

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Prescription)
of Reasonable Rates and Charges) APPLICATION NO. TR-140
for Motor Carriers Passengers and)
Property for Hire subject to the) GRANTED
Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.)
(Reissue 1996), Chapter 75,)
Articles 1 and 3.) ENTERED: March 22, 2005

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On December 22, 2004, B.J.Z., Inc., dba Checker Cab Company, Norfolk, Nebraska filed an application for authority to amend its taxi rates for its use as follows:

Description	Proposed Rate
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	\$0.25
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age	\$0.50
D. Each minute of waiting time	\$0.40
Outside the City of Norfolk:	
A. Each mile per passenger (One Way)	\$1.40
B. Each mile per passenger (Round Trip)	\$0.75
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years Of age, per mile	\$0.25

The change in the rates proposed is a change in I. B. from \$0.20 per 1/7 mile to \$0.25 per 1/7 mile.

Notice of the application was published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on December 30, 2004, pursuant to the Commission's Rules. The application was not protested.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1433. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage by taxicab, in the City of Norfolk and vicinity. Supplement 1 to its authority

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authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage by taxi between points in Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope and Boone counties and between points in said counties, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points within a 150 mile radius of Norfolk, Nebraska over irregular routes.

The proposed rate represents an increase in the mileage charge after the first 1/7 charge from \$0.20 to \$0.25 for each 1/7 of a mile.

According to the Applicant, the proposed rates are necessary due to revenues remaining static while experiencing a sharp rise in the cost of doing business. Staff examination of information provided by the Applicant show that expenses have risen substantially in the past year, primarily in fuel and insurance expenses. Human resources such as dispatcher costs as well as paying for an on-call individual to be available in times of greater requests for trips, and an increase in Workers Compensation insurance, have particularly contributed to the increase in expenses.

The Applicant states that an increase in its revenue is necessary for the Applicant to continue to provide adequate service. Gross sales remained stagnant at the same time that expenses have risen, and this has resulted in a negative revenue position for the Applicant.

Applicant's current rates were authorized in May of 2001. Its proposed rates would place its rates in the upper end of comparable Nebraska taxicab services. The mileage rate proposed, for a three mile trip, is a sixteen percent increase. While the Commission is cognizant of the size of the increase, the length of time since the last increase also must be factored in. The Applicant is encouraged to apply for increases on a more regular basis so that the impact of any increase on the general public will be lessened.

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 April 1, 2005.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective April 1, 2005, B.J.Z., Inc., dba Checker Cab Company, Norfolk, Nebraska be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its taxi rates as follows:

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MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22nd day of March, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Anne C. Boyle

ATTEST:

Chairman

Gerald L. Vap
A. L. S. Pollack
Executive Director

//s// Rod Johnson
//s// Frank E. Landis
//s// Gerald L. Vap