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For Immediate Release

Maryland Public Service Commission Revokes Blue Cab's Licenses

Baltimore—The Maryland Public Service Commission (Commission) issued an Order (No. 84128) on June 14, 2011, finding National Cab Association and National Transportation, Inc., trading as Blue Cab Co. and their various subsidiaries (collectively, Blue Cab) in violation of State law and PSC regulations. Based on this ruling, the Commission has revoked all 75 Baltimore City taxicab permits held by Blue Cab.

The Commission initially issued a Summary Cease and Desist Order on January 6, 2011, to Blue Cab after Staff notified the Commission that the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration had revoked the insurance certification for the taxicabs operated under taxi permits issued to Blue Cab by the Commission effective as of December 23, 2010. In issuing the Summary Cease and Desist Order, the Commission determined that Blue Cab failed to comply with Commission regulations requiring that all taxicabs be insured and ordered Blue Cab to terminate all operations of its taxicabs until further Order of the Commission. The Commission concluded "that the immediate threat to public safety outweighed the permit holder's right to receive notice and an opportunity to be heard prior to its issuance."

On May 20, 2011, the Commission held a hearing, which resulted in the revocation of the Blue Cab taxicab permits. The hearing addressed the Commission's Staff's petition alleging that the violation of the Order by Blue Cab was far greater than testified to at a prior hearing and asking that the Commission hold a hearing to determine whether the taxi permits should be revoked or a civil penalty imposed on Blue Cab. Also during the hearing, evidence was presented that uninsured Blue Cab taxis transported Baltimore school children with special needs and that the company invoiced the Baltimore City schools in the amount of \$10,313.82 in January 2011 for these services. Additional evidence established that one Blue Cab operator drove school children with a suspended taxicab driver's license and no insurance.

As a result of the May hearing, the Commission found: (1) 287 known violations of the Summary Cease and Desist Order; (2) 650 known instances of taxicabs covered by these permits operating without any insurance; (3) the operation of at least six taxicabs that were over the maximum permissible 10-year-old limit; (4) the failure to pay \$69,823.50 in outstanding fines and assessments; and (5) taxicab drivers operating on suspended permits and without valid taxicab drivers' licenses. Accordingly, the Commission determined that, "Given the number and severity of offenses, as well as Blue Cab's disregard for previously imposed lesser penalties, including civil citations and our Summary Cease and Desist Order, we conclude that revocation is the only appropriate penalty."

The Commission regulates taxicabs in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cumberland and Hagerstown. The Commission has made no determination about what to do with the 75 permits.

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