# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, By ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH SHAPIRO,

Plaintiff,

٧.

MATTHEW C. BARNES, acting individually and as principal and owner of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC and Walten Point Productions, LLC; and BARNES PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE SERVICE, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company; and WALTEN POINT PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a Florida limited liability company,

Defendants.

CIVIL DIVISION

No. 13439-19

Type of Case: Equity

Type of Pleading: Complaint

Filed on Behalf of:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, By Attorney General Josh Shapiro 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

Counsel of Record for Plaintiff:

Brandon J. Bingle
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#### THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRATION CASE -

This case has been brought by the Commonwealth under the Pennsylvania *Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law*, 73 P.S. § 201-1, et seq.

AN ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES HEARING IS REQUIRED

Brandon J. Bingle
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney ID # 209133
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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4801 Atlantic Avenue
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(814) 878-5858
Attorney for Plaintiff

v.

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,	:	CIVIL DIVISION - EQUITY
By ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH SHAPIRO,	:	

Plaintiff,

No. \_\_\_\_

MATTHEW C. BARNES, acting individually and as principal and owner of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC and Walten Point Productions, LLC; and BARNES PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE SERVICE, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company; and WALTEN POINT PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a Florida limited liability company,

Defendants.

# **COMPLAINT**

AND NOW, comes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, by Attorney General Josh Shapiro, (hereinafter "Commonwealth" or "Plaintiff"), and brings this action pursuant to the *Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law*, 73 P.S. § 201-1, *et seq*. (hereinafter "Consumer Protection Law"), to restrain unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce declared unlawful by Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law. The Consumer Protection Law authorizes the Attorney General to

bring an action in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to restrain by temporary and/or permanent injunction, unfair methods of competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce declared unlawful by Section 201-3 of the *Consumer Protection Law*.

The Commonwealth has reason to believe that Matthew C. Barnes, Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC, and/or Walten Point Productions, LLC are using, have used, and/or are about to use methods, acts or practices declared unlawful by Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law; and, that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of are enjoined. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking, before this Honorable Court, a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts, and practices of the Defendant, as hereinafter set forth. Further, the Commonwealth requests injunctive relief, civil penalties, costs, and other appropriate equitable relief as redress for violations of the Consumer Protection Law.

In support of this action, the Commonwealth respectfully represents the following:

# **JURISDICTION**

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 931 of the Judicial Code - 42 Pa.C.S. § 931(a).

# VENUE

2. Venue lies with this Court pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 1006(a)(1).

# THE PARTIES

3. The Plaintiff is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, by Attorney General Josh Shapiro, with offices located at 4801 Atlantic Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16506, and at 15th Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

- 4. Defendant Matthew C. Barnes (hereinafter "Defendant Barnes" and "Defendants" when referred to collectively with other defendants) is an adult individual with a last known address of 19111 Fisher Island Drive, Miami, Florida, 33109.
- 5. Defendant Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant BPLS" and "Defendants" when referred to collectively with other defendants) is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with a registered address of 3850 Walker Boulevard, Erie, Pennsylvania, 16509.
- 6. Defendant Walten Point Productions, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Walten" and "Defendants" when referred to collectively with other defendants) was formerly registered as a Pennsylvania limited liability company with a registered address of 3850 Walker Boulevard, Erie, Pennsylvania, 16509. On or about September 16, 2019, Defendant Walten amended its registration to be listed as a foreign limited liability company, organized in the State of Florida, with a registered business address of 19111 Fisher Island Drive, Miami Beach, Florida, 33109.
- 7. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendant Barnes is the sole owner and principal of Defendant BPLS and Defendant Walten.
- 8. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendants operate businesses in the Commonwealth and/or other states under various fictitious names, including, among possible others: "Barnes Erie Limousine," "Barnes Worldwide," "Erie Limo Services," "South Miami Limos," "Baton Rouge Limo Rental," and "Go VIP Worldwide."

# **BACKGROUND**

9. Defendants have engaged in trade and commerce in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other states by advertising, marketing, offering to sell, selling, and/or contracting with consumers for the provision of transportation services.

- 10. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendants operate internet websites (as well as social media pages) including, among others: www.barnesworldwide.com, www.govipworldwide.com, and www.partyservicemiami.com. (Attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein as Exhibit 1 Printouts of Defendants' Websites and Social Media Pages).
- 11. The Commonwealth has received a number of consumer complaints against the Defendants indicating that Defendants have engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in violation of the *Consumer Protection Law*, as described more fully herein.
- 12. In addition to consumer complaints, a number of media outlets, including those outside the Commonwealth, have reported on the Defendants' unfair and/or deceptive acts and practices towards consumers, including:
  - a. <u>Tampa bride says she was charged \$500 for inquiring about a limo charge</u>, News Channel 8, Shannon Behnken, January 14, 2019, <a href="https://www.wfla.com/8-on-your-side/better-call-behnken/tampa-bride-says-she-was-charged-500-for-inquiring-about-a-limo-charge/">https://www.wfla.com/8-on-your-side/better-call-behnken/tampa-bride-says-she-was-charged-500-for-inquiring-about-a-limo-charge/</a> (attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 2 News Channel 8 article, 1/14/19);
  - b. <u>Taken for a Ride: South Florida limo company charges customers extra for asking questions about bill,</u> 7 News Miami, July 11, 2019, <a href="https://wsvn.com/news/investigations/taken-for-a-ride-south-florida-limo-company-charges-customers-extra-for-asking-questions-about-bill/">https://wsvn.com/news/investigations/taken-for-a-ride-south-florida-limo-company-charges-customers-extra-for-asking-questions-about-bill/</a> (attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 3 7 News Miami article, 7/11/19);
  - c. <u>Complaints Pour In Surrounding Erie Limo Business</u>, Erie News Now, Emily Matson, September 5, 2019, <a href="https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41010662/complaints-pour-in-surrounding-erie-limo-business">https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41010662/complaints-pour-in-surrounding-erie-limo-business</a> (attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 4 Erie News Now article, 9/5/19);
  - d. <u>Local Limo Service Owner Is Denying Claims of Bilking Customers</u>, Erie News Now, Amanda Post, September 6, 2019, <a href="https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41014555/local-limo-service-owner-is-denying-claims-of-bilking-customers">https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41014555/local-limo-service-owner-is-denying-claims-of-bilking-customers</a> (attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 5 Erie News Now article, 9/6/19); and
  - e. <u>Customers say limo business took them for a ride</u>, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Patricia Sabatini, September 22, 2019, <u>https://www.pressreader.com/usa/pittsburgh-post-gazette/20190922/281479278132416</u> (attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 6 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article, 9/22/19).

- 13. The Commonwealth believes and therefore avers that there may be additional consumers who have not filed complaints with the Commonwealth and who have been harmed due to the methods, acts and practices of the Defendants, which include, but are not limited to, the practices alleged herein.
- 14. At all times relevant and material hereto, the unfair methods, acts and practices complained of herein have been willfully used by the Defendants.
- 15. At all times relevant and material hereto, Defendant Barnes, acting individually and/or in his capacity as owner and principal of Defendant BPLS and/or Defendant Walten, authorized, approved, endorsed, formulated, directed, controlled, and/or participated in the conduct alleged herein.

# **FACTS**

- 16. At all times relevant and material hereto, Defendants engaged in trade and commerce within, and/or purportedly from, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the advertising, offering for sale, and/or sale of transportation services to consumers in Pennsylvania, as well as to consumers in other states.
- 17. It is believed and therefore averred that although Defendants advertise(d) and/or represent(ed) that they are (or were) a business registered and located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Defendants do not currently have a physical business location in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 18. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendant Barnes, acting individually and/or in his capacity as owner and principal of Defendant BPLS and/or Defendant Walten, operates the Defendants' businesses from his residence in Florida, utilizing internet websites, telephone, electronic mail (hereinafter "e-mail"), and UPS Store post-office box rentals.

- 19. The registered business address of Defendant BPLS, and the former registered business address of Defendant Walten, 3850 Walker Boulevard, is a building currently occupied by a presumably unrelated business.
- 20. Defendants' websites create the impression that Defendants own a fleet of vehicles and employ their own drivers, when in fact, Defendants do not.
- 21. Defendants hire third-party limousine companies to fulfill contracts entered into with consumers.
- 22. Defendants speak with, or otherwise have communications with, consumers who are seeking transportation services.
- During the communications, Defendants represent to the consumers an approximate cost of their service based upon an hourly rate, the consumers' pick-up and drop-off time, and fixed gratuity and service charges.
- 24. Defendants' representations create the understanding with consumers that the total cost of the service is a certain dollar amount.
- 25. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendants represent to consumers that consumers billing for the transportation services begins when the consumers are picked up.
- 26. During the initial communications between Defendants and the consumers, Defendants do not explain or disclose that they hire third parties to provide the service vehicles and drivers.
- 27. During the initial communications between Defendants and the consumers, Defendants do not explain or disclose that Defendants will charge the consumers for the service vehicles' travel time to and from the vehicles' warehouses.
- 28. Defendants represent to consumers that the only way they can secure their transportation services for the day needed is to execute a contract and submit full payment.

