

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Blair Blue) APPLICATION NO. TR-215/B-1958
Cab, LLC, Blair, seeking to)
establish its rates and charges)
subject to the Provisions of) ORDER ON RATES
Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 75,)
Articles 1 and 3.)
) ENTERED: February 19, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On December 20, 2019, Blair Blue Cab, LLC ("Applicant"), Blair, filed an application for authority to amend its taxi rates by eliminating all previously granted rates and replacing with an updated rate structure. The rate application was granted on an emergency basis on January 28, 2020.

Subsequent to the Order, Applicant notified the Commission that a discounted rate was omitted from the Order. Applicant wished to provide a discounted mileage rate for seniors, military veterans, and Medicaid recipients of \$1.50 per mile. Additionally, Applicant clarified that it wished to also provide its discounted mileage rate of \$1.50 per mile for those with sight impairments and a "pay it forward" program in partnership with a local minister and community individuals.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Commission must determine whether the proposed discounted rates are allowable under applicable statutes. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 75-126 states that a common carrier shall not charge, demand, collect, or receive from any person a greater or lesser compensation for any services rendered than it charges, demands, collects or receives from any other person for a like or contemporaneous service. However, § 75-126 allows a common carrier to provide free or reduced rate services for certain parties: The United States, the State of Nebraska or any governmental subdivision thereof; the common carrier's employees both present and retired; any person when the object is to provide disaster relief; any person transporting property for charitable purposes; Ministers and others giving their entire time to religious or charitable work; or any person who is legally blind or visually handicapped.

Applicant's proposed discounted mileage rate would be allowable for those entities or individuals that fall under the specific definitions set forth in § 75-126. Any free or reduced rate can only be utilized by its intended recipient of the

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service and not passed on to any other individual or entity. The Commission supports Applicant's efforts to make its transportation services affordable for as many individuals as possible. However, any rate options that Applicant utilizes must not run afoul of § 75-126.

Of the proposals set forth by Applicant, the discounted rate of \$1.50 per mile could be utilized by those individuals who are legally blind or visually handicapped. At Applicant's request, this reduced rate will be noted as "Discount per Mile-Sight Impaired" at \$1.50 per mile. The additional reduced rate proposals would not fall under the listed entities or individuals that could receive services at a free or reduced rate pursuant to § 75-126.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Blair Blue Cab, LLC, Blair, Nebraska be, and it is hereby, authorized to utilize the discount rate as provided herein.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 19th day of February, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING


Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director



