

Vafa Medical Transportations is not currently authorized by the Board to operate any vehicles for hire in the City of Los Angeles.

The history of Vafa Medical Transportations’ business is as follows: On January 1, 2020, the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the California Secretary of State establishing Vafa Medical Transportations (Attachment 2). On January 24, 2020, a Statement of Information (Domestic Stock and Agricultural Cooperative Corporations) was filed with the California Secretary of State naming Arash Vafakhah as Chief Executive Officer, and Amin Vafakhah as Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the company (Attachment 3). Arash Vafakhah and Amin Vafakhah are the shareholders of Vafa Medical Transportations.

Public Convenience and Necessity

The application of Vafa Medical Transportations was evaluated against Section 2 of the Guidelines for Establishing Public Convenience and Necessity as established by the Board on August 11, 2005, for applicants with no unrestricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits (Attachment 4).

a. Experience – The resume of Matthew Modaraei, Manager/Director of Operations of Cyrus Services, Inc. was submitted. The applicant states that he was the Manager/Director of Operations for Cyrus Services, Inc. from August 2015 to May 2020. His resume states that he hired and trained all driver and office staff, scheduled daily routes, handled contracts and billing, and updated policies to comply with the city and state licenses and regulations.

b. Background Check – A background check was conducted on the owners and General Manager of Vafa Medical Transportations, and no disqualifying criminal history was found as listed in Board Order No. 600.

c. Financial Capability – The applicant submitted financial documentation showing that the company demonstrates sufficient liquid assets to support the request for the three non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits.
d. **Reason for Requesting Permits** – The applicant states that by obtaining the three non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits, they will fill the demand for the non-ambulatory passenger vehicle services as there are not enough providers available to serve the rapidly growing elderly population, and they want to legally operate in the City of Los Angeles.

e. **Impact on Existing Transportation Providers** – The applicant states that there will be no negative impact on the existing transportation providers because there is a high demand for the service and not enough providers in the area. By providing their services, they are taking the burden off from other providers.

f. **Description of Public Benefit** – The applicant states that they will provide an excellent and on-time service to their patients. Due to the growing demand and not enough providers, placing three non-ambulatory passenger vehicles into service in the City will help the public get the services they deserve in a professional and timely manner.

g. **Business Plan** – The applicant submitted a business plan that includes the company’s days and hours of operation, dispatching procedures, employee training plans, affirmative action policy, method of monitoring the quality of service, and emergency procedures. The hours of operation for the transportation service are Monday through Saturday from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and with the availability to provide services before and after hours and weekends on an on-call basis.

There is no documented evidence of illegal operation by Vafa Medical Transportations in the City of Los Angeles in the past 12 months.

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Attachments