ITEM #8

BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: May 13, 2021

To: Board of Transportation Commissioners

From: Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager

Subject: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION OF MDPD TRANSPORTATION INC DBA SMOOTH RIDE SERVICES FOR THREE UNRESTRICTED NON-AMBULATORY PASSENGER VEHICLE PERMITS

RECOMMENDATIONS

That your Board:

a. Find that MDPD Transportation Inc DBA Smooth Ride Services, 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 MDPD Transportation Inc DBA Smooth Ride Services, 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 December 16, 2019, the Department received an application from Marina Daglian, owner and operations manager of MDPD Transportation Inc DBA Smooth Ride Services, 6412 Matilija Avenue, Suite 205, Van Nuys, California 91401, requesting three unrestricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits to be used as wheelchair vans (Attachment 1). On April 12, 2021, the applicant submitted a revised cover letter needed to complete the application.

DISCUSSION

MDPD Transportation Inc is not currently authorized by the Board to operate any vehicle for hire in the City of Los Angeles.

The history of MDPD Transportation Inc’s business is as follows: November 7, 2018, the Articles of Incorporation of a General Stock Corporation were filed with the California Secretary of State establishing MDPD Transportation Inc (Attachment 2). On February 4, 2019, the Statement of Information (California Stock, Agricultural, Cooperative and Foreign Corporations) was filed with the California Secretary of State, naming Marina Daglian as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Secretary of the company (Attachment 3). On December 4, 2018, MDPD Transportation Inc filed a Fictitious Business Name Statement with the Los Angeles County Clerk to do business as Smooth Ride Services (Attachment 4). Marina Daglian is the sole shareholder of the company.

Public Convenience and Necessity

The application of MDPD Transportation Inc 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 5).

a. **Experience** – The resume of Marina Daglian, Operations Manager of MDPD Transportation Inc was submitted. On November 2018 to present, Ms. Daglian was able to operate MDPD Transportation Inc due to her experiences in the industry. From July 2013 to March 2018, she was the operations manager of PDMD Transportation, Inc. Her resume states that she performed all facets of the business from office manager to negotiating contracts, overseeing revenue, performing human resources functions including payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and managing dispatch operations.

b. **Background Check** – A background check was conducted on the owner and general manager of MDPD Transportation Inc, and no disqualifying criminal history was found as listed in Board Order No. 600.

c. **Financial Capability** – The applicant submitted the Department of Motor Vehicle’s registrations for three non-ambulatory passenger vehicles that are ready to be placed into service within 120 days. The applicant also submitted financial documentation showing that the company demonstrates sufficient liquid assets to support the request for three non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits.

d. **Reason for Requesting Permits** – The applicant states they offer services on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, along with extended morning and evening hours to dialysis patients that very few of non-ambulatory transportation companies would provide services. The applicant’s goal is to provide easy access to the communities which do not have easy access for such transportation services.
e. **Impact on Existing Transportation Providers** – The applicant states that there will not be any negative impact on existing transportation providers since they are planning to use the permits to provide service to the patients through referral. They plan to work side by side with other existing providers that need their help in the service area.

f. **Description of Public Benefit** – The applicant states that MDPD Transportation Inc will provide the same day services from Monday through Sunday, including holidays because many of the companies are over-booked and required the advance reservations which made it difficult for the patients who needed the same day service. All of their drivers will have the trainings and required experiences.

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 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday through Sunday.

There is no documented evidence of illegal operation by MDPD Transportation Inc dba Smooth Ride Services in the City of Los Angeles in the past 12 months.

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Attachments