


BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: August 10, 2023 P7X
To: Board of Transportation Commissioners
From: Connie Llanos, Interim General Manager 
Subject: **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION OF PRO RIDE INC FOR THREE UNRESTRICTED NON-AMBULATORY PASSENGER VEHICLE PERMITS**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That your Board:

- a. **Find** that Pro Ride Inc 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 Pro Ride Inc 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. 608 (Ordinance No. 187587) 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 20, 2023, the Department received an application from Niko Arabajyan, Owner of Pro Ride Inc, 401 N. Brand Boulevard, Suite 352, Glendale, California 91203, requesting three unrestricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits to be used for wheelchair vans (Attachment 1). On May 31, 2023, the Department received the last document needed to complete the application. On June 20, 2023, the background check document was cleared to proceed with the application process.

DISCUSSION

Pro Ride Inc is not currently authorized by the Board to operate any vehicles for hire in the City of Los Angeles.

The history of Pro Ride Inc's business is as follows: On October 14, 2022, the Articles of Incorporation (California General Stock Corporation) were filed with the California Secretary of State establishing Pro Ride Inc (Attachment 2). On October 21, 2022, the Statement of Information was filed with the California Secretary of State naming Niko Arabajyan as the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Secretary of the company (Attachment 3). Niko Arabajyan is the sole shareholder of the company.

Public Convenience and Necessity

The application of Pro Ride 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 4).

- a. Experience – The resume of Operations Manager Niko Arabajyan was submitted. The applicant states that he was the General Manager of Gentle Ride Inc from October 2020 to February 2023. His resume states that he was responsible for the company's hiring and training of employees, scheduling their shifts, and monitoring drivers and dispatch operations.
- b. Background Check – The background check was conducted on the owner and general manager of Pro Ride Inc 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 three non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits.
- d. Hours of Operation – The regular hours of operation for transportation service are Monday to Sunday from 2 A.M. to 11 P.M.

There is no documented evidence of illegal operation by Pro Ride Inc in the City of Los Angeles in the past 12 months.