- 29. After giving consumers a misleading sales 'pitch', Defendants e-mail, or otherwise send the consumers, a standardized form contract for the consumers to sign and send back to Defendants. (Attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 7 Contract Examples).
- 30. In the contract, consumers are required to give their credit/debit card information and sign an authorization permitting Defendants to charge consumers' credit/debit cards in order to pay for, and thus secure, the agreed upon transportation services.
- 31. The standardized form contract provided to consumers by Defendants contains a separate, single page of Rules and Regulations that is single spaced, in a small font size, and contains approximately 1,500 to 2,000 words (sometimes drafted as a single paragraph).
  - 32. The Rules and Regulations page can be difficult for consumers to read.
- 33. The Rules and Regulations page contains various conditions that are not given their own separate, numbered paragraphs.
- 34. After Defendants receive the contract with the consumers' signature, Defendants use the contract as authorization to charge consumers credit/debit cards for the transportation services.
- 35. Defendants do not send back to the consumers a contract signed by Defendants before charging consumers' credit/debit cards.
- 36. Defendants' contracts do not have a space reserved for the Defendants' signature and execution date.
- 37. In some instances, consumers' credit/debit cards are charged prior to the date of the contracted for services.
- 38. Some consumers are charged based upon estimates and before a vehicle ever leaves a facility.

- 39. Consumers, whether charged before, on, and/or after the date of service, have received charges on their credit/debit cards that exceed the amount that Defendants represented to the consumers during the initial contact.
- 40. An example of a charge that exceeds the consumers' expectations is a charge for the service vehicle's travel time from its warehouse to the initial pick-up point, and the service vehicle's travel time from the drop-off point back to the warehouse.
- 41. For consumers whose credit/debit cards are charged in advance of the date of service and the charge exceeds what the consumers understood they would be paying, Defendants, upon being contacted by the consumers to cancel the contract, represent to the consumers that they will not return the consumers' money, even if they wish to cancel the contract.
- 42. If a consumer calls his/her credit/debit card company and/or Defendants to dispute or inquire about a charge, Defendants charge the consumer's credit/debit card an additional sum ranging from (depending upon the contract) \$500 to \$585.
- 43. If a consumer calls his or her credit/debit card company to dispute the additional charge described in paragraph 42 above, Defendants charge the consumer's credit/debit card another \$500 to \$585.
- 44. The charges to consumers described in paragraphs 42 and 43 above are purportedly based upon language that is lodged in the middle of the Rules and Regulation page, and is substantially as follows:
  - "If the purchaser charges back, disputes or inquires about any charge applied by our company to their credit/debit card, purchaser authorizes a charge of \$500 per transaction to be charged to their credit/debit card to cover fees, penalties and or administration costs applied to or bared by the company."

(Attached hereto and incorporated as set forth herein, Exhibit 8 – Example of Rules and Regulation page, enlarged).

- 45. Defendant Barnes has publicly denied any such fees existed. See Exhibit 6.
- 46. Examples of consumers' experiences with Defendants are as follows:
- Consumer A contacted Defendants for the purpose of renting a vehicle for her sister's bachelorette party, which was going to take place on September 29, 2018 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Consumer A had a phone conversation with Defendants about three (3) months prior to the September 29th date. During that phone conversation, Defendants quoted Consumer A the price of around \$400 for the four (4) hours needed. Defendants emailed Consumer A the contract papers, but did not include in the contract the total price of the services. Consumer A, believing her total cost would be around \$400, signed the contract and sent it back to Defendants. On the same day Consumer A sent the contract back, Defendants emailed Consumer A informing her that her credit/debit card was charged \$596.70, which included the 4 hours the vehicle was needed, an additional hour of travel time to and from the warehouse, and a \$22.95 convenience fee for using a credit/debit card. In the initial phone conversation, Defendants did not inform Consumer A that her credit/debit card would be charged immediately. In addition, Defendants did not provide Consumer A with a copy of the contract containing Defendants' signature prior to charging Consumer A's credit/debit card. As her sister's party was still about three (3) months away, Consumer A contacted Defendants to cancel the contract. Defendants informed her that she could cancel the contract, but she would not be refunded her money. Consumer A contacted her credit/debit card company to file a dispute on the charge. In response, Defendants charged Consumer A's credit/debit card \$500. When Consumer A filed a dispute on the \$500 charge, Defendants charged Consumer A's credit/debit card another \$500. In total, Defendants charged Consumer A's credit/debit card approximately \$1,596.70.
- b. Consumer B contacted Defendants to rent a vehicle for 3 hours on her wedding day taking place in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on February 13, 2019. The agreed upon price for the rental was \$495. A few days after the wedding, Defendants charged Consumer B's (or her husband's) credit/debit card an additional \$99. Defendants justified the charge by stating the total service time extended an extra 3 minutes, thus authorizing Defendants to charge Consumer B for an additional hour, plus fees. Defendants refused to refund the \$99 to Consumer B. Consumer B and her husband disputed the \$99 charge with their bank. In response, Defendants charged Consumer B \$550. In total, Defendants charged Consumer B's credit/debit card approximately \$1,144.
- c. Consumer C contacted Defendants to rent a limousine for his son's birthday in Miami, Florida on March 2, 2019. Consumer C told Defendants that he only needed the limousine for a one (1) hour block of time. Defendants quoted Consumer C the price of \$250 per hour. With the gratuity and service charges, Consumer C expected to pay about \$360. Consumer C signed a contract provided by Defendants. After his son's party, Consumer C received an email from Defendants informing Consumer C that his credit card was charged \$716 for two (2) hours of service, which included the limousine's travel time to and from the warehouse. After a

series of emails between Defendants and Consumer C regarding the charge to Consumer C's credit card, Defendants sent Consumer C an email informing him that Consumer C's credit card was being charged an additional \$575 to pay for the "consultation service" provided by Defendants in responding to Consumer C's inquiry. In total, Defendants charged Consumer C's credit card approximately \$1,291.

- 47. Defendants utilize unfair and/or deceptive business practices wherein, Defendants litter the internet with numerous deceptive websites in order to maximize their ability to obtain, via misrepresentations and unconscionable, 'take-it-or-leave-it' adhesion contracts, consumers' credit/debit card information that Defendants then use to willfully overcharge the consumers for the specific purpose of baiting the consumers into inquiring and/or disputing the charges to Defendants and/or the consumers' credit/debit card companies, all so that Defendants can then charge the consumers' credit/debit cards additional monies.
- 48. Defendants' standardized form contracts, including the Rules and Regulations page, are given to consumers with no meaningful opportunity for the consumers to negotiate the standardized terms.
- 49. Defendants' standardized form contracts, including the Rules and Regulations page, contain confusing, unfair, and/or deceptive language, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Directly underneath the line reserved for the pick-up and drop-off line, the contracts state that "[a]ll billing runs from portal to portal in 1 hour long blocks of time. You will be billed [the applicable hourly rate] plus gratuity and service charge."
  - b. The term "portal to portal" is not defined in Defendants' contracts, thus creating the understanding in consumers that the total cost of the transportation services is based upon the pick-up and drop-off time listed on the first page of the contract.
  - c. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[t]he driver/agent of the third party and or [Defendants] has the right to terminate service without refund, if there is a blatant indiscretion on the part of the [Consumer(s)] and to be decided solely by the third party or the [Defendants]."
  - d. The term "blatant indiscretion" is not defined in the Rules and Regulations, thus giving the Defendants the ability to charge consumers' credit/debit cards and then cancel services

for whatever reason Defendants concoct. (Then if consumers dispute the charge with their credit/debit card companies, Defendants would charge the consumers more money.)

- e. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[a]ll time/billing runs consecutively and is billed in 1-hour blocks of time. [Consumer] understands the times listed on the agreement are only minimum times and purchaser is solely responsible to pay for all time consumed along with the minimum time indicated. Early dismissal, downsizing, or shortening the rental hours will not reduce the cost of the service originally requested."
- f. The front page of the contract makes no mention of the consumer paying a convenience fee for using a credit/debit card, however, in the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[a] 4% convenience fee will be added to the total package price for all payments placed on a debit or credit card."
- g. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that the "agreement is not binding until signed by both [the consumer] and the [Defendants]." However, there is no space reserved on the contract for a representative of the company to place a signature and printed name, along with the date and time of Defendants' execution of the contract.
  - h. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[a]ll payments are nonrefundable."
- i. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[t]he [consumer's] service date will not be secure until [consumer's] payment is received. [The consumer's] payment is due on or before the signature of this agreement."
- j. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[i]f the rental contract is canceled anytime outside of 365 days from the rental[,] the [consumer] shall pay half of the remaining rental fee. If the rental contract is cancelled within 365 days or less from the date of the rental[,] the [consumer] will have to pay the full rental fee to include the estimated travel time to the pickup and back from drop off to the warehouse."
- k. On the page reserved for the consumer to photocopy his/her credit/debit card and photo identification, the consumer is required to execute a signature authorizing Defendants to bill the card.
- 1. In the Rules and Regulations, it states that "[i]f there is a disagreement regarding service or the contract[,] all decisions by the [Defendants] will be final."
- 50. With respect to the contract appearing to give consumers a benefit for cancelling outside of 365 days, as full payment of the rental fee is required on or before the signing of the contract, a consumer contracting with Defendants for services over 365 days away would not have any "remaining rental fee," and thus, is not entitled to any refund. *See* paragraph 49(j) above.

- 51. Defendants' standardized form contract term setting forth a charge for disputing or inquiring about charges on the consumers' credit/debit card, in effect, prevents consumers from communicating with banks and/or debit/credit card companies concerning Defendants' conduct and/or performance.
- 52. Charging a consumer for inquiring about and/or disputing a charge on the consumer's credit/debit card constitutes an illegal penalty.

