

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)
Prescription of Reasonable) APPLICATION NO. TR-178
Rates and Charges for Motor)
Carriers Passengers and)
Property for Hire subject to) GRANTED
the Provisions of Neb. Rev.)
Stat. (Reissue 1996), Chapter)
75, Articles 1 and 3.) ENTERED: JULY 26, 2011

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On April 12, 2011, 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	\$2.40
B. Each additional 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.30
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age	\$0.75
D. Each minute of waiting time	\$0.50
Outside the City of Norfolk:	
A. Each mile per passenger (One Way)	\$2.10
B. Each mile per passenger (Round Trip)	\$1.00
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years Of age, per mile	\$0.50

Notice of the application was published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on April 15, 2011, 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

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transportation of passengers and their baggage by taxicab, 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 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 initial charge of seven percent, an increase in the mileage rate of twenty percent from twenty-five to thirty cents per seventh mile, and a twenty percent increase on the mileage rate from \$1.75 per mile to \$2.10 per mile. The Applicant also is requesting an increase in its waiting time to \$0.50 per minute, and a twenty-five cent per mile increase in its additional passenger over twelve years of age charge.

According to the Applicant, the proposed rates are necessary due to a decline in revenues while experiencing a rise in the cost of doing business. Staff examination of documentation provided by the Applicant show that expenses have risen substantially in the past year, primarily in fuel and insurance expenses. Gasoline costs increased from \$20,726 in 2009 to \$25,475 in 2010. This is an increase of twenty-three percent. To date in 2011, this amount is \$22,658 in 2011, more than the fuel expense for the entire year of 2009.

The costs of repairs have also increased for the Applicant. In 2010, repairs for the Applicant totaled \$19,874, up from \$16,976 in 2009, or an increase of seventeen percent. Other costs such as personnel costs have also increased in the past year.

Insurance expenses have also increased. Vehicle insurance costs increased over the past year. Vehicle insurance increased four and one-half percent from 2009 to 2010, and workers compensation increased by over ten percent during the same time period.

The Applicant states that an increase in its revenue is necessary for the Applicant to continue to provide adequate service. The Applicant has experienced a decline

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in business since the changeover of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to AMR in May of 2011.

Applicant's current rates were authorized in March of 2005. The proposed rates are competitive with rates of other companies providing similar services and are competitive. The Commission notes that there has been a significant length of time since the last rate change granted by the Commission. 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 August 5, 2011.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective August 5, 2011, B.J.Z., Inc., dba Checker Cab Company, Norfolk, Nebraska be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its taxi rates as follows:

Description	Rate
I. Within the city of Norfolk:	
A. First 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	\$2.40
B. Each additional 1/7 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.30
C. Each additional passenger over 12 years of age	\$0.75
D. Each minute of waiting time	\$0.50
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MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, this 26th day
of July, 2011.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Reg Johnson
Aune Doyle
Yusuf Llop

Tim Schram

Chairman

ATTEST:

Shirley J. J.

Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Tim Schram