

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	APPLICATION NO. TR-123
Prescription of Reasonable)	
Rates and Charges for Motor)	GRANTED
Carriers Passengers and)	
Property for Hire Subject to)	
the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.)	ENTERED: MAY 1, 2001
(Reissue 1996), Chapter 75,)	
Articles 1 and 3.)	

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On March 22, 2001, B.J.Z., Inc., dba Checker Cab Company, Norfolk, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its taxi rates as follows:

Description	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
I. Within the city of Norfolk:		
A. First 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	\$1.95	\$2.25
B. Each additional 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	.20	.20
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age	.50	.50
D. Each one (1) minute of waiting time	.40	.40
II. Outside the city of Norfolk:		
A. Each mile per passenger (One Way)	\$1.40	\$1.40
B. Each mile per passenger (Round Trip)	.75	.75
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age, per mile	.25	.25

Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 23, 2001, pursuant to the Commission's rules. Additionally, a copy was sent to the Norfolk Daily News for publication. The application is unopposed.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1433. The certificate authorizes the Applicant to operate a taxicab in the transportation of passengers and their baggage in the city of Norfolk and vicinity. Supplement 1, to its authority, authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage by taxi between points in Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope, and Boone counties and between points within said counties on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points within a 150-radius of Norfolk, Nebraska over irregular routes.

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According to the Applicant, its rates are still the lowest in the state. In the last 13 years, Checker Cab has had two rate increases. In order to keep drivers, it is necessary to increase their earnings. Minimum wages will be increasing again. The price of gas has gone up considerably. We rode out last years' high gas prices thinking gas would go down. We now believe higher gas prices are here to stay. Drivers have been telling customers of an impending rate increase. The customers have not adversely reacted to this information.

Applicant's current taxi rates were authorized in May 2000, and they are among the lowest taxi rates of seven other comparably sized Nebraska cities. Applicant seeks only to increase the initial drop charge from \$1.95 to \$2.25, an approximate 15.4% increase. Since its average trip is two miles, the requested increase represents an approximate 6.6% increase. Drivers are paid 45% of the fare. Thus, for a two mile trip at the current rate, the revenue is \$4.55 of which the driver receives \$2.05. With the proposed increase, a two mile trip will cost \$4.85 of which the driver will receive \$2.18 or an approximate 6% wage increase. Its insurance continues increase at the rate of 10 to 11% per annum. Over the past year, fuel prices have increased approximately 15%. Applicant has and continues to use a telephone answering service for dispatching its taxis. The cost for this service increased from \$300/month to \$484/month, and it is expected to increase at the rate of 50% semiannually.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted effective May 11, 2001.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective May 11, 2001, B.J.Z., Inc., dba Checker Cab Company, Norfolk, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its taxi rates as follows:

Description	Rates
I. Within the city of Norfolk:	
A. First 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	\$2.25
B. Each additional 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	.20
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age	.50
D. Each one (1) minute of waiting time	.40

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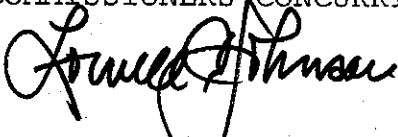
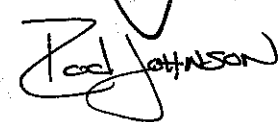
II. Outside the city of Norfolk:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| A. Each mile per passenger (One Way) | \$1.40 |
| B. Each mile per passenger (Round Trip) | .75 |
| C. Each additional passenger over 12
years of age, per mile | .25 |


MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of May,
2001.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

//s//Anne C. Boyle


Chairman

ATTESTS:


Executive Director

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