# **CAUSES OF ACTION**

# COUNT I - VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

# Charging Credit/Debit Cards for Inquiring About and/or Disputing Charges

- 53. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein as though fully set forth below.
- 54. Defendants misrepresent the cost of the consumers' transportation services prior to the consumers signing a contract.
- 55. Consumers rely on Defendants' misrepresentations in signing contracts with the Defendants.
- 56. Once the contract is signed, Defendants charge consumers amounts that exceed what Defendants represented to the consumers prior to the contract being signed.
- 57. If consumers inquire about and/or dispute the excessive charge with Defendants or the consumers' debit/credit card companies, Defendants charge consumers debit/credit cards anywhere from \$500 to \$585 for each inquiry and/or dispute.
- 58. Subsequent charges for inquiring about and/or disputing charges made to the consumers' credit/debit cards are not adequately and/or clearly and conspicuously disclosed within the written contract.

- 59. The aforesaid acts and practices constitute unfair methods of competition and/or unfair or deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by Section 201-3 of the *Consumer Protection Law*, as defined by Section 201-2 of the same, including without limitation:
  - a. Causing a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of goods or services, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(ii);
  - b. Representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits or quantities that they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation or connection that he does not have, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(v);
  - c. Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(vii); and/or
  - d. Engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(xxi).
- 60. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution for consumers and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.
- 61. The above described conduct has been willful and is unlawful under Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commonwealth respectfully requests this Honorable Court to issue an Order:

A. Declaring the Defendants' conduct, as set forth in this Complaint, to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;

- B. Directing the Defendants to comply with the Consumer Protection Law and any amendments thereto;
- C. Directing the Defendants, pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the *Consumer Protection Law*, to make full restitution to all consumers who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the *Consumer Protection Law*;
- D. Directing the Defendants, pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the *Consumer Protection Law*, to pay civil penalties in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each and every violation of the *Consumer Protection Law*, and three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for each such violation involving a victim age sixty (60) or older;
- E. Permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from doing business in and/or from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a provider and/or broker and/or lead generator of transportation services.
- F. Permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from charging consumers' credit and/or bank accounts for any type of goods or services.
- G. Directing Defendants to pay the Commonwealth for the costs of its investigation and prosecution of this action; and
- H. Granting such other relief as the Court deems necessary and appropriate.

# COUNT II - VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

# Unfair and/or Deceptive Advertising and Other Misrepresentations

- 62. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein as though fully set forth below.
- 63. As set forth above in paragraph 20, Defendants' websites and/or social media pages create the impression or belief that Defendants' services will be provided by vehicles that Defendants own and

drivers that are employed by Defendants, when in fact the services will be provided by third parties. *See also* Exhibit 1 – Printouts of Defendants' Websites and Social Media Pages.

- 64. During the initial contact with consumers and prior to contracts being signed by consumers, Defendants do not disclose that the transportation services being provided to consumers are being performed by third parties hired by Defendants, and as such, Defendants do not disclose the physical business locations of these third parties.
- 65. Defendants' websites create the impression or belief that Defendants have physical ('brick and mortar') business locations in Erie, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Kansas City, Missouri; and Miami, Florida, when in fact, Defendants do not have physical business locations in any of these cities.
- 66. The Facebook page for Defendant Walten lists an address of 115 Federal Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15212, which is in fact the property upon which the PNC Park baseball stadium is located.
- 67. The Facebook page for South Miami Limos (which links to www.southmiamilimos.com) lists an address of 6619 S. Dixie Hwy #113, Miami, Florida 33143, when in fact the UPS Store in the Dadeland North Shopping Center is located at the 6619 S. Dixie Highway address.
- 68. During the initial contact with consumers and prior to the contracts being signed by consumers, Defendants represent and/or create the understanding to/with consumers that the consumers' billing will be based upon the pick-up and drop-off times.
- 69. During the initial contact with consumers and prior to the contracts being signed by consumers, Defendants represent and/or create the understanding to/with consumers that the cost to consumers is a certain price, when in fact the total cost to consumers will include charges not disclosed to consumers during the initial contact.

- 70. The aforesaid acts and practices constitute unfair methods of competition and/or unfair or deceptive acts or practices as prohibited by Section 201-3 of the *Consumer Protection Law*, as defined by Section 201-2 of the same, including without limitation:
  - a. Causing a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of goods or services, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(ii);
  - b. Using deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection with goods or services, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(iv);
  - c. Representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits or quantities that they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation or connection that he does not have, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(v);
  - d. Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(vii); and/or
  - e. Engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding, in violation of Section 201-2(4)(xxi).
- 71. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution for consumers and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.
- 72. The above described conduct has been willful and is unlawful under Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commonwealth respectfully requests this Honorable Court to issue an Order:

- A. Declaring the Defendants' conduct, as set forth in this Complaint, to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;
- B. Directing the Defendants to comply with the Consumer Protection Law and any amendments thereto;
- C. Directing the Defendants, pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the *Consumer Protection Law*, to make full restitution to all consumers who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the *Consumer Protection Law*;
- D. Directing the Defendants, pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the *Consumer Protection Law*, to pay civil penalties in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each and every violation of the *Consumer Protection Law*, and three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for each such violation involving a victim age sixty (60) or older;
- E. Permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from doing business in and/or from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a provider and/or broker and/or lead generator of transportation services.
- F. Permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from charging consumers' credit and/or bank accounts for any type of goods or services.
- G. Directing Defendants to pay the Commonwealth for the costs of its investigation and prosecution of this action; and
- H. Directing Defendants to disgorge all profits obtained as a result of Defendants charging consumers' credit/debit cards in response to consumers inquiring and/or disputing charges placed on the consumers' credit/debit cards by the Defendants.
- I. Granting such other relief as the Court deems necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSH SHAPIRO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Date:

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By:

Brandon J. Bingle

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# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

By ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH SHAPIRO,	: CIVIL DIV	ISION - EQUIT
Plaintiff,	: : No	
MATTHEW C. BARNES, acting individually and as principal and owner of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC and Walten Point Productions, LLC; and BARNES PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE SERVICE, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company; and WALTEN POINT PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a Florida limited liability company,		
Defendants.	· :	;

# **VERIFICATION**

I, KELLY BELL, hereby state that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am a Consumer Protection Agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, Eric Regional Office, the Plaintiff in this action. I verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. I understand that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Date: /

Kelly Bell, Agent

# IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, By ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH SHAPIRO,	: CIVIL DIVISION - EQUITY
Plaintiff, v.	No
MATTHEW C. BARNES, acting individually and as principal and owner of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC and Walten Point Productions, LLC; and BARNES PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE SERVICE, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company; and WALTEN POINT PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a Florida limited liability company,  Defendants.	

# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Date: 12/18/19

By:

Brandon J. Bingle

Deputy Attorney General

PA ID # 209133

Office of Attorney General 4801 Atlantic Avenue

Erie, Pennsylvania 16506 Phone: (814) 878-5858

bbingle@attorneygeneral.gov

EXHIBIT 1

Email or Phone	Password	Log in
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Sign up for Facebook loday to discover local businesses near you.

Sign Up

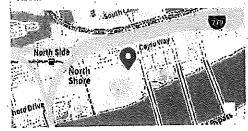
Walton Point Productions & Barries Limo

Susiness Service

Unofficial Page · Located in Piltsburgh, Pennsylvania

1.0 out of 5 . Based on the opinion of 3 people

#### About



115 Federal St Address

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

Phone

(412) 400-2563

Website

Near Walten Point Productions & Barnes Limo





Pittsburgh Technology Council Business Service 47\* • 9 public ratings

rematrix

**Matrix Solutions Business Service** 



Ellas/Saylon Interactive Inc **Business Service** 

Related Pages



The NES Page Enterlainment Website

ACE Estates Roofing & Exteriors LLC Roofing Service

REVIEWS



doesn't recommend Walten Point Eric Garcia-Tunon Productions & Barnes Limo.

March 6

\*\*\*BEWARE\*\*\* This is a criminal enterprise. I used this service for a "\$250" 1 hour limo ride and was charges over \$1500! When I inquired a about the charge they charged me a \$550 "asking a question charge". It sounds like a joke but sadly it's not.

These people are crooks, I wish I would have read the reviews before. This is a scam and they will steal your money.



doesn't recommend Walten Point Brian Simpson Productions & Barnes Limo.

October 30, 2018 ·

Matthew Barnes aka DJ Barnes operates this company and goes to great lengths to convince everyone it is "worldwide" and a legitimate business with multiple call centers. The fact is he operates this business himself and all calls to the various nationwide call centers go directly to him. It is very easy to obtain a phone number with an area code of any location you desire. His entire business strategy is based on misrepresentation and trickery. Even though he thinks he is... See More

6.Comments



Holly Cordray I got ripped off by him today he is using a nes page govipworldwide

22<sub>W</sub>



( Crisie Bolduc Hernandez replied • 5 Replies



Komai Patel reviewed Walten Point Productions & Barnes Limo-

May 15, 2018 ·

BE AWAREIII We rented lime for 3 hours on Mother's Day to take us around gatlinburg/pigeon forge area, what started with just as simple as \$120/hour service charge led to a total of \$1010.88 charge on my credit card. Matt Barnes conveniently did not disclose vehicle dispatch time and charges, my initial transaction receipt showed up with charges for additional 2 hours which was for the Limo to get to our cabin and back to its location. Come to find out the third party vendor ... See More

3 Comments

Pumle	Purple Communications Telecommunication Comp	any
	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Point Productions & Barni	Busin es Limo
English (	US) - Español - Português (f (France) - Deutsch	3rasil)

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Business Service

Geoff Andersen Please trust this review and heed the warning	gl s
 1y	:
Crisie Bolduc Hernandez repiled - 1 Reply	
Holly Cordray Please John https://www.facebook.com/groups/2341645066093132/ we ha all been ripped off by the same man	ive
Confidenting registration	
Ripped Off	a de la companya de l
20w	2

Posts about Walten Point Productions & Barnes Limo

There are no stories available

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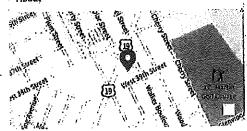
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Barres Professional Limousine Liaro Saryloa

Unofficial Page · Located in Erie, Pennsylvania

# About



3850 Walker Blvd Address

Erie, Pennsylvania 16509

Phone Website

Today 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM Status Hours

(814) 449-0274

Mon - Sun: 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM

4 likes

# Near Barnes Professional Limousine



Rupp Limousine Llmo Service 4.7 a · 36 public railings



Flagship Trolley Limo Service



La Grand Elite Limousine Llmo Service 4.4 x + 33 public ratings

# Related Pages



La Grand Elite Limousine Limo Service



GECAC Greater Erie Community Actio... Community Organization

#### REVIEWS



Marsha Johnson recommends Barnes Professional Limousine.

