

Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Think Escape, LLC Attn: Rajnish Sud 3911 Thornton Ave Fremont, CA 94536

File: TCP 23682 B (Expired) Date: December 21, 2023 Citation #: T.23-12-005 Case #: PSG-5953

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated section(s) of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and a Commission General Order (G.O.) as described below. These violations occurred during the period August 29, 2023 to December 19, 2023.

(1) Advertised as a charter-party carrier without a valid authority, in violation of Pub. Util. Code section 5414.5. [1 count]

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

RESPONSE

TEB 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 January 22, 2024. By way of such answer, you may either:

- 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 January 22, 2024, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the Citation. In addition, your operating authority will be immediately suspended and may be subsequently revoked pursuant to Resolution ALJ-187. 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.

Maria C. Solis

Maria C. Solis, P.E. Program and Project Supervisor Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch Telephone number: (916) 928-2534 E-mail address: <u>maria.solis@cpuc.ca.gov</u>

Attachments

Investigation Report

CARRIER NAME:	Think Escape LLC, A California Limited Liability Corporation, # 200604810186
OFFICERS:	Rajnish Sud, President
AUTHORITY:	TCP 23682 B - Expired
ADDRESS:	3911 Thornton Ave, Fremont, CA 94536
PHONE/EMAIL:	510-396-0509/ <u>reservations@thinkescape.com</u>
VEHICLES:	4
EMPLOYEES- DRIVERS:	Unknown
PL&PD INSURANCE:	None
WKCP INSURANCE:	None
DRUG CONSORTIUM:	None
REVENUE :	None reported

INTRODUCTION

On August 24, 2023, I was assigned to investigate the operations and practices of Think Escape, LLC (hereafter referred to as Think Escape) because of a consumer complaint, Consumer Intake Unit (CIU) # 20230079 [Attachment 1] alleging Think Escape is operating and advertising without authority and contracting work to other operators.

PRIOR VIOLATIONS

Enforcement case records show Think Escape has a history of violating the Commission rules and regulations, as detailed below.

PSG-3161: On April 27, 2012, Think Escape was issued Field Citation # FC-517 and administratively fined \$2,500 [Attachment 2] for violations of various Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and General Orders (G.O.):

- a. Operated as a charter-party carrier after suspension of its permit;
- b. Failure to produce and maintain records;
- c. Under reported gross operating revenue for 2008 and 1st Quarter 2011;
- d. Failed to provide waybills.

Think Escape paid the citation in full.

PSG-4545: On January 17, 2018, Think Escape was issued an official notice [Attachment3] for violations of various Pub. Util. Code and G.O.:

- a. Operating without authority;
- b. Advertising without authority.

VIOLATIONS

I investigated Think Escape for the period of **August 25**, **2023 thru November 30**, **2023** and found violations of the following provisions of the Pub. Util Code and G.O.:

 Advertised as a charter-party carrier without a valid authority, in violation of Pub. Util. Code section 5414.5. [1 count]

Pub. Util. Code §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)."

Think Escape's website: <u>www.thinkescape.com</u> and social media accounts [Attachment 3], indicates the carrier operates as a Premiere Party Bus Service in San Francisco, California. A cease-and-desist letter [Attachment 4] was sent via email to Rajnish Sud at <u>reservations@thinkescape.com</u> on August 29, 2023, September 12, 2023, and October 04, 2023. On September 19, 2023, Rajnish Sud responded via email to confirm receipt of the cease-anddesist letter and informed me the business was currently not in operation and willingness to comply. On October 4, 2023, I called Mr. Sud and sent a follow up email reminding him to cease all operations. To date, Mr. Sud has not returned my phone call nor responded to any emails, after his initial response on September 19, 2023.

On November 30, 2023, I reached out to the anonymous complainant. The complainant stated Mr. Sud reached out to him about performing work on his behalf. Through conversation, the complainant learned Mr. Sud did not have an active permit and quickly declined the offer. They were unable to provide physical proof of subcontracting. I reviewed the company's website, which is still functioning, and the carrier has not begun obtaining authority with the

Transportation Licensing and Analysis Branch, since 2021, when his last application was rejected. On December 21, 2023, a citation was emailed and a certified letter [Attachment 5] was sent to Rajnish Sud.

DECLARATION

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

Executed on December 21, 2023 in Sacramento, California.

