

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102



February 3, 2016

Michelle Zumot  
Assistant Chief Deputy  
CA Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite # 5602  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SCHOOL PROMS – LIMOUSINE, PARTY BUS, AND TNC SERVICES**

Dear Ms. Zumot:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the state agency responsible for licensing and regulating all for-hire transportation conducted within California. This transportation includes Charter-Party Carriers (TCP) that provide limousines and party buses as well as Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft. With prom season just around the corner we would like to alert school officials of the potential problems involving unlicensed operators so that students and parents can be forewarned.

Charter-Party Carrier companies licensed by the CPUC are required to maintain between \$750,000 and \$5 million in public liability depending on the vehicle seating capacity. TNCs are required to maintain \$1 million in coverage. Unlicensed companies may carry little or no insurance. In fact, the primary reason a company would operate without a license is to avoid the Commission's insurance requirements. Licensed companies are subject to regulations designed to protect the public. Among these is a law that requires the transportation provider to take prescribed steps to ensure that minor passengers do not consume alcoholic beverages.

Using a licensed company is no guarantee that the service will be problem free, but we believe the odds of receiving satisfactory service are greatly increased. Obtaining a written contract will also reduce the likelihood of a problem. Licensed companies are required to show their license (TCP) number in all advertising. It is possible for an operator's license to be suspended or revoked after a Yellow Pages directory is published or a website, Yelp review, or other type of advertisement is generated. We therefore strongly advise verifying the validity of the company's authority.

You may do this in one of two ways. The fastest way is to check on-line at the CPUC's website, [www.cpuc.ca.gov/tmis](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tmis). Once at this site, search using the carrier's company information or download a complete spreadsheet of all passenger carriers and search through the list to verify the carrier's operating authority. The other option would be to contact the Transportation Enforcement Intake Desk at (800) 894-9444 and ask to verify the carrier's operating authority.

The above information is provided to assist parents of students who will be hiring a transportation company to transport their children to the prom. We would be grateful if you could pass the above information on to the superintendents or appropriate contact of each California school district, on a yearly basis, so that it can be made available to students and their parents.

For more information on the companies we regulate and helpful tips, please visit our web site [www.cpuc.ca.gov/moveandride](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/moveandride).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valerie Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Valerie Beck  
Program Manager  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
Transportation Enforcement Branch