September 9 at 11:17 AM ·

Great service and very professional



Ray Sobczak . doesn't recommend Barnes Professional Limousine.

September 5 at 7:41 PM ·

SCAMMERS, Deceitful thleyes, You have been warned!

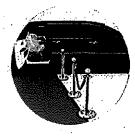
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Posts about Barnes Professional Limousine

There are no stories available

Page 3

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South Miami Limos @southmiamilimos

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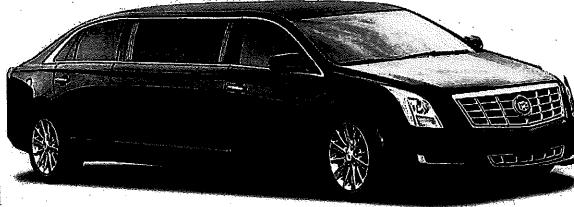
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Posts



South Miami Limos

May 16, 2016 ·

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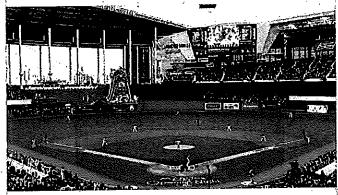
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We at South Miami Limos knows good service!

We provide many different packages to choose from and we can personalize your very own if you choose to.

No matter what time you need to be picked up or dropped off, no matter how many in your party, we can and will accommodate you, with the best fleet of rides in town.

Our services includes the finest, and very qualified chauffeurs who are not only professionals but very polite, respectful and flexible!

We appreciate your services and are honored to be your #1 choice year after year!

Questions? Bookings? 786-563-4412

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**Hours Requested\*** 

One Way Transfer

Number of Passengers \*

. 1-6

Name \*

First

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Phone Number \*

Email \*

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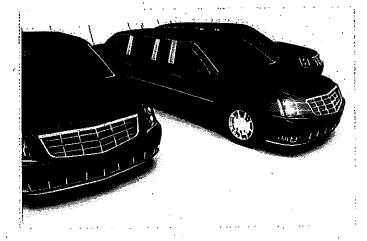
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FLEET

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Ever dreamed of a garage full of the newest, cleanest, most luxurious set of wheels just waiting to be shown off?

Well wake up, it's not a dream anymore...Here at South Miami Limos we have just that and a bag of cocoa cookies!

Call us for more details and we are sure to impress the pickiest individuals!

Hours Requested \*

1 Hour

Number of Passengers \*

1-6

Name \*

First

Phone Number

Email \*

Give me my FREE quotel

# HIGHEST QUALITY LUXURY FLEET

# **Rolls Royce Phantom**

Body Style: Luxury Car Exterior: Black

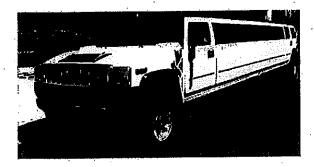
Interior: Camel Passengers: 3 Luggage: 4

White Hummer Limousine

Body Style: Limo Passengers: 20

Exterior: White Interior: Belge & Black

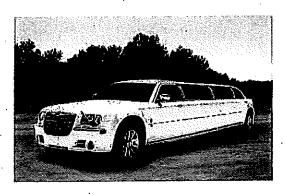




# Chrysler 300

Body Style: Limo Exterior: Black

Interior: Camel Passengers: 10 Luggage: 4



# Cadillac Escalade Limousine

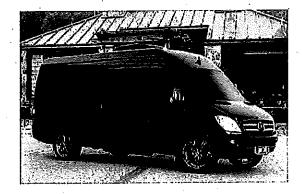
Body Style: Limo Passengers: 20 Exterior: White Interior: Belge & Black



# Mercedes-Benz Sprinter

Body Style: Van Exterior: Black Interior: Gray

Passengers: 12 Luggage: 14



# Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Limousine

Body Style: Limo Exterior: Black

Interior: Black Passengers: 12 Luggage: 12



# Mercedes-Benz S550

Body Style: Sedan Exterior: Black Interior: Gray

Doors: 4 Passengers: 3 Luggage: 4

# Cadillac Escalade Limousine

Body Style: Limo

Exterior: White Interior: Beige & Black Passengers: 20

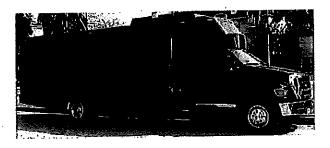




# Ford Mini Bus

Body Style: Mini Bus Exterior: Black

Interior: Blue & Gray Passengers: 28 Luggage: 28



# Chevy Suburban

Body Style: SUV Exterior: Black Interior: Gray Doors: 4 Passengers: 6 Luggage: 4



# **Elegant & Comfortable Motor Coaches**

Body Style: Motor Coach Exterior: White Interior: Ocean Blue Passengers: 56 Luggage: 56



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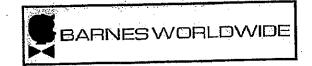
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Barnes Worldwide is committed to excellence, through building trust and long term relationships. By providing a number of various entertainment and transportation options we are your go to solirce for excellence in service . Barnes Worldwide has hundreds of years of combined team experience. We believe it is a provilege to have you as our client. We proudly service the entire world with over 50,000 trusted partners. When your important event is on the line, the only company you need to call is Barnes Worldwide.



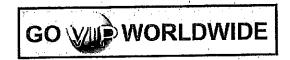
WE ARE STANDING BY TO ASSIST YOU - CALL NOW!

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Services are not secured until payment is made. We do not courtesy hold reservations. Providing payment information to our company will solidify your recognition that you are placing a reservation. All payment(s) to our company are non-retordable in the event you cancel your @ 2019 by W.P.P., L.C.



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# **About Us**

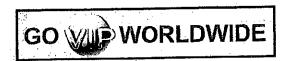
Go VIP Worldwide's team has been in the service industry business since 1999. Go VIP Worldwide is the go to Global source for ground and air transportation. With our 24/7 dispatch team and our enormous partner network we will insure that no matter where you are in the world your transportation needs will be taken care of by providing the highest of quality. Rost assured when you select Go VIP Worldwide you have made the right choice. We look forward to serving you soon. Feel free to email us anytime at Reservations@GoVIPWorldwide.com.



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Saryless are not secured tintil payment is made. We do not courtesy hold reservations. Providing payment information to our company will solidify you recognition that you are placing a reservation. All payment(s) to our company are non-refundable in the event you cancet your reservation.

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# **Aviation**

Where quality meets reliability you will find Go VIP Worldwide,

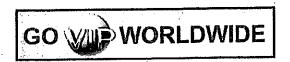
When you reserve a private jet with our company you will come to expect quality and reliable service at a reasonable cost. We recognize the When you reserve a private jet charter. Therefore, we have the steps in place to insure your service is timely and top note. It is important to us to get you where you need to go quickly and safely so you can go about your important business. It is our goal to make you a lifetime chant and not a one time client.



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# Concierge

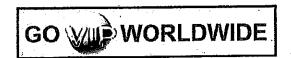
Your ask for it and we provide it.

Our conclerge service is just a call away 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. We can handle just about any request you can think of. When you are a Go VIP Worldwide client, with our help, we want to make sure that you live a stress free tife. If you need tickets to a show, a ope appointment, an exolic car rental, yachli charter or a vacation home rental we are standing by to assist you. Our concierge service is exclusive to Go VIP Worldwide clients only. Therefore, if you are another concierge service arranging ground transportation or aviation travel with us for your client. rest assured that we have no intembon to solicit your client,

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Contact - 24/7
We service the entire globe. If the city you seek service in is not listed below, rest assured these cites are only where the calls are routed to assist you and not just the cities we service.

