

Gordon Walker

From: Elisabeth Daniels
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 3:40 PM
To: Gordon Walker
Subject: RE: Request for long-hauling interview

I sent this info to Ian. Thanks, Gordon!

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon Walker
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 2:46 PM
To: Elisabeth Daniels
Subject: RE: Request for long-hauling interview

Of the 208 long haul citations written in 2009, 52 were appealed to the TA Administrative Court. Of the 52 appealed citations 7 were dismissed and 5 drivers were found not guilty by the Hearings Officer. The remaining 38 appealed citations resulted in fines being assessed. Of the total 208 long haul citations written in 2009, 196 resulted in fines. Generally a dismissal or not guilty finding results from one or more of the elements of a violation not being present or being questionable in the Hearing Officer's mind.

-----Original Message-----

From: Elisabeth Daniels
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 12:46 PM
To: Gordon Walker
Subject: FW: Request for long-hauling interview

See below. Thanks!

From: Ian Russell [irussell@klastv.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 12:00 PM
To: Elisabeth Daniels
Subject: RE: Request for long-hauling interview

Thanks for the info. One additional question. We were told by someone who works at the TA that almost all the tickets are thrown out by the Hearing Administrator. Can you tell us how the 208 longhauling citations written in 2009 were adjudicated? How many resulted in the driver paying a fine & how many were thrown out & for what reasons? I assume the reasons could be broken down by category, i.e. citation not signed, etc.

Thanks,

Ian

From: Elisabeth Daniels [mailto:edaniels@business.nv.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 9:34 AM
To: Ian Russell
Subject: Request for long-hauling interview

Hi, Ian.

Thank you again for your request for an interview with George and Administrator Walker. Administrator Walker remains available for an off-camera, on-the-record interview, but he declines an on-camera interview.

We are providing the following information and attachments to you to address what you have described as a "new policy" related to handling long-hauling complaints.

Background on Current Procedures for Writing Long-Haul Citations In an effort to remove a major obstacle to effective long haul enforcement, and after consulting with the Taxicab Authority's Deputy Attorney General, on September 3, 2009, Chief Joe Dahlia, at Administrator Walker's request, instructed Enforcement Staff that a signed affidavit was

no longer required if the passenger told the officer the longer route was not discussed with them by the driver. In these cases, the officer writes a citation. The September instruction also says, when there is no signed affidavit, the officer is to do a detailed field report. The prior procedure did not require a signed affidavit or citation. (Copy of September 3, 2009 Procedure Attached)

MapQuest

On October 14, 2009, Chief Joe Dahlia augmented his September 3, 2009 instruction by directing Enforcement Staff to run a MapQuest after they have issued a long-haul citation for use in court should the citation be appealed. The MapQuest would be a part of the "detailed field report" in those cases where the passenger declined to sign an affidavit.

It should be noted that a MapQuest report or lack of one has no bearing on whether an appealed citation is won or lost. It is just a tool that makes a field report more complete. The Hearing Officer can run a MapQuest during a hearing on her laptop computer if she so chooses. An employee can run a MapQuest report before a hearing at the TA offices. (Copy of October 14, 2009 Augmented Procedure Attached).

Affidavit Notarization

All Enforcement Staff are notaries. Anytime an affidavit is signed, it must be notarized, especially when the passenger is from out-of-state. The TA is aware that one Airport Control Officer approached the Chief, stating that his notary book was too big and cumbersome to use in the field. The Chief advised the employee that he would get him a smaller book.

Airport Computer

The TA has had ongoing problems with the airport computer. The computer is - and must be - configured to securely use a wireless Wi-Fi signal. The TA's basement level office at the airport does not allow for a strong and uninterrupted Wi-Fi signal. The TA has purchased and installed two different wireless boosters and USB cables since June 2009. The Taxicab Authority does not have an IT Technician. In fact, Business & Industry has only one IT Tech, located in Carson City, to work with 605 people statewide. The TA is currently waiting for that person to look at the problem. Because of the unique configuration requirements of the airport computer, no replacement is available. (January 5, 2009 Memo from Airport Sergeant to Airport Staff regarding Computer Problems attached)

Other Long Haul Enforcement Efforts

On July 16, 2009, Administrator Walker sent a letter to all cab companies regarding Long Hauling/Excessive Use of Airport Tunnel (attached). Enforcement staff continues to check meters at hotels for possible long hauling and stop cabs near freeway exit ramps to check for long-haul violations.

Administrator Walker has concluded that, in order to stop long-hauling, the only viable option in the long term is to propose legislation at the next regular session that would result in the following: \$1,000 fine and 10 day suspension of driver's permit for 1st violation (long-hauling), \$2,000 fine and 20 day suspension of driver's for second violation, \$3,000 fine for 3rd violation and permit revoked permanently.

I hope that helps. Thank you.
Elisabeth

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