


BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: November 14, 2024

To: Board of Transportation Commissioners

From: Laura Rubio Cornejo, General Manager 

Subject: **REQUESTED REHEARING OF RECOMMENDED PERMANENT REVOCATION OF MDPD TRANSPORTATION INC, DBA SMOOTH RIDE SERVICES (ID #2662) DUE TO MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

- a. **Find** that on June 8, 2023, the Board of Transportation Commissioners (Board) placed MDPD Transportation, Inc dba Smooth Ride Services (Smooth Ride) on a one-year probationary status which was due to end on June 8, 2024. One of the stipulations of the Board's decision was that Smooth Ride could not commit another violation within this one-year probationary period.
- b. **Find** that on May 30, 2024, LADOT Investigators witnessed another violation committed by Smooth Ride whereby a driver was operating a company vehicle without a current, valid driver's permit, thereby violating the conditions of the June 8, 2023, probationary period.
- c. **Find** that on August 8, 2024, Smooth Ride appeared before the Board to appeal the Board's June 8, 2023 decision.
- d. **Find** that at the August 8, 2024, hearing, the Board granted Smooth Ride an additional one year probationary period which was scheduled to end August 8, 2025. On August 14, 2024, six days after Smooth Ride's probationary period was extended, LADOT Investigators observed another violation.
- e. **That** the Board uphold the August 8, 2024, decision to permanently revoke Smooth Ride's authorization to operate a passenger transportation service within the City.
- f. **Direct** the Department that, per the Board's August 8, 2024, decision, it shall not accept any permit application from Smooth Ride Services, its principals, owners, and/or family members operating under any other name.

Initiated By

The Department initiated this report at the request of Marina Daglian, Owner/Manager of Smooth Ride (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

Due to Smooth Ride's violation history, as well as the company's failure to adhere to Board probationary stipulations, the company was placed on a one-year probation period on June 8, 2023. Smooth Ride was also granted a second probationary period on August 8, 2024, but failed on both occasions to adhere to the probationary stipulations after being issued clear instructions by the Board.

HISTORYJune 8, 2023

The Board granted Smooth Ride their first one-year probationary period which was due to end June 8, 2024, with the stipulation that the company was not to commit any additional violations during the probationary period or the company would be permanently revoked.

May 30, 2024

Smooth Ride Unit #11, driven by Christopher Anthony Duenas (Duenas), was observed dropping off a patient at 2310 Alcazar St. in the City of Los Angeles. Upon being contacted by the Investigator, it was discovered that Duenas' driver permit #626981 expired on May 1, 2024, a violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code § 71.03(b). No new application for Duenas was received from Smooth Ride.

June 6, 2024

At the Administrative Hearing, Smooth Ride was found guilty. This finding initiated the revocation process since the violation occurred within the first probationary period. Smooth Ride submitted a request to appeal the Department's decision.

August 8, 2024

Smooth Ride was granted an appeal by the Board, who issued an additional one-year extension with another stipulation that no violations could be committed within the one-year probationary period, or the company would be permanently revoked from operating within the City of Los Angeles. The probationary period was to end on August 8, 2025.

August 14, 2024

LADOT Investigators observed an additional violation committed by Smooth Ride, whereby an unpermitted Smooth Ride employee (Daniel Chavez Manzo) was observed picking up a patient from 1700 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave, a violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code § 71.03(b). The vehicle, California License #7GJC088 was also unpermitted. Manzo did not possess a valid LADOT driver permit for Smooth Ride, a violation of LAMC § 71.03(b) - unpermitted driver and § 71.02(a) - unpermitted vehicle.

August 22, 2024

At the Administrative Hearing, Smooth Ride was found to be guilty of operating an unpermitted vehicle within the City of Los Angeles. The driver, Manzo, was also unpermitted to operate within the City of

Los Angeles. On behalf of the company, Mr. Daglian requested another appeal at the end of the hearing.

RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Due to Smooth Ride's disregard for rules and regulations and failure to adhere to two probationary stipulations issued by the Board, staff's recommendation is to uphold the Board's August 8, 2024 decision.

Applicable Regulations

Los Angeles Municipal Code § 71.02(a) states;

"No person, corporation, cooperative, association, firm, partnership, membership organization, or other entity shall drive, operate or use, whether as owner, lessor, lessee or otherwise, any of the vehicles defined in Section [71.00](#) to pick-up or attempt to pick-up passengers within the limits of the City of Los Angeles, or allow or permit to be operated, driven, or used, whether as owner, lessor, lessee, or otherwise, any of the vehicles defined in Section [71.00](#) to pick-up or attempt to pick-up a passenger within the limits of the City of Los Angeles unless a written vehicle permit for the operation of such specifically defined vehicles has been obtained from the Board."

Los Angeles Municipal Code § 71.03(b) states;

No person shall drive a non-ambulatory passenger vehicle as defined in Section [71.00](#) without first having obtained a non-ambulatory passenger vehicle driver permit from the Board."

Los Angeles Municipal Code § 71.09.1 states:

"Upon receipt of a written request from a person whose permit has been denied, suspended, revoked or canceled stating the grounds for protesting such action, the Board shall consider the basis of the request and may set the matter for rehearing, notify the applicant and take appropriate action."

Appellant's Statement

"Would like to appeal as we were not aware of ambulatory permits/couldn't add drivers. Our TAVIS was locked until the 17th of August."

JMM/RH

B24-003.rh