Corporate Miami Beach FL,

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Erie, PA Operations Tel: 814-449-0274

Baton Rouge, LA Operations Tel: 225-341-4844

Kansas City, MO Operations Tel: 816-558-3004



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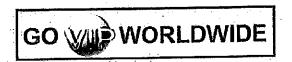
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Message

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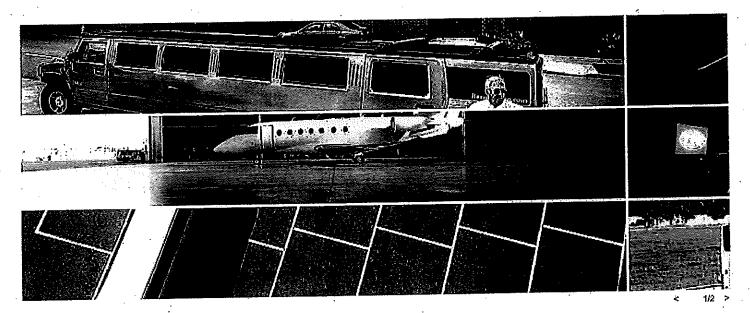
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#### Go VIP Worldwide

So VIP Worldwide is committed to excellence through building trust and long term relationships. By providing a number of various transportation options Go VIP Worldwide has hundreds of years of combined team experience. We believe it is our privilege to have you as our client. We look forward to making your daily needs more convenient. We proudly service the entire world with over 50,000 trusted partners. When your important event is on the line, the only company you need to call for luxury ground and air transportation is 60 VIP Worldwide.



WE ARE STANDING BY TO ASSIST YOU - CALL NOW!

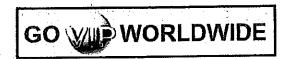
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#### **Ground Transportation**

We are one of the most requested ground transportation providers in the world.

When you reserve sedan, SUV, van, time or bus transportation with Go VIP Worldwide rest assured you are dealing with
a professional experienced service provider. Our goal is to make you a lifetime client. We aid in providing reliable, quality and unmatched vehicles for a reasonable price. View some of options we are pleased to provide below. If you do not see a vehicle you are tooking for in the floot, please let us know and we will advise if we can aid in providing it for you. Kup in mind we aid in organizary transportation worldwide, afthough pictured below the some of the options evailable in the USA and Canada only. If you are requesting service outside of the USA or Canada please call us or email figuer vationa@GoVIPWorldwide corn to request the updated fieet for the area you will need



Chrystler 300 Sedan



Lincoln Navigator SUV



Mercecles S550 Sedan



Cadillac Escalade SUV



Rolls Royce Antique



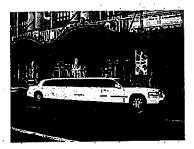
Rolls Royce Ghost



Mercedes Sprinter



LTC Stretch Limo



LTC Super Stretch Linio

#### 10/2/2019



Chrysler 300 Limo

#### GROUND TRANSPORTATION | GOVIPWORLDWIDE



Lincoln MKT Limo



14 Passenger SUV Limo



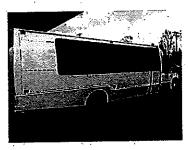
20 Passenger SUV Limo



26 Passinger Party Bus



Pink Hummer H2 Limo



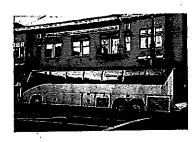
30 Passenger Party Bus



20 Escalade Limo



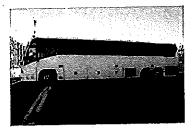
42 Passenger Party Bus



50 Passenger Party Bus



48 Passenger Charler Bus



58 Passenger Charter Bus

Disclaimer: Many important details go into reserving your ground transportation needs. Flease read and company policy for full details for renigls under the terms and conditions. Due to high yeards dergand, respervations for events, including but not pulled to halidays. Lage conventions, nights out, airport and weddings cannot be cancelled and are not refundable unless aprecises indicated on your context. Vehicles pictured on our website are for objectional pulposes only. Actual vehicle may differ in size, color make, reads, and design from website photogues fleet options are constantly being updated and regular maintanance is required. Select vehicles may not be available in your area. Call our reservation general to confirm the availability of the vehicle you wish to unserve in your step on the code.

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PARTY BUSES AUDIO VISUAL RENTALS MIAMI LIMOS

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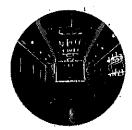
BACKDROPS



PHOTO BOOTHS



LIMOUSINES



PARTY BUSES



VIDEOGRAPHY



A.V. RENTALS

Miamis One Stop Event

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- Photo Booths
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- Luxury Car Rentals
- Sound System Rentals
- Staging
- Video Production
- Draping
- Security
- Event Planners

Exhibit 1 Page 19

We are Miami Florida's one stop event shop. Our team

has been designing, planning, implementing and throwing the best parties since 1999. Whether you need a <u>Marm Lima</u>, <u>Miami Party Bus</u>, <u>Miami Di</u>, <u>Mlami Photo booth</u> or any other service for your upcoming Miami party we are here for you. We believe we are simply the best in the business in Miami, Florida.



#### MIAMI LIMO AND PARTY BUSES

If you are in search of a limo in Miami, Florida to take you to South Beach or maybe even a linso to pick you up from Mami International Airport, we are available 24/7 to assist with your Miami limo service. We specialize in Miami limos and party buses for weddings, bar haping to LIV or other various night clubs and so much more. Need a Miami limo to Brickell or Fisher Island? Just give us a call for your Miant limo rental service a call. We are your go to for Miami, Florida limo service. We pride ourselves on aiding the dispatch of limo service in Miam! FL 24/7 and we feature live tracking service if you are flying and need picked up from Miami International Airport. We want to exceed you expectations when you need a Miamt limo. If you want to see and do it all, call us ahead of time to arrange your Miami transportation in a lime, party bus, sedan, can, SUV or shuttle.

#### MIAMI FLORIDA WEDDINGS

When searching in Miami, Florida, you want to use a name you can lost. Our lean members have proudly been in the business since 1999. When planning your Migmi, Florido wedding, we want to be your top choice for Miami Ilmas, DJs, Photo booths, decor, videography and so much more. We have experienced Miami DIs to rock your party, to leave your guests impressed and wonling more. Minml filmos are flushy, yel elegant for a Miami or Hollywood Florida wedding. Of course, our Miami videography staff can be contracted to be on sile to record it all so that you can cherish the memories forever. We cannot name every part of a Miami wodding or event here so please give us a call to discuss'your Miami, Florida wedding with us in more detail. We can make your dreams become a reality. Miami Dis, Miomi Limos, Miami Decor, Miami Photo Baoths...ve do it all in and around Miami for special events!

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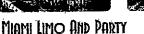


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Fort Pierce FL Limo, Palm Bay FL Limo, Melbourne FL Limo, Orlando FL Limo, Coca



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Exhibit 1 Page 20

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Date of your event

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- Hallandale Limos and Party Buses
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- Homestead Umos and Party Buses
- Kendall Limos and Party Buses
- Key Biscoyne Limos and Parly Buses
- Key Largo Limos and Party Busses
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24 Hours a Day 7 Days a Week

Name \*

Phone \*

Date of your event

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Hours Requested \*

One Way Transfer

Number of Passengers \*

1-6

Type of Vehicle \*

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Date \*

Name \*

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Email \*

Phone Number \*

Give me my FREE quotel

**WEDDINGS** 



Exhibit 1 Page 24

BIRTHDAYS

Miami International Science Fiction Festival
Miami Beer Festival
Bhang Caribbean Cannabis Cruise
FilmGate Miami
Miami International Film Festival
Ultra Music Festival
Festival de Venezuela de Miami (Venezuelan Festival)
Colombian Festival
Miami International Boat Show
Miami Marathon and Half Marathon
Carnaval Miami - Calle Ocho
Zoo Miami

#### Miami Beach

Miami Beach Convention Center, Art Deco South Beach Wine and Food Festival South Beach Seafood Festival

#### Downtown Miami

Bayside

#### Wynwood

Art Basel - Art Wynwood Wynwood Life Street Festival

#### Brickell

Brickell Comedy Festival Brickell City Centre

#### Coral Gables

Miracle Mile Shopping Matheson Hammock Park Beaux Arts Festival of Art Biltmore Hotel and Spa

#### Coconut Grove

Coconut Grove Seafood Festival Coconut Grove Arts Festival

#### Kendall



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4. Our rental services are super flexible. You set your time and we abide by it, always arriving earlier than your scheduled request!

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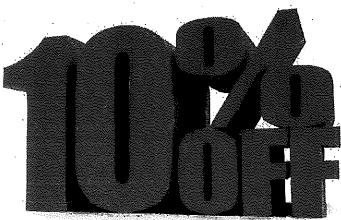
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# EXHIBIT 2

88°

BETTER CALL BEHNKEN

#### Tampa bride says she was charged \$500 for inquiring about a limo charge



by: Shannon Behnken

Posted: Jan 14, 2019 / 04:55 PM EST / Updated: Jan 15, 2019 / 01:45 PM EST

TAMPA, Fla. (WFLA) – A Tampa bride is "livid" after discovering a contract clause she claims allowed a limousine company to charge her an extra \$500 just for questioning a previous charge.

Nancy Jennings tells Better Call Behnken that she discovered the new charge on her credit card last week, three months after she used the limousine service for her wedding in St. Augustine.

"I was livid, very angry," Jennings said.

Jennings rented a limousine through Barnes Worldwide, affiliated with Barnes Professional Limousine Service LLC, based in Pennsylvania. She claims she was quoted \$225 an hour to transport her wedding party and that she used the limousine for a little over an hour. Exhibit 2

Page 1

88°

not read the fine print, so she paid the charge.

But the charges didn't stop.

Jennings said she thought her dealings with the company were over until the new charge appeared three months after her wedding.

Last week she noticed another credit card charge of \$500. She also received an email from the company, pointing again to the contract language.

"If the purchaser charges back, disputes or inquires about any charge applied by the company to their credit/debit card, purchaser authorizes a charge of \$500 per transaction to be charged to their credit/debit card to cover fees, penalties and/or administration costs applied to or bared by the company," the email read.