OShawndra Miles____

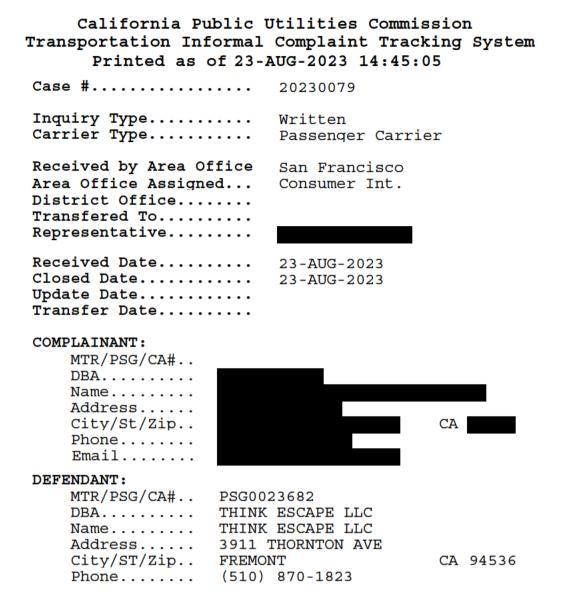
Shawndra Miles Enforcement Analyst

Index of Attachments

- 1. CIU 20230079
- 2. Citation # FC-517
- 3. January 17, 2018 Official Notice
- 4. Think Escape-Website/Social Media
- 5. Think Escape-Cease-and-Desist

Attachment #1

CIU 20230079



COMPLAINT DESCRIPTION:

Carrier attempting to subcontract with expired permit, also advertising/website up with expired permit

DISPOSITION DESCRIPTION:

Referred to enforcement

California Public Utilities Commission Transportation Informal Complaint Tracking System Passenger Carrier Violation(s) Printed as of 23-AUG-2023 14:45:05

Failure to insure all equipment Failure to register interstate operations GO 157/158 Loss or Damage No operating authority No worker's compensation Operations while suspended Other Service Unlicensed sub-carriers Advertising without a permit

State of California

Public Utilities Commission News and Outreach Office – Consumers Affair Branch 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Fax: (415) 703-1158 Tel: (800) 649-7570 E-Mail: Consumer-Affairs@cpuc.ca.gov Passenger Complaint Form – Intrastate Transportation Only

This form is available for you to send a complaint about a passenger carrier to the Public Utilities Commission. Although the Commission may not be able to resolve specific disputes between consumers and passenger carriers, it can act against a company for violations of law.

How Do We Reach You?
Your Name:
Your Business Name:
Street Address:
City: State: Zip:
Telephone (with area code):
E-Mail Address:
Tell Us Your Complaint
Subject of Your Complaint:
Safety Service Overcharge Loss or Damage Other V
Name of Company You Are Complaining About: THINK ESCAPE LLC - PSG0023682
32436 Pacific Grove Way Street Address:
Hayward CA 94587 City:
PSG0023682 TCP or PSC Number, if known:
(800) 823-7249 Telephone (with area code):
(Website) https://www.thinkescape.com Company Web Site:
reservations@thinkescape.com Company E-Mail Address:
Are you claiming a refund or making a loss or damage claim? If so, provide the amount: N/A \$

How Did the Company Initially Contact You?

Company contact me to do subcarrier work order request. I would like to be anonymous,

Date and time transportation was provided:

N/A after finding out from CPUC website that carrier permit expired. Did not provide any services

Origin and Destination of your trip:

Name of driver and/or number of vehicle, if known:

Thinkescape pretends to have drivers & buses. No drivers, no buses, PSG permit expired.

Name(s) of other contact persons with company: _____ Rainish Sud

Briefly Explain Your Problem:

Thinkescape doesn't have proper operating authority with CPUC

Thinkescape use buses for subcarrier with Thinkescape label & contract

Thinkescape doesn't own any buses, operating like they own the buses.

Thinkescape doesn't have CHP inspection valid, nor any permits to operating.

Any company doing business should have proper operating permits.

PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF ANY AND ALL WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION PERTAINING TO YOUR COMPLAINT (i.e., receipts, cancelled checks, credit card statements, business cards, letters, etc.)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY CIMS # _____ Date Rec'd. _____ Inquiry Type W H T I L PCN PCS Rep:

Attachment #2

Citation FC-517



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Think Escape, LLC Attention: Rajnish Sud 45401 Research Ave., Ste. 215 Fremont, CA 94539 File: TCP 23682 Date: _____, 2012 Citation #: FC - 517 Case #: PSG-3165

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated section(s) of the Public Utilities Code (PUC) and Commission General Orders (G.O.) as described below. These violations occurred during the period September 1, 2010 through June 23, 2011.

