

#### Public Utilities Commission STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

Го:	Ride with Friends Shuttle Service	File: TCP (Unlicensed)
	Attn: Janine K Wilson	Date: June 09, 2025
		Citation: <u>T.2025-06-001</u>
		Case #: <u>CSE-000401</u>

#### **VIOLATIONS**

You are hereby cited with having violated section(s) of the Public Utilities Code (P.U. Code) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (G.O.) as described below. This violation occurred from February 07, 2025 to May 27, 2025.

(1) Ride with Friends Shuttle Service advertised as a charter-party carrier without valid authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5 [4 Counts].

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The above violations are documented in the attached Investigation Report, which consists of the carrier's records and substantiating documents obtained from other sources.

#### **RESPONSE**

The Transportation Enforcement Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) used the Penalty Assessment Methodology adopted in Resolution M-4846 and considered mitigating and exacerbating factors in setting the fine.

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before June 30, 2025. By way of such answer, you may either:

- (1) Pay a fine of \$2,000 pursuant to P.U. Code Section 5378. (Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Agreement*. Upon payment, the fine will be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund and the Commission staff will deem the matter closed, **or**
- (2) Contact the Supervisor below to make payment arrangements, or
- (3) Contest this Citation by filing an Appeal. See attached document "How to File an Appeal and Instructions for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal."

If you fail to respond by June 30, 2025, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the Citation. The Commission may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.

Lana Tran

Lana Tran-Courney, Program and Project Supervisor Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch

**Telephone number:** <u>(415)</u> <u>385-5513</u>

Email address: Lana.Tran-Courney@cpuc.ca.gov

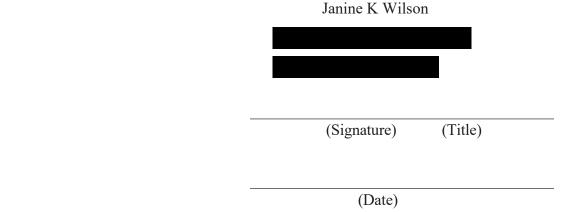
File No.: TCP (Unlicensed)

Citation #: <u>T.2025-06-001</u>

Date: <u>June 09, 2025</u> Case #: <u>CSE-000401</u>

#### CITATION COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

I (we) hereby agree to comply with this citation dated <u>June 09, 2024</u>, and herewith pay the fine of \$2,000.



Payment (cashier check or money order) should be made payable to *California Public Utilities Commission* and sent to:

California Public Utilities Commission Attn: Fiscal Office 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Automatic credit and debit card payments are also available. To arrange for auto-pay, fill out the attached <u>CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION</u> form and email to our Fiscal Office at <u>FiscalOffice-.TECitations@cpuc.ca.gov</u>.

#### INVESTIGATION REPORT

**CARRIER:** Ride with Friends Shuttle Service

**OWNERS:** Janine K Wilson

**AUTHORITY:** TCP<sup>1</sup>– Unlicensed

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

PHONE / EMAIL:

VEHICLE: UKNOWN

**EMPLOYEE-DRIVERS**: N/A

PL&PD<sup>2</sup> INSURANCE: N/A

WKCP<sup>3</sup> INSURANCE N/A

**DRUG CONSORTIUM:** N/A

**REVENUES:** UKNOWN

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Charter-Party Carrier (TCP)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Public Liability and Property Damage (PL&PD)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Workers' Compensation (WKCP)

#### INTRODUCTION

On February 7, 2025, I was assigned to investigate the operations and practices of Ride with Friends Shuttle Service (hereinafter referred to as Ride with Friends), following a complaint filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

#### **VIOLATIONS**

I investigated Ride with Friends for the period of February 7, 2025, to May 27 and found violations of the following provisions of the Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code):

• Ride with Friends advertised as a charter-party carrier without valid authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5 [4 Counts].

Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5 states: "Every corporation or person who knowingly and willfully issues, publishes, or affixes, or causes or permits the issuance, publishing, or affixing, of any oral or written advertisement, broadcast, or other holding out to the public, or any portion thereof, that the corporation or person is in operation as a charter-party carrier of passengers without having a valid certificate or permit issued under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if an individual, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both, or, if a corporation, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000)."

On February 14, 2025, I conducted an online investigation and found that Ride with Friends was actively advertising on various platforms, including Yelp (https://www.yelp.com/biz/ride-w-friends-cameron-park?start=10) and Nextdoor (https://nextdoor.com/pages/ride-w-friends-cameron-park-ca/) without proper Commission authority [Attachment 1].

On February 25, 2025, I issued and mailed a Cease and Desist (C&D) Notice to Ride with Friends, stating that the carrier must immediately cease all unlawful operations, including advertising. The notice also clearly indicated that "there will be no further warnings" [Attachment 2].

On February 28, 2025, I received tracking confirmation via email showing that the C&D notice was delivered and signed for by Janine Wilson [Attachment 3].