Matt Barnes, a company representative, tells Better Call Behnken that customers agree to terms and conditions in writing when they sign their contract for services.

He said the \$500 charge is for the company's time to research and deal with customer inquiries and that the decision on whether or not to charge the \$500 is based on a "case by case" basis.

He also pointed out that the company, a broker of limousine services, has been in business since 1999 and provides services "around the world." He said fees collected allow the company to give back to the community, and he pointed out a recent donation of \$13,955 to a Catholic school in Pennsylvania.

In an email, Barnes said, "We place a high value on our [company's] time and are happy to be able to give back when we are able."

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#### SHARE THIS STORY

#### MORE BETTER CALL BEHNKEN STORIES



## EXHIBIT 3

SHARE

JULY 11, 2019

# Taken for a Ride: South Florida limo company charges customers extra for asking questions about bill

#### Kevin Ozebek | Osrcelle Hall

(WSVN) - Limousines can be a fun part of any celebration, but riding in style took a turn for the worse for two South Florida families. Now, they are planning to fight back against a business, The Nightteam's Kevin Ozebek investigates.

Eric Garcia-Tunon, customer: I was angry at myself for allowing myself to walk into a situation like this."

Erio Garcia-Tunon wanted to rent a limo for his son's 13th birthday. He searched online and found South Miami Limos,

Eric Garcia-Tunon: "He quoted me \$250 per hour, plus cretuity and service charge,"

He paid what he thought was the total blii before the one-hour trip, but after the ride, the limo company charged his credit card an additional \$700.

Erio Garcia-Tunon: 'He didn't tell me that I was paying for the driver's transit time.'

The lime company charged him for another hour and 50 minutes, saying that's how much time it took for the driver to get to and from Eric's house.

When Etic emailed the company to complain about the unexpected charge and ask for a refund, he says he couldn't believe the response.

Eric Garola-Tunon: 'He just charged my credit card \$550 extra simply because I asked the question.'

Dan del Mazo also hired South Miami Limos and was also hit with an unexpected charge: \$155 for a 17-minute late drop-off.

He says the driver did not get him to his destination on time, so he disputed the charge with his credit card company.

Dan del Mazo, customer: I had heard that other customers were being charged a significant amount of money just for oballenging a charge or requesting an explanation of what they were charged for I took precautions. I canceled my card, and I looked it."

He was glad he did because the limo company tried to bill him \$585, but the charge was declined by his bank.

Dan and Eric both say they did not read their rental contracts, which contained all the disputed terms. They say they felt pressured to sign them guickly.

Dan del Mazo: "it's tiny. It's blurry."

The print might be small, but it says if the purchaser disputes or inquires about a charge the "purchaser authorizes a charge of \$585.00 per transaction to be charged to their credit or debit card to cover administration costs applied to or expensed by the company to research."

Sandy Bolsrond, attorney. Those types of things I would describe, and I've seen it in the court, as "unconscionable" terms or things that are not according to public policy."

#### 10/18/2019

Taken for a Ride: South Florida limo company charges customers extra for asking questions about bill - WSVN 7News | Miami News, W...

Attorney Sandy Boisrond says paying such a large fee to dispute a charge is pretty ridioulous and could be fought in court.

Sandy Bolstond: There are ways often times around those types of situations, and even though they did sign off on it, certain terms can be amended."

Even 7News got a demand for money from the ilmo company. 7News wanted to speak to Matt Barnes, the man who Dan and Eric say handled their limo rentals, but in an email to 7News, Barnes said he would only speak with us if we paid a \$76,000 appearance fee.

We discovered that Matt Barnes runs at least three limo rental businesses in South Florida, but the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation says none of them are properly registered to operate.

One was even ofted hist year as 'an illegal operator, and a violation was issued, which remains unputd.

Dan del Mazo: We thought we were going to have a good time. We thought it was gonne be pretty smooth, and it's far from it."

Dan and Eric are now working on filing formal complaints to Miami-Dade's Department of Transportation.

CONTACT TINVESTIGATES:

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clue@wayn.com

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## EXHIBIT 4



66°

(/weather)



**NEWS** 

### Complaints Pour In Surrounding Erie Limo Business

Several more alleged victims of an Erie limo company, have come forward with horror stories of their own.

Thursday, September 5th 2019, 7:36 PM EDT by Emily Matson Updated: Sunday, September 8th 2019, 11:51 AM EDT



More on the story Erie News Now broke, about an Erie limousine company, under fire for allegedly duping people in at least a dozen states, out of thousands of dollars.

After our story aired Wednesday, several more alleged victims have come forward with horror stories of their own.

As we reported, the Better Business Bureau issued a warning (https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41004501/consumers-say-erie-limo-business-took-them-for-a-ride) against Matt Barnes' several limo scheduling companies, for consumers to read the fine print, after complaints from people in 12 states,

Exhibit 4 Page 1

Barnes runs several limo scheduling companies, under the names of Barnes Professional Limousine service LLC and Walten Point Productions. The BBB says the company provides limo rental services and operates around the country under names such as Erie Limo Services, Go VIP Worldwide, South Miami Limos, Barnes Worldwide, Baton Rouge Limo, and others.

According to apparent victims and company contracts, he reportedly charges people \$500, just for questioning surprise overcharges.

There are now reports surfacing of terrible customer service experiences.

Like from Becca Piasecki, of Erie. Five years ago, she said "I do" at Saint Peter's Cathedral in Erie, "Everything was great, we walked out of the church and I was thinking, 'Oh my God."

That shock was because she saw the limo she had rented for her big day, "It was making really loud noises, it had some sort of muffler issue, there were clouds of black smoke coming out of the limo, on the side where I had to get in with my wedding dress," said Plasecki. "It was like, when you see a tractor trailer accelerating and you see that smoke coming out of the semi, that was what was coming out of the limo," Plasecki described.

The wedding party chugged around Erie in the limo, which Piasecki says wasn't even the one she requested, "I just remembered thinking, 'Oh my gosh I'm so embarrassed."

So, Monday came along, and she called Walten Point Productions and Barnes Limo, the company she booked the limo with, to complain.

But the contract she signed said something like this, "Due to unforeseen problems or high maintenance costs and/or availability of all and any vehicle maintenance parts, Barnes Financial Limousine Service can not guarantee all but not limited to lighting, strobes, CD/DVD player, cooling system etc. will be properly working on the date of your service."

"If something stops working or is not working correctly there will be no compensation to the customer." "He (Barnes) just said that we signed a contract and he can send whatever (limo) he wanted," said Piasecki.

Exhibit 4

Page 2

Piasecki's story is similar to many being shared, following a report on Erie News Now about alleged deceptive business practices against the Erie-base limo scheduling company, owned by

Matt Barnes.

As we reported, many customers across the country say they were getting billed hundreds of dollars more than they were quoted. When they called to question the charges, soon after, they were charged an additional with \$500 dollars on their credit cards.

All because of a line tucked in the contract which they signed, and many admittedly did not read. It reads, "If a purchaser charges back, disputes or inquires about any charges applied by our company to their credit / debit card, purchaser authorizes a charge of \$500 per transaction to be charged to their credit/debit card to cover fees, penalties and or administration costs applied to or bared by the company."

"It was a little surprising to see some of the things that were in there," said Erie business lawyer, Adam Williams.

Erie News Now sat down with Williams to take a closer look at one of the contracts Barnes provided a customer.

One line read, "if there is a disagreement regarding service or the contract, all decisions by the company will be final."

"The \$500 fee for questioning the company is buried in the middle of a paragraph that's 15 lines long, unless you're really reading this thing carefully, you wouldn't know that these provisions are in there," said Williams. "So I think if this did get in front of a judge, they'd have some concerns with this language," Williams continues.

Erie lawyer Craig Markham says there are consumer protection laws in place; to protect consumers from misleading, deceptive or confusing business practices.

Markham says there are a couple of statutes under the Pennsylvania Consumer Protection Law, the Plain Language Consumer Contract Act, which addresses the way consumer/business contracts are written. If a contract is written in a way which makes it hard for consumers to understand, or read, it could be in violation of that law.

Page 3

One of the statutes addresses specifically what a contract looks like, small, congested print, may not be not legal, "The statues are designed to help consumers from entering into contracts that they don't fully understand, or the meaning is somewhat hidden by legalese or phrase or

words that maybe are not clear to most people," said Markham. "These statutes are designed to protect consumers from businesses who try to take advantage of them," Markham continued.

Markham and Williams say consumers can take action against any company they're concerned about, by contacting the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, or they can hire an attorney.

Williams says if a business is found to be engaging in deceptive or misleading behavior, clients can win three times their damages, and even recover attorney fees.

But when ail is said and done, both attorneys, the Better Business Bureau, even customers who feel they were duped, remind everybody to always read the fine print.

Erie News Now contacted the Pennsylvania Attorney Generals' Bureau of Consumer Protection, they say they have received complaints, but would not confirm or deny any investigation.

The AG's office says if you believe you have been a victim of deceptive business practices, regardless of where the business is based, you can <u>file a complaint online</u> (<a href="https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/consumer-complaint/">https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/consumer-complaint/</a>).

Erie News Now reached out to Matt Barnes and spoke to him at length, off the record, at his request. So Barnes did not provide any comments or response to the allegations against his various companies.

# EXHIBIT 5



70°

(/weather)



NEWS

# Local Limo Service Owner Is Denying Claims Of Bilking Customers

After receiving numerous complaints, the owner of a limo company, who runs various divisions of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LLC, based in Erie, releases a statement.