- Operated as a charter-party carrier after suspension of its permit, in violation of PUC section 5379. [6 counts]; and
- (2) Failure to produce and maintain records in violation of PUC section 5389, 5381 and G.O. 157-D, part 6.01. [2 counts]; and
- (3) Under reported gross operating revenue for 2008 and 1st Quarter 2011, in violation of PUC section 5378(a) (9). [2 counts]; and
- (4) Failed to provide waybills in violation of PUC section 5381 and G.O. 157-D, part 3.01. [8 counts].

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

CIT-LIC

RESPONSE

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before ______, 2012. By way of such answer you may either:

- Pay a fine of <u>\$2,500</u> pursuant to PUC section 5378. (Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Payment Form*. 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.) and
- (2) Pay the PUCTRA fees in the amount of \$811.60 and \$289.17 or
- (3) Contest this citation by filing an appeal. See attached document "How To File An Appeal".

If you fail to respond within the 20 calendar days, you will be in default of the citation and will have forfeited your right to appeal the citation. In addition, your operating authority will be immediately suspended and subsequently revoked, pursuant to Resolution ALJ-187.

Cynthia McReynolds Senior Transportation Representative, Badge #1001 Transportation Enforcement Branch Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Attachments



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

File No.: TCP 23682 Citation #: FC- 517 Case #: PSG-3165

CITATION COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

I hereby agree to comply with this citation dated _____, 2012, and herewith pay the fine of \$2,500.

Think Escape LLC Rajnish Sud, Managing Member Fremont, CA 94539

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

Payment should be made payable to California Public Utilities Commission and sent to:

California Public Utilities Commission Attn: Fiscal Office 505 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

CIT-LIC

Attachment #3

Official Notice 1/17/2018

Case#: PSG- 4545



Public Utilities Commission

State of California

OFFICIAL NOTICE

On January 16, 2018, Aaron Pete of the Transportation Enforcement Branch of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California admonished:

Rajnish Sud, President, Shuttle Bus Express

(Name and Title)

Shuttle Bus Express Dba Think Escape – TCP 37714

(Carrier' dba and TCP/PSC)

for violation(s) listed below, and also placed them on notice that if similar violations are disclosed in the future, penalties as provided in the Public Utilities Code (PUC) may be incurred:

REFERENCE	VIOLATION
PUC section 5371	Operating without an authority.
PUC Section 5414.5	Advertising without an authority.

Aaron Pete, Badge #33 (Investigator Printed Name)	I have read the above statement and have been furnished a copy
(Investigator's Signature)	(Print name and Title)
Dated	(Signature)
	Dated

Attachment # 4

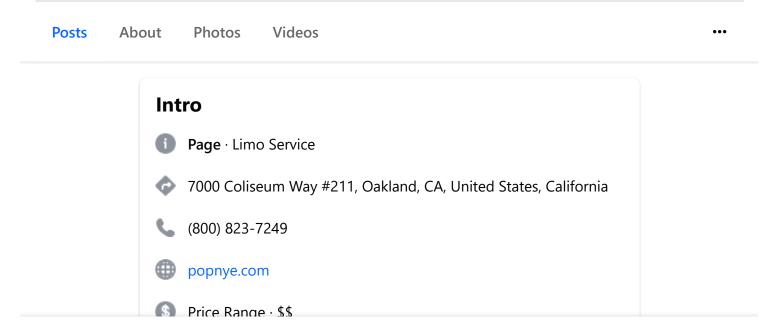
Evidence of Website Social Media Advertising

facebook



Think Escape San Francisco Party Bus

2 likes • 3 followers



Connect with Think Escape San Francisco Party Bus on Faceb...

Log In

facebook



Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad Choices · Cookies · More · Meta © 2023

No posts available

Connect with Think Escape San Francisco Party Bus on Faceb...

or Create new account

Log In

XX think cscope

<u> (800) 823-7249</u> <u>reservations@thinkescape.com</u>

- Menu

HOME

SERVICES

OUR FLEET

- PARTY BUSES
- EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE BUSES

ABOUT US

- REVIEWS
- FAQ'S

REQUEST A QUOTE

LIMO BUSES FOR ANY OCCASION! WHAT'S YOUR ESCAPE?

Think Escape is San Francisco's Premiere Party Bus



PARTY BUSES



EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE BUSES

WE'LL LET OUR CUSTOMERS DO THE TALKING!

Raj and Think Escape bus rental made my bridal shower weekend amazing . From pickup to drop off they ensured that me and my girls had an amazing time . The bus was clean ,



Atula O. February 28, 2020. I hunted around for a great deal on a party bus that could drive 20 people from SF to Napa and back, and this was the best one that I found. It had a nice Bluetooth music system

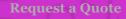
Elena K. February 18, 2020.

