

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of ) APPLICATION NO. TR-164  
Servant Cab Company LLC, Lincoln, )  
seeking authority to amend its rates ) GRANTED AS AMENDED  
and charges. )  
)  
) ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

### APPEARANCES:

For the Applicant:  
Jack L. Shultz, Esq.  
P.O. Box 82028  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

For the Commission Staff:  
Mark Breiner, Esq.  
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

### BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 21, 2008, Servant Cab Company LLC (Servant or Applicant), of Lincoln, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to increase its taxi rates between points in Lincoln and a 25 mile radius thereof as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
First 1/11 mile	\$2.40	\$2.40
Each additional 1/12 mile		\$0.25
Waiting time per minute	\$0.60	\$0.60
Out-of-town rate per mile	\$2.75	\$3.00
Fuel Surcharge		
-Begins at (price per gallon)	\$2.00	\$2.00
-Rate of increase	5 cent increase	2.00-2.50 \$1.50
	surcharge for	2.50-3.00 \$1.65
	every ten cent	3.00-3.50 \$1.95
	increase in gas	4.00-4.50 \$2.10
	cost	4.50-5.00 \$2.25

Applicant is a certified common carrier which holds Certificate B-1581. The Certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers by taxicab between points in Lincoln and a 25 mile radius thereof.

Notice of the application was published in *The Daily Record*, Omaha, Nebraska on May 23, 2008, pursuant to the Commission's rules. Hearing on the application was held on June 26, 2008 in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska with appearances as shown. No protests were filed to the application and no members of the general public appeared either in support or in opposition to the application. The application is therefore

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unopposed. The Commission entered an order on July 15, 2008, that approved the Application. Subsequent to the entry of that order, the Applicant discovered that the proposed rate structure could not be inputted into its taximeters.

The Applicant, on July 23, 2008, filed an Amended Application that requested that the Commission vacate its order of July 15, 2008, and republish the Application with a new proposed rate structure. It also requested that the Application be processed using the testimony presented at the June 24, 2008 hearing.

Pursuant to the Amended Application filed, the Commission published the amended rate application in the Daily Record on July 24, 2008. No protests to the Amended Application were received.

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

As noted in the July 15, 2008 order, a hearing on the application was held by the Commission and no member of the public appeared to testify. There is no public opposition to the proposed rates. The Applicant, as well as the entire industry, has experienced major increases in costs of operations as was set forth by the Applicant in this proceeding. The Applicant was commended for its investment in the new cars as well as the wheelchair vans. The Commission also noted that there has been an improvement in the appearance of the fleet. The Commission reiterated its position that a strong commitment needs to be maintained by the Applicant to further improving the appearance and cleanliness of the fleet by developing stricter standards of cleanliness as well as a more defined schedule of cleaning to ensure that the exterior and interior of the cabs are maintained in a clean condition.

The Applicant was last granted a rate increase in July of 2007, at which time it was granted approximately a 4.6% increase. The Applicant is seeking an increase of approximately 6% by virtue of this application.

The Amended Application changes the rate as approved on July 15, 2008, from a three tier rate to a two tier rate. The only change in the Amended Application from that granted on July 15 is in the first 11/12 mile after the initial drop. It changes the charge for that distance by twenty-five cents, from \$2.75 to \$3.00. All other charges as approved in the July 15 order remain the same. All other charges as approved remain the same. There is no proposed change in the first 1/11 of a mile or "drop" charge. There is no change in the waiting charge. The fuel surcharge would be changed to the proposed schedule. The out-of-town mileage rate would also increase from \$2.75 per mile

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to \$3.00 per mile. The proposed rates would increase the cost of an average trip from \$14.55 to \$15.65.

The Commission finds here, as in the order of July 15, that the proposed rate increase is reasonable and should provide the applicant with the ability to continue to provide service and upgrading of its fleet. The Commission is of the opinion that without the proposed increase, Applicant's taxi service to the community could suffer.

In light of all the factors involved in the testimony received by the Commission in this matter, the Commission finds that this proposal would have been approved had it been presented as such in the initial Application. The Commission finds that the July 15, 2008 order should be vacated, and the rate structure as proposed in the Amended Application should be approved.

Upon consideration of the application, the evidence adduced and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted effective September 10, 2008.

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective September 8, 2008, Servant Cab Company LLC, Lincoln, Nebraska, be, and is hereby, authorized to increase its taxi rates between points in Lincoln and a 25 mile radius thereof as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Ordered Rates</u>
First 1/11 mile	\$2.40
Each additional 1/12 mile	\$0.25
Waiting time per minute	\$0.60
Out of town per mile	\$3.00
Fuel Surcharge (begins at \$2.00)	\$1.50
- Schedule of increase	2.50-3.00 \$1.65
	3.00-3.50 \$1.80
	3.50-4.00 \$1.95
	4.00-4.50 \$2.10
	4.50-5.00 \$2.25

THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS that the Order dated July 15, 2008, is hereby vacated.

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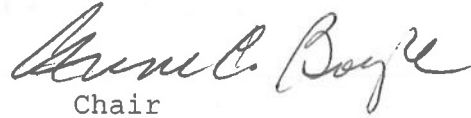
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 3rd day of September, 2008.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


//s// Anne C. Boyle  
//s// Frank E. Landis

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director