Friday, September 6th 2019, 2:09 PM EDT by Amanda Post Updated: Sunday, September 8th 2019, 11:52 AM EDT



Previous customers of various divisions of Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LL, based in Erle, have shared their stories with Erle News Now.

They say they were charged hundreds of dollars over the agreed upon estimate for limo services, and after calling to dispute the charges, are then <u>charged an additional \$500 for the complaint.</u> (https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41004501/consumers-say-erie-limo-business-took-them-for-a-ride)

According to the <u>multiple alleged victims</u>
(<a href="https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41010662/complaints-pour-in-surrounding-erie-limo-business">https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/41010662/complaints-pour-in-surrounding-erie-limo-business</a>), the owner of the company told them it's all spelled out in the fine print, and is binding once the customer signs the contract for services.

In response to the allegations surrounding what customers are calling the companies' deceptive business practices, the owner, Matt Barnes, released the following statement to Erie News Now.....

"Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We deny any wrongdoing. However, we can't express enough how much we certainly share in everyone's frustration and concerns. It has always been our goal to provide the highest level of service available to our clients. We have a quality assurance team in place that reviews all service and or billing related issues for all markets across the globe. If your claim was denied in the past by this team, we ask that you please resubmit your claim within the next 10 days via FAX to the following number: (814) 616-2472. All claim submissions MUST include your name, address, telephone number, date of service, receipt of any payment, and all related documents you believe will help substantiate your claim. We will have a third-party team review your claim with of course no fee or cost and adjust as appropriate. We thank those who have entrusted us for nearly 20 years. We always strive to do the right thing and want to do our best to satisfy all clients. At the end of the day we are nothing without you."

Walten Point Productions, LL

Barnes Professional Limousine Service, LL

and or any representatives of the above listed companies

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## EXHIBIT 6

# Customers say limo business took them for a ride

charges from company run by Erie native plain about excessive Unsatisfied clients com-

Pagricia Separint Pittsburgh Fost-Strate 22 Sep 2019, 45

Moira Nee, of Brookline, wanted to make her sister's bachelorette party in Erie last ne for the evening. pptember especially memoble by splurging on a limou-

gesture turned into a night-But what started out as a kind can't believe that the roughly still trying to pay off on her the four-hour booking balmare for Ms. Nee, who still credit card. amount that a year later she's looned to almost \$1,600 — an \$400 she expected to pay for

knows how she feels. Eric Garcia-Tunon, of Miami,

He thought it would be fun to

shuttle his son and a handful of friends to the local bowling alley in a stretch SUV for his

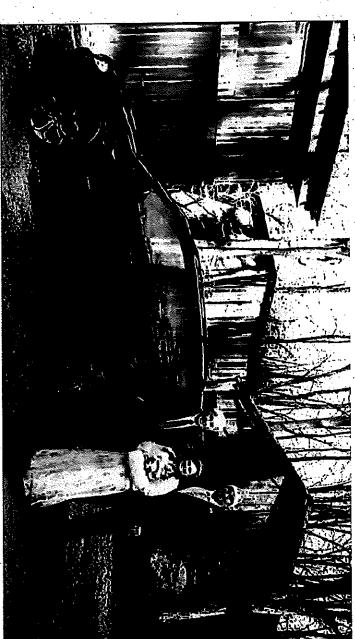
son's 13th birthday party in March. The boys' 20-minute, one-way joy ride ended up

costing him nearly \$1,300.

"I didn't look at the reviews

for this company. I should have," Mr. Garcia-Tunon said

Dozens of dissansfied cushave posted similar stories on tomers from numerous states



Crisic and Tito Hernandez, with their driver, on the couple's wedding day in Gatlinburg, Tenn., in February.

claiming they've been victim Yelp and other review sites customers, including Ms. Nee Matt Barnes. Some disgruntled fees charged by a limousine ized by excessive and hidden and Mr. Garcia-Tunon, have business run by Erie native their money back share stories and to try to get ormed a Facebook group to

Ms. Nee, Mr. Garcia-Tunon charges on their credit or debit and others are steaming over questions about their bills. cards — or for simply asking he charges, which they say lapped on them for disputing ve fee of \$500 or more ve included an administra-

Mr. Garcia-Tunon said what stories he has heard from bothers him the most are the memories from their once-inother people who have had the lifetime events tamished.

save up. They don't have a lot ger for special occasions. They of money," he said "This is a luxury item people

> were any problems. ment Tuesday, denied there Mr. Barnes, reached for com-

service. We've been in business plaints. We run a fantastic from princes and dignitaries. now almost 20 years," he said business. We provide excellent "We have a lot of clientele "I don't know about any com-

the globe," he said. "We have "We provide service all over less than

fied. That's my guess." .001 percent who are dissatis

view sites were "not verted." He said any complaints on re-

will take a look at it," he said rectly to the company and we online and it doesn't mean it's concerns, they can come ditruthful. If anyone has any "Anyone can write anything

or discuss particulars about his company was headquartered He declined to say where his business. "The way in which

> the company promotes its business is not appropriate to talk about at this time," he

party, he called the phone when he was searching for a Mr. Garcia÷Tunon said that swered the phone. All of the calls led to Mr. number on several websites. limo for his son's birthday Barnes, who personally an-

me to you.' " Mr. Garcia-Tunon said. "He said, 'Yeah. these websites are referring That's because we are the "I said to him, 'Funny how al

employees he had, or if it was Bames wouldn't say how many only him on the payroll In his interview Tuesday, Mr.

# Arranging rides

through various thirdparty arranging rides for people have grown by offering services as a limousine broker, Mr. Bames and his websites

Barnes is listed as the owner of operations for the last 20 Barnes Limo, overseeing all Walten Point Productions and In his LinkedIn profile, Mr.

"I am always looking for the

Florida.

Mr. Barnes quoted him a price he called about getting a limo,

Mr. Garcia-Tunon said when

of \$250 an hour for a 20-per-

GoVIPWorldwide.com and You have found one of the private jets. photos of limousines, SUVs, sites, which are filled with the company states on its tion providers in the world," most sought after transporta-"We are happy you are here ... party buses, charter buses and BarnesWorldwide.com web-

companies

contacts thus far have referred

next big opportunity," the profile states. "All my business

which lists 16 "locations" in and PartyServiceMiami.com Worldwide, Go NIP Worldwide Barnes Erie Limousine, Walten sites, such as Barnes Profesder a host of names and web-The business has operated un-Point Productions, Barnes sional Limousine Service,

Warehouse time

fessional in my field." to me as the consummate pro-

Because the ride to the bowling all he expected to pay. alley was only 6 miles, that's

to about \$340.

cia-Tunon said it worked out 15% service charge. Wir. Garson SUV, plus a, 20% tip and

pany showing a charge of just Garcia-Tunon says he gor an After the bowling party, Mr. alert from his credit card com-

said he was told that in addiover \$7,00. thinking it was a mistake. He the limo's travel time to and owed for an extra hour to cover He said he emailed Mr. Barnes tion to the time booked, he

from the warehouse.

charged a \$575 "research" fee referencing the fine print in an email saying he had been Shortly afterward, he received his contract that stated: "If the by the company to their credit, purchaser disputes or inquiries transaction." rizes a charge of \$575 per debit card, purchaser authosic] about any charge applied

realized at that point I'd been stunned. "I laughed, because I Mr. Garcia-Tunon was

is between you and him and a paper. In essence they said this charges because I signed that to get the charges reversed. pute with the card issuer trying Mr. Garcia-Tunon filed a discountrof law," "They said I authorized the

a five-passenger SUV. She said he emailed a contract without her a price on the phone of Ms. Nee said Mr. Barnes quoted around \$400 for four hours in

> serve her spot. encouraged her to sign it to rethe total amount filled in and

signing it, she said. "In retrostupid on my part." spect, that was unbelievably "I didn't think twice" about

email confirmation showing a Later that day, he sent her an venience fee for using her vice charge, plus a \$22.95 concluding an hour's extra travel total charge of \$596.70, inhouse, 20% gratuity, 15% serime to and from the ware-

away, she asked to cancel Mr. party still nearly three months but would still owe the full With her sister's bachelorette Barnes said she could cancel

over the charges, he charged with her credit card company with another one." disputed that fee, "He hit me her another \$500. When she When she opened a dispute

> total bill to \$1,596.70. As with Mr. Garcia-Tunon, her

The extra \$1,000 brought her

request for a charge-back credit card issuer denied her

go wrong if she stuck with Mr. to ruin my sister's day," she out the money, "I didn't want the job, even though she was Barnes' service, she canceled in spite of the money." said, "It wasn't worth it to me Fearful that something would

with customers. "If someone company; we will take a second cerns . ... Bring it back to the unfairly, we share in their conbelieves they ve been treated said he is always willing to talk pure/inquiry fee, Mr. Barnes plain the \$500 plus dis-When asked on Tuesday to ex-

speaking of. I'd have to take a that," he said when pressed. "I'm not sure what you are "We don't have any fees like look. You can email it over."

specifics.

tract is?" he asked "You understand what a con-

our company transacts busi-Later, he added, "Every time ness, it's done with a written terms they can contract with a that are explained upfront. If different business." someone doesn't like the agreement with specific terms

# The beginning

Filings with the Pennsylvania Department of State show Mr.

viewed by the Pittsburgh Post-Fine print in the contracts recharged.\$575. More recently, March, Mr. Garcia-Tunon was \$500 per transgression. In Ms. Nee in 2018, the fee was which has risen over time. For Gazette contain such a fee, the fee had risen to \$585.

and drop-off locations, Mr. and from the vehicle's pickup of charging for travel time to When asked about the practice Barnes declined to address

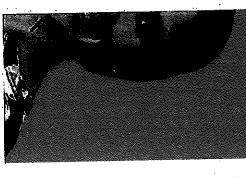
Moira Nee, of Brookline, was hit with five-passenger SUV for the evening

sional Limousine Service — in Walten Point Productions in 2009, and an entity called business — Barnes Profes-Barnes started a limousine

2016, both in Erie.