Yelp rating score: 4.5 of 5, based on 448 reviews.

What can Ronald not do. When all is done, Ronald from Think Escape wi as one of the greatest party bus driv grace the hallowed halls of debauche

Nikhil N. February 8, 2020.

PLANNING SOMETHING SPECIAL? REQUEST A CALL BA



OUR SERVICES

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NAPA VALLEY AND SONOMA PARTY BUS AND LIMOUSINE TOURS

Escape to a Napa Valley winery or vineyard for a weekend of luxury with your loved ones. Whether you are celebrating a wedding, enjoying a romantic day out, or spending quality time with friends, let Think Escape ease the burden of your travel plans by serving as your professional chauffeur on your upcoming wine sightseeing tour.

Read More



WEDDING LIMO & PARTY BUS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Arrive at your ceremony on time and in style in one of our top-of-the-line vehicles, complete with a personal chauffeur driver and complimentary champagne. Our luxury party buses, shuttle buses, and limousines can accommodate anywhere from 8 to 55 passengers, seamlessly transporting guests and the wedding party wherever they need to be.

Read More



BACHELORETTE PARTY BUS & LIMO BUS

We all love a good wedding, but you know what's just as fun? A great bachelorette party! And we want to help you plan the world's best bachelorette bash. No matter if you're thinking of a low-key night of dinner and drinks or an all-out weekend extravaganza, Think Escape's expert transportation services will get you where you need to go.

Read More



CORPORATE LIMO BUS

Whether you're on a business trip in the San Francisco bay area or you're hosting a local corporate outing, Think Escape can enhance your experience in luxury and style with the Corporate Party Bus. Our fleet offers a wide selection of the best in limousines, shuttle buses, charter buses,

and party limo buses to meet your needs.

Read More

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PROMS LIMO BUS AND PARTY BUS SERVICE

Prom Party Bus! Prom is arguably one of the most memorable events of a high school student's life. Corsages are picked out, dinner reservations are booked, and hair appointments are secured — but without a chauffeur, you may be missing a big part of the magic of prom night.

Read More



QUINCEANERA & SWEET 16 LIMO BUS AND PARTY BUS RENTAL

A girl's Quinceañera celebrates her introduction to Latina womanhood. It's a chance for her to be a princess for a day, with all the details to match —the tiara, the dress, the feast, the flowers, and of course, the adoring friends and family. Every aspect needs to be special, and that includes transportation.

Read More



Additional Info

FAQ's Get a Quote Hot Deals Blog Reviews

Attachment # 5

CEASE AND DESIST

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102



September 13, 2023

File:TCP-B: 23682 (Expired) Case No.: PSG-5953

Think Escape, LLC Rajnish Sud 8134 SE 15th Avenue Portland, OR 97202

> ORIGINALLY SENT VIA E-MAIL on August 29, 2023 & September 13, 2023 SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL on September 13, 2023

NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST

Dear Rajnish Sud,

On May 25, 2021 your charter-party operating authority expired. In addition, the refile applications submitted on July 14, 2021 and May 09, 2022, were both rejected.

Public Utilities Code (P.U. Code) Section 5379 states that it is unlawful for a charter-party carrier of passengers to conduct any operations after cancelation or revocation, or during the period of its suspension, or after the expiration of its permit or certificate. P.U. Code Section 5414.5 states that it is unlawful to publish or advertise without holding a valid permit. Advertisements include, but are not limited to, advertising in local directories or yellow pages, business cards, websites, etc.

P.U. Code Section 5387 states in part that a charter-party carrier shall have its authority to operate as a charter-party carrier permanently revoked by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) if it operates a bus without having been issued a permit or certificate from the CPUC.

YOUR COMPANY MUST IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST FROM ANY AND ALL UNLAWFUL OPERATIONS INCLUDING ADVERTISING.

YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST ANY AND ALL UNLAWFUL OPERATIONS. ANY CARRIER WHICH OPERATES WITHOUT AUTHORITY IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR WHICH IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$1,000 AND NOT MORE THAN \$5,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION OR BY IMPRISONMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS, OR BOTH (P.U. CODE SECTION 5411).

This letter places your firm on notice that continued violations of the law without the required certificate may result in criminal prosecutions and possible termination of telephone service. There will be no further warnings.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to call me at 279-977-2432.

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

Sincerely,

Shawndra Míles

Shawndra Miles, Regulatory Analyst California Public Utilities Commission Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch Email: <u>shawndra.miles@cpuc.ca.gov</u> Telephone: 279-977-2432

cc: Maria Solis PE, Program and Project Supervisor