

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS  
89 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD  
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888**

**In Re: EMERGENCY EXTENSION OF )  
HACKNEY OPERATOR PERMIT )  
(I.E., “BLUE CARD”) EXPIRATION ) 20 MC UNDOCKETED  
DATES DUE TO COVID-19 )  
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY )**

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS:** On March 16, 2019, the Rhode Island Department of Administration issued guidelines to state employees to better enable the Department of Health’s and the Federal Center for Disease Control’s polices regarding social distancing to be implement as an important means to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

**WHEREAS:** Many individuals who hold Hackney Operator Permits (better known as “Blue Cards”) issued by the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) would normally be required to come in to renew their Blue Cards over the next few weeks. As part of the renewal process, those drivers would also have to visit the Department of the Attorney General to obtain a copy of their Background Criminal Investigation and Division of Motor Vehicles to obtain a copy of their Driving Abstract. This would inevitably expose those

drivers – and the employees of the various agencies – to an increased risk of encountering someone who has been exposed to the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

**WHEREAS:** The Division, in the interests of enhanced public safety, has decided to extend the expiration dates of all Hackney Operator Permits that would otherwise have expired during the thirty-day (30) period beginning today, Monday, March 16, 2020, and ending at close of business (4:00 p.m.) Wednesday, April 15, 2020, by thirty (30) days. One week before the end of this period, the Division will reassess the situation and evaluate whether further interim extensions may be appropriate.

**WHEREAS:** The Division’s Associate Administrator for Motor Carriers will review his records pertaining to Hackney Operator’s Permits and take such steps as he may feel are appropriate to communicate this extension to affected Drivers.

Accordingly, it is

**(23785) ORDERED:**

1. That in the interests of enhanced public safety, the Division has decided to extend the expiration dates of all Hackney Operator Permits that would otherwise have expired during the thirty-day (30) period beginning today, Monday, March 16, 2020, and ending at close of business (4:00 p.m.) Wednesday, April 15, 2020, by thirty (30) days. One week before the end of this period, the Division will reassess the situation and evaluate whether further interim extensions may be appropriate.

2. That the Division's Associate Administrator for Motor Carriers will review his records pertaining to Hackney Operator's Permits and take such steps as he may feel are appropriate to communicate this extension to affected Drivers.

**DATED AND EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, MARCH 16, 2020.**

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William K. Lueker, Esq.  
Deputy Chief of Legal Services  
Hearing Officer

**APPROVED:**

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Linda George  
Interim Administrator



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL REVIEW**  
(PROVIDED PURSUANT TO R.I.G.L. §42-35-12)

Please be advised that if you are aggrieved by this final decision (report and order) of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) you may seek judicial review of the Division’s final decision by filing an appeal with the Rhode Island Superior Court. You have thirty (30) days from the mailing date (or hand delivery date) of the Division’s final decision to file your appeal. The procedures for filing the appeal are set forth in Rhode Island General Laws, Section 42-35-15.

Proceedings for review may be instituted by filing a complaint in the Superior Court of Providence or Kent Counties. Copies of the complaint must be served upon the Division and all other parties of record in your case. You must serve copies of the complaint within ten (10) days after your complaint is filed with the Superior Court.

Please be advised that the filing of a complaint (appeal) with the Superior Court does not itself stay enforcement of the Division’s final decision. You may however, seek a stay from the Division and/or from the Court.

The judicial review shall be conducted by the Superior Court without a jury and shall be confined to the record. The Court, upon request, shall hear oral argument and receive written briefs.