## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Prescription ) APPLICATION NO. LR-255 of Reasonable Rates and Charges for )
Motor Carriers Passengers and ) GRANTED IN PART AS AMENDED Property for Hire subject to the ) ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. )
(Reissue 1996), Chapter 75, ) ENTERED: APRIL 12, 2005 Articles 1 and 3.

BY THE COMMISSION:

### OPINION AND FINDINGS

On March 24, 2005, Al Limousine, LLC, Omaha, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its existing rates for its use as follows:

Peak Rate Times	Newer	1997 & Older
Executive Sedans	\$50	
Non Stretch Limousine	\$85	
6 Passenger Limousine	\$60	\$55
8 Passenger Limousine	\$70	\$65
10 Passenger Limousine	\$95	\$75
12 Passenger Limousine	\$100	\$85
14 Passenger limousine	\$120	\$95
7 Passenger Minivan	\$65	
12-15 Passenger Van	\$85	
8-10 Passenger Limo Van	\$85	
Excursion Stretch <140"	\$125	
Excursion Stretch ≥140"	\$155	
H2, Navigator, Excalade or Equivalent Stretch <140"	\$165	
H2, Navigator, Excalade or Equivalent Stretch $\geq 140''$	\$195	
Limousine Bus 30 passengers Or more	\$125	

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Limousine Bus 29 passengers Or Less \$125 Airport Transfers: Sedan Only \$60 Within City Limits of Omaha Or Lincoln Sedan Transfer \$120 From Lincoln to Omaha or Omaha to Lincoln 4-6 people within Omaha or Lincoln \$80 Add \$5 for each additional Person

All Rates Subject to an 18% fuel and insurance surcharge; a 20% gratuity to the driver is recommended.

Off Peak Rates Subject to: Deduct \$22 an hour off regular rate for stretch limousines Deduct \$40 an hour off regular rate for all SUV limousines

Off Peak Rates Subject to the Following Exceptions: Peak Rates apply after 4PM on Friday until 1 AM on Saturday: After 2 PM Saturday until 1 AM on Sunday

Peak Rates also apply on holidays, game days, and special Occasions such as prom, concerts, etc.

Peak Rates apply after 4PM Thanksgiving through January 1

All vehicles subject to a two (2) hour minimum Sunday-Thursday, excluding package rates

All vehicles subject to three (3) hour minimum Friday and Saturday, excluding package rates

All vehicles subject to a five (5) hour minimum, busses subject to an eight (8) hour minimum, Saturday between 3PM and 7 PM excluding package rates

In Omaha and Lincoln Metro areas, time will begin when customer is picked up and end when driver is released

Outside Omaha and Lincoln Metro areas, time will be calculated from garage to garage.

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Rates are subject to prepay bonus:

Prepay 4 hours Sunday through Thursday and receive  $5^{\text{th}}$  hour free

Prepay 5 hours Friday or Saturday and receive 6th hour free

Free time may be excluded on holidays, special events and blackout dates

Split hours are subject to a \$50 split fee

Wait time may be calculated at half the hourly rate.

Bookings made within 30 days of trip subject to Off-Peak Rates.

Corporate Rates Subject to:

Every 4 hours purchased in a month 1 hour free

Al Limousine reserves the right to substitute vehicles of equal or greater size without notice.

Applicant requests emergency action.

Based upon discussions with Commission staff, the applicant has proposed that the language related to the 20% gratuity charge be amended to reflect that the gratuity is recommended by the company and that it is to be paid to the driver. The applicant also requested that the fuel and insurance surcharge be amended down from 18% to 8% if the client makes his or her reservation for services on-line, and 10% if the client makes the reservation in another manner.

In support of the application, the Applicant cites that their insurance costs have tripled over the last two years and that fuel costs have doubled. The rates requested are necessary to continue to provide quality vehicles and service.

Section 75-121. R.R.S. 2003, as amended, states: "To prevent interstate rate wars and injury to any common carrier or other person or in the case of any other emergency to be judged by the commission, the commission shall temporarily alter, amend or suspend any existing rates in force in respect to any common carrier or fix any rate if none exists. The order prescribing an emergency rate shall describe the emergency and may be entered and made effective immediately..."

The Applicant has cited cost increases that have developed over the past two to three years and other service related factors in its request for emergency action. Gasoline costs, in particular, have APPLICATION NO. LR-255

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surged from just over \$2.00 per gallon to over \$2.20 per gallon in the previous twenty days prior to the entry of this order.

Further, the Commission notes that a rate change was made in Docket LR-252, VIP Limousine, in which the Commission approved the same rate structure for a different certificate holder but owned by the same applicants. In order to limit confusion and possible injury to the public as well as for the convenience of the Applicant, the Commission believes that the rate application herein should be approved on an emergency basis.

The Commission finds that the tariff should have no recommendation or mention of any gratuity. Gratuities should only be paid at the discretion of the client, and should not be guided or influenced in any manner. The Commission finds that the reference to a recommended gratuity be stricken from the tariff.

The Commission further finds that additional evidence regarding the proposed fuel and insurance surcharge needs to be received before any final determination is made. Applicant needs to contact Commission staff within 10 days to set a hearing to receive further evidence regarding the fuel and insurance surcharge request.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application for a rate change made on an emergency basis should be approved in part as amended effective April 22, 2005.

### ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Al Limousine, L.L.C., Omaha, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its rates for its use in Certificate No. B-1642 as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the applicant is to be contact Commission staff within 10 days of the date of this order to schedule a hearing on the fuel and insurance surcharge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that public notice of this action be published in the <u>Daily Record</u>, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121. R.R.S. 2003, and the Commissions Rules.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 12h day of April, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

//s// Anne C. Boyle //s// Gerald L. Vap //s// Frank E. Landis