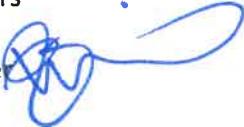


BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: December 11, 2025 P7X

To: Board of Transportation Commissioners

From: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager 

Subject: **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REASSIGNMENT OF SEVEN RESTRICTED NON-AMBULATORY PASSENGER VEHICLE PERMITS AND NINE RESTRICTED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE PERMITS FROM EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION, INC. TO THE NEW OWNERS OF PRO PARK, LLC DBA EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION DUE TO A SALE OF ALL ASSETS**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

- a. **Find** that Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation due to the sale of all assets of Empire Transportation, Inc. and based upon evidence of patients in need of transportation; public convenience and necessity, requires the operation of seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicles and nine restricted public transportation vehicles under new ownership.
- b. **Reassign** seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits and nine restricted public transportation vehicles due to a sale of all assets of Empire Transportation, Inc. to the new owners of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation 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.

- c. **Revoke** seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicles and nine restricted public transportation vehicles permits previously granted to Empire Transportation, Inc.'s previous owners.
- d. **Impose** a one-year probationary period.

INITIATED BY

On September 4, 2025, the Department received an application from David K Schmid, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation, its official corporate address located at One Union Place, Hartford, Connecticut 06103; and its local operation office located at 8800 Park Street, Bellflower, California 90706. This application requests the reassignment of seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits as wheelchair van services and nine restricted public transportation vehicles permits from Empire Transportation, Inc. to Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation due to sales of all assets (Attachment 1). On October 29, 2025, the company submitted the last document needed to complete the application.

DISCUSSION

Empire Transportation, Inc. is currently authorized by the Board to operate a total of seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicles and nine restricted public transportation vehicles for hire in the City of Los Angeles. The Board initially reassigned Empire Transportation, Inc. two restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits and three restricted public transportation vehicle permits on October 23, 2008, then the Board granted additional five restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits and six restricted public transportation vehicle permits on April 23, 2009, June 11, 2009, and July 12, 2012.

According to the Application Procedure for Vehicle Permits, when a company with vehicle permits undergoes an ownership change, the company must notify the Department and the Board must formally approve the change. Pro Park, LLC purchased all of the assets from Empire Transportation, Inc. The applicant submitted an Asset Purchase Agreement dated as of August 31, 2023, is entered between Pro Park, LLC dba Propark Mobility's Chief Executive Officer David Schmid, Purchasers, and Empire Transportation, Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer Miguel Oliver, Sellers.

The applicant states that even with the change in ownership, the company will continue to operate in Los Angeles, and operation structure will remain unchanged. The previous operations manager will continue to operate the current management team and operational staff.

The history of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation's business is as follows: On January 5, 1988, the Articles of Incorporation of a Stock Corporation were filed with the Connecticut Secretary of State establishing Pro Park, Inc. (Attachment 2). On January 24, 2023 Pro Park, Inc., a Connecticut corporation filed for a Certificate of Conversion of Connecticut Corporation to a Domestic Entity of a Different Type Pursuant to Chapter 616 of Title 34 converting entity to Pro Park, LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company (Attachment 3). On February 2, 2023, Pro Park, LLC filed a Registration of Out-of-State Limited

Liability Company with the California Secretary of State establishing Pro Park, LLC to conduct business in California (Attachment 4). On January 29, 2024, the Statement of Information as Limited Liability Company was filed with the California Secretary of State naming David Schmid as CEO of the company, who resides in Connecticut (Attachment 5). On April 23, 2024, Pro Park, LLC filed a Fictitious Business Name with the Los Angeles County Clerk to do business as Empire Transportation (Attachment 6). Pro Park, LLC is wholly owned by Pro Park Holdco, LLC. On January 19, 2023, the Certificate of Organization was filed with Connecticut Secretary of State establishing Pro Park Holdco, LLC (Attachment 7). On September 4, 2025, Pro Park Holdco, LLC filed a Registration of Out-of-State Limited Liability Company with the California Secretary of State establishing Pro Park Holdco, LLC to conduct business in California (Attachment 8). On September 4, 2025, the Statement of Information as Limited Liability Company was filed with the California Secretary of State naming Transit Buyer, LLC as the Member of the company (Attachment 9). The owners of Pro Park, LLC who all reside out of state of California are John Reimers, Tim Willey, Stephen Duffy, John Schmid, Joe Coppola, Richard DiPietro, Patrick Boeshans, Tom Bechard, David Schmid, and Constance Keedle.

Public Convenience and Necessity

The application of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation 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 and public transportation vehicle permits (Attachment 10).

- a. Experience – The applicant submitted the resume of Chief Operating Officer Berth Aguirre, who has been the Executive Vice President of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation from September 2023 to present. Ms. Aguirre was also the President and Chief Operating Officer of Empire Transportation, Inc. from August 2011 to September 2023. Ms. Aguirre's resume states that she is responsible for managing schedules, compliance, safety training, and dispatching.
- b. Background Check – The background check was conducted on the Chief Operating Officer of Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation 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 has sufficient liquid assets to support the request for seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicle permits and nine restricted public transportation vehicles permits.
- d. Hours of Operation – The regular hours of operation for transportation services are Monday to Friday from 5 AM – 1 AM, and Saturday to Sunday from 7 AM – 8 PM.

DOCUMENTED VIOLATION

Empire Transportation, Inc. was found in violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 71.04.01, unpermitted non-ambulatory attendant on June 21, 2024. The hearing was held on July 2, 2024. After all evidence was heard, the Investigator assessed a fine against the attendant for the violation of LAMC Section 71.04.01 Unpermitted Attendant. Since September 1, 2023, the Chief Operating Officer of the Empire Transportation, Inc., Ms. Bertha Aguirre, is continuing to manage the business operations during the reassignment to Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation.

Should the reassignment of authorities be granted, staff recommends that Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation have a one-year probationary period imposed on its operations based on its prior non-compliance with the violative history of Empire Transportation under the same operating managers. Pro Park, LLC dba Empire Transportation would be authorized to operate seven restricted non-ambulatory passenger vehicles and nine restricted public transportation vehicles permits in the City. If the company is found in violation of any rule, regulation, law, or statute of the City, County, or State within the probationary period, it shall result in the revocation of all authorities without any further action from the Board.

B25-023.kj

Attachments

Approved: <u>12/11/2025</u>
Board of Transportation Commissioners

Commission Executive Assistant