On March 4, 2025, I received an email: from Janine Wilson, the operator of Ride with Friends, acknowledging receipt of the C&D and expressing a willingness to comply. She stated she was confused while navigating the Commission website and requested guidance on how to proceed [Attachment 4]. On the same day, I responded with relevant contact details and referred her to Transportation Licensing and Analysis Branch (TLAB) for assistance with the licensing and permit process. I also invited her to reach out to me with any further questions [Attachment 5].

Since the carrier had expressed a willingness to comply, I continued to monitor the case. As of May 23, 2025, according to the California Public Utilities Commission Transportation Database, carrier Janine Wilson had registered on the Commission's website but had not yet started an application [Attachment 6]. I then conducted an online investigation and found that Ride with Friends continued to advertise on multiple platforms, including Facebook, Yelp, and Nextdoor, with no indication that the advertisements had been removed or updated to reflect compliance. On the same day, I began preparing a citation for advertising without valid Commission authority. As evidence, I collected screenshots of advertisements posted on Facebook on May 23, 2025 [Attachment 7].

#### **DECLARATION**

I have read the foregoing and know the contents thereof and I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and to those matters, I believe to be true.

Executed on June 09, 2025, in Los Angeles, California.

Emily Vo

Emily Vo, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst II

#### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Online advertisements (initial evidence)
- Attachment 2: Cease and Desist Order
- Attachment 3: Tracking information for Cease-and-Desist delivery
- Attachment 4: Carrier's confirmation of receipt of Cease and Desist
- Attachment 5: Email correspondence in response to the Carrier
- Attachment 6: California Public Utilities Commission Transportation Database -Janine Wilson (inactive)
- Attachment 7: Online advertisements as of May 23 & 27, 2025

## ATTACHMENT 1 Online advertisements (initial evidence)



2/14/25, 10:07 AM

Ride w/ Friends Shuttle Service - Nextdoor

Q Search fo



### ATTACHMENT 2 Cease and Desist Order

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 25, 2025

File: Unlicensed Case: CSE-000401

Ride with Friends Shuttle Service Attn: Janine K Wilson

#### NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST

#### Dear Janine K Wilson:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has become aware that you are operating without valid authority.

Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Sections 1031 and 5371 state that it is unlawful for a passenger stage corporation (PSC) or a charter-party carrier (TCP) to conduct any operations without valid authority.

Pub. Util. Code Sections 1034.5 and 5414.5 state that it is unlawful to publish or advertise without holding a valid operating authority. Advertisements include, but are not limited to, advertising in local directories or Yellow Pages, business cards, internet websites, and any other form of advertisements.

### RIDE WITH FRIENDS SHUTTLE SERVICE MUST IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST FROM ALL UNLAWFUL OPERATIONS, INCLUDING ADVERTISING.

Pub. Util. Code Section 5411 states in part that any TCP carrier which operates without a valid authority is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not less than \$1,000.

This letter places your company on notice that continued violations of the law without the required authority may result in enforcement actions, including criminal prosecutions. There will be no further warnings.

For information on obtaining a permit or certificate, go to: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/transportationlicensing/.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address or phone number provided below.

Sincerely,

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Emily Vo

Emily Vo, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst II California Public Utilities Commission Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch (213)-369-2809 Emily.vo@cpuc.ca.gov

cc: Rahmon O Momoh Program and Project Supervisor

## ATTACHMENT 3 Tracking information for Cease-and-Desist delivery

### **Shipment tracking information**

### Here are your shipment details

#### 562690408

Ride with Friends Shuttle

Ship to name: Service

**Ship to Tracking** 562690408

CAMERON PARK, CA number:

Delivery Delivered status:

Ship date: 2/26/2025 Service: CPS

Delivery date: 2/28/2025 Signed for by:

J.Willson

View Signature

Delivery time: 1:27 PM

## ATTACHMENT 4 Carrier's confirmation of receipt of Cease and Desist

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:09 PM

To: Vo, Emily <Emily.Vo@cpuc.ca.gov>;

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Case CSE-000401

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Emily,

I received a Cease and Desist letter. I would like to comply. I'm quite confused reading through the CPUC website. By any chance is there someone that can help guide me with the proper steps?

Thank you for your time, Janine

#### ATTACHMENT 5

#### **Email correspondence in response to the Carrier**

 From:
 Vo, Emily

 To:
 Janine Wilson

 Bcc:
 Vo, Emily

 Subject:
 RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Case CSE-000401

 Date:
 Wednesday, March 5, 2025 1:35:00 PM

#### Hello Janine,

Thank you for reaching out. I appreciate your cooperation in complying with the requirements. For assistance with obtaining the proper CPUC licensing information, please refer to the links below, which include relevant contact details:

- Transportation Licensing and Analysis Branch (TLAB): <a href="https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch">https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch</a>
- Charter Party Carriers: <a href="https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch/charter-party-carriers">https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch/charter-party-carriers</a>
- Licensing Requirements for Charter-Party Carriers:
   https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch/charter-party-carriers/licensing-requirements---charter-party-carriers
- For further guidance: Help FAOs
- Contact Us

I recommend reaching out to them directly via email for guidance on the specific steps needed to complete your licensing/permit process.

