

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TAXICAB COMMISSION



OFFICE OF TAXICABS

March 14, 2016

By hand-delivery; First Class U.S. Mail;

And email to iconcab1@gmail.com

GILANI GROUPS, INC. TRADING AS ICON CAB

2002 Fifth Street, NE

Washington, D.C. 20002

And all persons acting in concert therewith

("Company Respondent")

SERVE: By email to: mgilani@iconcab.com
MR. MUSHTAQ GILANI
President
8109 Blue Bonnet Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

AND

By First Class U.S. Mail
MIKE PAPPAS
Registered Agent
3402 Branch Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20014

By First Class U.S. Mail Return Receipt

And email to teclesemai@gmail.com

MR. TEKIE TECLEMARIAM

12612 Viers Mill Road, Apt. 203

Rockville, MD 20853

("Individual Respondent")

**RE: ORDERS OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND NOTICES OF PROPOSED
REVOCATION TO GILANI GROUPS, INC. TRADING AS ICON CAB, AND TO
MR. TEKIE TECLEMARIAM**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations ("DCMR"), and the D.C. Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, D.C. Official Code § 50-301, *et seq.*, the D.C.

Office of Taxicabs (“Office”) provides notice to Gilani Groups, Inc. trading as Icon Cab (“Company Respondent”) and to Mr. Tekie Teclemariam (“Individual Respondent”) of the following enforcement actions:

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AGAINST COMPANY
RESPONDENT - GILANI GROUPS, INC. TRADING AS ICON CAB:**

**1. ORDER OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION – COMPANY OPERATING
AUTHORITY**

Company Respondent’s taxicab company operating authority is hereby immediately suspended. During the effective period of this suspension, you shall not operate as a taxicab company within the District except for administrative matters such as paying operators, maintaining your place of business, and paying taxes and insurance. You shall not provide taxicab service during the effective period of this suspension. This immediate suspension shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of the related notice of proposed revocation, unless sooner vacated by order of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**2. ORDER OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION – COMPANY RESPONDENT’S
DCTC VEHICLE LICENSES**

Each DCTC vehicle license issued to Company Respondent as a sole owner is hereby immediately suspended due to your failure to maintain your operating authority as a taxicab company. During the effective period of the suspension, you shall not operate or allow any individual to operate upon the streets of the District any taxicab owned by you as a sole owner; any such taxicab found to be operating in the District will be ticketed and impounded, and the operator may be subject to criminal and civil penalties as an unlawful operator. This immediate suspension shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of the related notice of proposed revocation, unless sooner vacated by order of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**3. NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVOCATION – COMPANY OPERATING
AUTHORITY**

The Office proposes to revoke your company operating authority effective April 13, 2016, unless, prior to that date, you appeal this proposed action as provided below in “Appeals”. The immediate suspension of your company operating authority shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of this notice.

4. NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVOCATION – COMPANY RESPONDENT’S DCTC VEHICLE LICENSES

The Office **proposes to revoke** each DCTC vehicle license issued to you as the **sole owner** effective April 13, 2016, unless, prior to that date, you appeal this proposed action as provided below in “Appeals”. The immediate suspension of each DCTC taxicab vehicle license issue to you as the **sole** owner shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of this notice. If revocation becomes final, the “H” tags for these vehicles shall be immediately surrendered to DMV.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT (MR. TEKIE TECLEMARIAM):

1. ORDER OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION – DCTC VEHICLE LICENSE

The DCTC vehicle license for Respondent Tekie Teclemariam’s 2011 Toyota Camry Hybrid (PVIN A315, VIN 4T1BB3EK5BU130488) is hereby **immediately suspended**. During the effective period of the suspension, you shall not operate your vehicle upon the streets of the District; **if your vehicle is found to be operating in the District it will be ticketed and impounded, and the operator may be subject to criminal and civil penalties as an unlawful operator**. This immediate suspension shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of the related notice of proposed revocation, unless sooner vacated by order of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

2. ORDER OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION – INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT’S DCTC OPERATORS LICENSE

Respondent, Tekie Teclemariam’s, DCTC Operators License (Face card) # 66319 is hereby immediately suspended. During the effective period of the suspension, you should not operate **any** public vehicle for hire upon the streets of the District. This suspension means you may not operate **any** taxicab in the District while the suspension is in force and effect. **If you are found to be operating any taxicab in the District it will be ticketed and impounded, and you may be subject to criminal and civil penalties as an unlawful operator**. This immediate suspension shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of the related notice of proposed revocation, unless sooner vacated by order of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

3. NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVOCATION - INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT'S DCTC VEHICLE LICENSE

The Office **proposes to revoke** the DCTC vehicle license for your 2011 Toyota Camry Hybrid (PVIN A315, VIN 4T1BB3EK5BU130488), effective April 13, 2016, unless, prior to that date, you appeal this proposed action as provided below in "Appeals". The immediate suspension of your DCTC vehicle license shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of this notice. If revocation becomes final, the "H" tags for this vehicle shall be immediately surrendered to DMV.

4. NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVOCATION – INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT'S DCTC OPERATORS LICENSE

The Office **proposes to revoke** your DCTC operator's license (Face card) effective April 13, 2016, unless, prior to that date, you appeal this proposed action as provided below in "Appeals". The immediate suspension of your DCTC operator's license shall continue in force and effect pending the outcome of a timely appeal of this notice.

**TO REQUEST HEARINGS ON ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE ENFORCEMENT
ACTIONS, SEE BELOW: "APPEALS (RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES)".**

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Individual Respondent - Tekie Teclेमariam

On or about October 28, 2015, Individual Respondent Tekie Teclेमariam applied for a vehicle change with the Office (attached as Exhibit A). The vehicle you placed into service as the replacement vehicle is a 2011 Toyota Camry Hybrid (VIN 4T1BB3EK5BU130488), with a purported odometer reading of 90,000 miles. The Office has obtained a CarFax report (attached as Exhibit B) which states that the last reported odometer reading for this vehicle is 298,970 miles. The report also states that this vehicle was used as a taxicab in New York with an estimated 68,847 miles driven per year. Under Title 31 of the DCMR, a vehicle with more than 100,000 cannot be placed into service. Additionally, under 31 DCMR § 609.5 the maximum vehicle mileage for a taxicab is 45,000 miles per year it is in service. Additionally, upon information and belief, the 2011 Toyota Camry Hybrid (VIN 4T1BB3EK5BU130488) that you placed into service on or about October 28, 2015 is not and was not eligible to be placed into service under 31 DCMR § 609.6.

Upon information and belief, you have willfully committed an act of fraud and misrepresentation against the Office, in violation of 31 DCMR § 816.

Company Respondent - Gilani Groups, Inc. trading as Icon Cab

On or about February 18, 2016, your agent, employee or other individual acting on your behalf, applied for a vehicle change with the Office (attached as Exhibit C). The vehicle you placed into service as the replacement vehicle is a 2011 Toyota Camry Hybrid (VIN 4T1BB3EK9BU140862), with a purported odometer reading of 90,000 miles. The Office has obtained a CarFax report (attached as Exhibit D) which states that the last reported odometer reading for this vehicle is 257,675 miles. The report also states that this vehicle was used as a taxicab in New York with an estimated 64,286 miles driven per year. Under Title 31 of the DCMR, a vehicle with more than 100,000 cannot be placed into service. Additionally, under 31 DCMR § 609.5 the maximum vehicle mileage for a taxicab is 45,000 miles per year it is in service. Upon knowledge, information, and belief, the company vehicle was not eligible to be placed into service under 31 DCMR § 609.6 on February 18, 2016. Upon knowledge, information, and belief, you, while performing the duties and responsibilities of a taxicab company, have willfully committed an act of fraud and misrepresentation against the Office, in violation of 31 DCMR § 511.

LEGAL AUTHORITY¹

D.C. Official Code § 50-301.13 - Regulation of public vehicles-for-hire

- (a) The Commission may issue any reasonable rule relating to the supervision of public vehicles-for-hire it considers necessary for the protection of the public.
- (b) The Commission may establish standards, criteria, and requirements for the licensing of the different classes of public vehicles-for-hire and the owner and operators thereof, and may establish appropriate classes of license fees for the ownership and operation of public vehicles-for-hire subject to the requirements of this section, provided that no license requirement for operating authority shall be mandated by the Commission which is duplicative of the jurisdiction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.
- (c) No person, corporation, partnership, or association shall operate public vehicles-for-hire in the District without first having procured all applicable licenses and

¹ The legal authority for the instant enforcement action may include additional authority not enumerated herein.

meeting all requirements as mandated by the Commission. Any violation of this subsection shall subject a violator to a civil fine not to exceed \$500...

- (d) The Commission may establish reasonable civil fines and penalties for violation of any rule issued pursuant to the authority of this section.

D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 31

511.1 No owner, agent, or employee of a taxicab company, association, or fleet, or his or her representative or affiliate, while performing duties and responsibilities for the taxicab company, association, or fleet, shall commit or attempt to commit, alone or in concert with another, any act of fraud, misrepresentation, or larceny. Examples of fraud, larceny, or misrepresentation include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Falsification or counterfeiting of an official document;
- (b) Knowingly accepting falsified, counterfeit, or duplicated official documents;
- (c) Making a false, misleading, deceptive, or materially incomplete statement, written or oral, to the Commission or a Commission representative or on an application or in a communication to the Commission or Commission representative....