If you have any other questions, feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

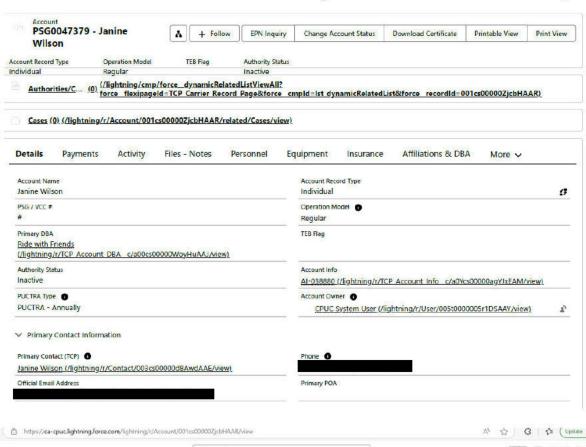
#### **Emily Vo**

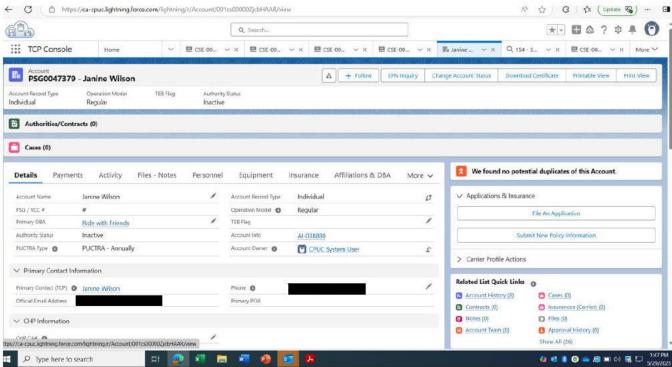
**Enforcement Analyst** 

Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division California Public Utilities Commission O 213-369-2809 www.cpuc.ca.gov | Emily.vo@cpuc.ca.gov

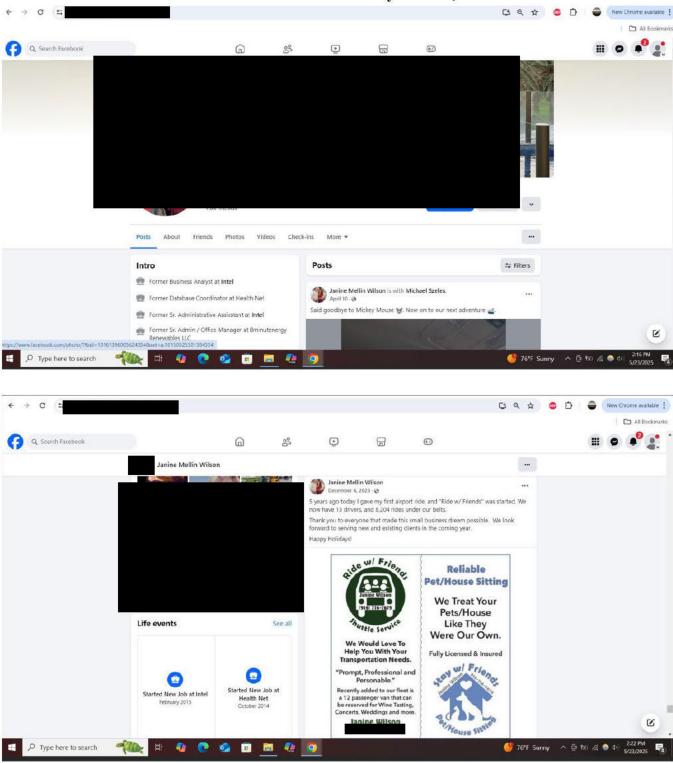
#### ATTACHMENT 6

#### California Public Utilities Commission Transportation Database -Janine Wilson (inactive)





# ATTACHMENT 7 Online advertisements as of May 23 & 27, 2025



Yextdoor (/)
Sign up (/choose\_address/?next=%2Fpages%2Fride-w-friends-cameron-park-ca&utm\_seo\_referrer=%2Fpages%2Fride-w-friends-cameron-park-ca)



#### Ride w/ Friends Shuttle Service **419**

Taxi service(/login/?next=https://nextdoor.com/search/businesses/?query=taxi service&loc=cameron-park--ca) A irport shuttle (login/?next=https://nextdoor.com/search/businesses/?query=airport shuttle & loc=cameron-park-ca)

▼ Fave Message & Call Restaurants v Home & Garden v Auto Services v Health & Beauty v Travel & Activities v More v

Back to Search Airport Shuttles

Yelp for Business V Write a Review 🖨 🚨 🧶