511.6 An owner, agent, or employee of a taxicab company, association, or fleet or his or her representative or affiliate shall not file with the Commission a statement that he or she knows or reasonably should know to be false, misleading, deceptive, or materially incomplete.

609.6 No vehicle shall be placed into service if:

- (a) It would have one (1) year or less prior to retirement under § 609.4;
- (b) It has been driven more than one hundred thousand (100,000) miles, regardless of whether it has previously been used as a public vehicle-for-hire; or
- (c) It has been salvaged or rebuilt.

- 707.1 The Office may order the immediate suspension of a license *other than a license allowing an individual to operate a public vehicle-for-hire* whenever the Office has reasonable grounds to believe the respondent poses an imminent danger to the public. (Emphasis supplied).
- 707.2 A determination under § 707.1 shall be based on evidence that the respondent:
- (a) Has committed a *willful* or repeated violation of any provision of this title or other applicable law which carries a civil penalty of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) for the current or most recent violation or for which license suspension is stated as an available civil penalty;
 - (b) Has allowed or suborned activity by another person which would provide a ground for such person's suspension or revocation under this chapter; or
 - (c) Poses an imminent or significant threat to the health or safety of passengers, operators, or the public, consumer protection, or passenger privacy. (Emphasis supplied).
- 708.1 Proposed suspension. The Office may issue a notice of proposed suspension of a license issued under this title based on any of the following grounds:
- (a) A material misrepresentation, fraud, or concealment of material information in a communication with the Commission or the Office in a document provided to the Commission or the Office, or in connection with an activity for which the respondent is licensed;
 - (b) A determination that the respondent no longer meets the requirements for the license it was issued by the Office;
- 708.2 Proposed revocation. The Office may issue a notice of proposed revocation of a license issued under this title based on any of the following grounds:
- (a) The respondent's license is currently, or was previously, suspended under § 706, § 707, or § 708.1;
 - (b) The respondent has committed substantial or repeated acts that constitute grounds for immediate suspension under § 706.2 or § 707.2, without regard to whether the Office has issued an order of immediate suspension;

- (c) The respondent has committed *substantial* or repeated acts that constitute grounds for proposed suspension under § 708.1;
- (d) A determination that a basis for revocation exists pursuant to a provision.... (Emphasis supplied).

816.1 No operator of a public vehicle for hire, while performing duties and responsibilities as a licensed operator, shall commit or attempt to commit, alone or in concert with another, an act of fraud, misrepresentation, or larceny.

APPEALS (RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES)

THE RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES STATED HERE APPLY BOTH TO THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT - TEKIE TECLEMARIAM, AND TO THE COMPANY RESPONDENT - GILANI GROUPS, INC. TRADING AS ICON CAB.

EACH RESPONDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED ORDERS OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED NOTICES OF PROPOSED REVOCATION.

Orders of Immediate Suspension: You are entitled to request a preliminary hearing on each immediate suspension before OAH within three (3) business days of service of this Order. At the preliminary hearing, either party may request an evidentiary hearing on each Order of Immediate suspension in this notice. If a party requests an evidentiary hearing, OAH shall hold the evidentiary hearing within fifteen (15) calendar days of service of the Order on the respondent. You may contact OAH at 441 4th St., N.W., Suite 450 North, Washington, D.C. 20001, by phone (202-442-9094), or online (www.oah.dc.gov) to learn the time and date when the hearing will be held. Your request for a hearing shall not stay, suspend, or delay the effective period or enforcement of the Order. Your failure to appear for the hearing may result in the forfeiture of your right to any further appeal related to this Order. Your failure to request a hearing within the time provided shall result in the forfeiture of any right to appeal this Order.

Notices of Proposed Revocations: You are entitled to request a hearing on each proposed revocation before OAH within thirty (30) calendar days of service of this Notice. You may contact OAH at 441 4th St., N.W., Suite 450 North, Washington, D.C. 20001, by phone (202-442-9094), or online (www.oah.dc.gov) to learn the time and date when the hearing will be held. Your request for a hearing shall not stay, suspend, or delay the effective period or enforcement of the Order. Your failure to appear for the hearing may result in the forfeiture of your right to any further appeal related to this Order. Your failure to request

Gilani Groups, Inc. trading as Icon Cab
Mr. Tekie Teclmariam
Orders of Immediate Suspensions
Notices of Proposed Revocations
March 11, 2016
Page 9 of 9

a hearing within the time provided shall result in the forfeiture of any right to appeal this Order. If you fail to file an appeal of a Notice of Proposed Revocation within thirty (30) calendar days, the proposed revocation shall become final.

Very truly yours,

D.C. OFFICE OF TAXICABS

By: _____/s/
ERNEST CHRAPPAH
Chief