In the beginning, Mr. Barnes employee, Jean Johnson. limos, according to a former operated a few of his own





early \$1,600 in fees after she booked a ir her sister's bachelorette party last

Ms. Johnson, of Erie, said she worked for Mr. Barnes for about a year as a driver on the weekends when he first opened his business and had a couple of limousines that he parked at his parents' home in Erie.

She said she became suspicious that he was charging passen-gers a gratuity but was keeping

the money. She said she confronted Mr. Barnes, telling him about her last run where a passenger thanked her for doing a good job. "I know your tip is included, but here is an extra up because you were wonderful," she remembered the customer telling her.

"That's when he [Mr. Barnes] admitted that he does keep them," Ms. Johnson said.

That's when she quit. Daniel Eakman — a driver in New York who currently works for a limousine company that Mr. Barnes has used to fulfill bookings in Pennsylvania — said he believes Mr. Barnes is charging a 20% gratuity that doesn't get passed on to the drivers.

"Clients [booked through Mr. Barnes] will say to me, 'Did you get your tip?' " Mr. Eak-man said in an interview. "When I say no, they say, 'We paid for the tip. You sure you didn't get it?' "



A limousine booking business charged Eric Garcia-Tunon's credit card \$575 because he inquired about his bill. The limousine company is run by Matt Barnes.

Mr. Barnes wouldn't say whether the 20% gratuity he collects goes to the drivers.

"The way in which we disburse funding in our company is proprietary," he said.

Dealing with regulators

The Pennsylvania Public Utility

Commission revoked Mr.
Barnes' operator's certificate
in 2017 for falling to maintain
the required insurance cover-

in April of this year, the PUC fined him \$500 for operating without a certificate. According to the agency, businesses that do not operate their own

vehicles but arrange passenger services are required to be certified and carry insurance in the state.

Mr. Barnes also was fined in

Mr. Barnes also was fined in Miami-Dade County in Florida in 2018 and again this year for operating without a license.

"We are fully in compliance with all regulations," Mr. Barnes said in Tuesday!s interview. "All alleged penalties: have been fully contested. In good faith, the company has fully satisfied any outstanding obligations to Pennsylvania and the federal government."

He said he was "not aware of any penalties" in Florida.

Crisie Hernandez, of Chapel Hill, Tenn., said she booked a sedan through Mr. Barnes for her wedding in Gatlinburg. Tenn., in February.

After the wedding, she noticed an extra S99 charge on her debit card. She said she was told the driver had dropped her

and her new husband off three fee for using her debit card. gratuity and 4% convenience ble 15% service charge, 20% for an extra hour, plus applicastead of 5 p.m — so they owed minutes late — at 5:03 p.m. in-

extra fees with their bank, another \$550 fee was tacked When the couple disputed the

and Ms. Hernandez all say they "I said, 'Are you kidding me?" state and federal regulators. have reached out to various Mr. Garcia-Tunon, Ms. Nee consumer right." easonable charge. That's my 6. Hernandez remembered ying. "I questioned an un-

The Pennsylvania PUC says officials are listening.

protection and law enforceworking with other consumer is investigating recent complaints involving Barnes and is Carrier Enforcement Division The commission's Motor

> ment agencies to address comstates," PUC spokesman Nils plaints from consumers in an email earlier this month. Pennsylvania and other Hagen-Frederiksen wrote in

tomers in the Facebook group reached out to some vocal cus wrongdoing and ending their In recent days, Mr. Barnes has change for signing a release offering certain refunds in exterms be kept confidential also requires that settlement rights to any legal actions. It form absolving him of any

another contract with the she was leery of signing refund of \$1,596.70. She said Barnes' service, was offered a didn't end up using Mr. On Sept. 11, Ms. Nee, who Tuesday was offered \$300 in business. Ws. Hernandez on ease form, but was hesitant xchange for signing the re-

change his business practices and Ms. Hernandez all said they wan't Mr. Barnes to Ms. Nee, Mr. Garcia-Tunon

> "If we absolve him of this and take our money back, I'm this," Ms. Nee said. afraid he will continue to do

Mr. Barnes threatened to sue Ms. Nee said that when they wrote negative reviews online

all businesses would do that." the appropriate action at all Barnes said Tuesday. "I think spreadifalsehoods," Mr. times when someone has We have considered taking

charges with her credit card warning her not to fight any threatening a lawsuit in July company. 2018 when her dispute began Vis. Nee also received an emai

pute on your behalf from your on notice that if we receive a credit card issuer, we do intend chargeback/ credit card dis-

# Negative reviews

Both Mr. Garcia-Tunon and

to not only file a civil law suit 'We are formally placing you

said. "It's my personal life. I had to explain it to HR." "I was mortified," Ms. Nee

It wasn't the first time a dis-

cense was revoked, the Penn-In 2016, before Mr. Barnes' lipersonal. pute involving Mr. Barnes got sylvania PUC fined him for exposing passengers to unsafe

against you for all damages for is coded and presented to us," on how the dispute chargeback plaint against you depending also may file a criminal comyour breach of contract, but the email read.

cause she had used company Worldwide" stating that she This May, her employer recould be a party in the suit be sidering filing a civil lawsuit," cīal media posts. The letter ceived a letter from "Barnes and that Ms. Nee's employer had libeled the business in sosaid the company was "con-

> Pittsburgh for a birthday celeride from Mars to Downtown bration.

filed by the customer, Robert According to the complaint tering August day in 2014, Sarver, an air conditioner on Two people allegedly vomited overneated and nauseated. causing passengers to become the bus was broken that swel-

the \$500 fme. ing to the PUC administrative Google review of Mr. Sarver's wrote a negative one-star filed his complaint, Mr. Barnes landscaping business, accord Sometime after Mr. Sarver law judge who recommended

# Is it a contract?

Downtown; said the contracts Lynch, of Carlson Lynch, Consumer attorney Gary sign could be running afoul of that Mr. Barnes had customers tract laws. consumer protection and con-

"Arguably, there is no con-

conditions during a party bus

ties in the disputes. affiliated with any of the parviewing the terms. He is not tract," Mr. Lynch said after re-

lusionary," he said. that the contract is "almost ilmany rights and discretions" The company reserves "so

For example, the fine print without a refund if there is an states that the company has solely" by the company or the right to terminate service third party providing the sere customer, "to be decided ndiscretion" on the part of

mood," Mr. Lynch said. have to paint it if I'm in the house for \$1,000, but only "It's like saying I'll paint your

forceable. contract is unfair and unenhe said, or so extreme that the considered "unconscionable," In total, the terms could be

to discuss the details in his Mr. Barnes said he didn't want

> contracts. "I think our contract dustry standard," he said fessional compared to the inthorough and extremely prois very descriptive and very

cut their losses and walk money involved. "People just even though a contract may be Mr. Garcia-Tunon said that away," he said. people because of the time and is not a viable option for many menforceable, going to court

sue Mr. Barnes in small claims court in Pittsburgh, serving In August, Ms. Nee decided to minium on exclusive Fisher Isaddress at a Si million condoland in Florida. him with legal papers at his

Mr. Barnes said he was unaware of the complaint.

message. Tunon say they want to send a Both Ms. Nee and Mr. Garcia-

for what he has done," Mr. Garcia-Tunon said. "And let "I want to see this guy liable

him know it's not OK."

able charge. That's my con-

-uoseine questioned an unreason-

sumer right, CRISIE HER-

NANDEZ

O Wisk a Commercia



EXHIBIT 7

#### BARNES WORLDWIDE

Service date: October 13, 2018	
Purchaser Namo: E-Mail:	
Mobile:	
Pickup time: 9:00 PM Drop off time: All billing runs from portal to portal in 1 hou plus gratulty and service charge.	TBD r long blocks of time. You will be billed \$129.60 per hour
*THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT OVERTIME HO OF HOURS	urs will be available please be sure that the number you book is sufficent.
First pick-up address:	Marion Iowa 52302
One way transfer with no stops	
Very final drop off address:	Cedar Rapids Iowa 52402
* Vehicle preference: Sedan	
the right to substitute the liminstine or color with somethin other condition electrical appropriate by the company. The is services agents offiliates services (s) to fulfill this commitme is easily estimating the number of passengers persons that with maximum per the vehicle preference. Purchaser under the size of the individuals. The company does not guarantee that the control of the individuals. The company does not guarantee.	ide" and its representatives further referred to as the "company." reserve  g different at the company's discretion due to weather, maintenance or any company reserves the right to contract other transportation  in if deemed necessary by the company. Purchaser agrees that the company will fit to the vehicle and lists such as the monter of purcessgers/persons as stand that the maximum calculation of persons/passengers is subjective to be any certain number of passengers/persons will fit in the vehicle that is exceeds the number of persons/passengers originally indicated on this som/passengers for every persons/passenger over the amount originally
O NOT FILL IN THE BELOW BOX — THIS IS FOR INTE	rnal use only and to be villed in bythe company. Furchaser
OO NOT FILL IN THE BELOW BOX THIS IS FOR INTE UNDERSTANDS THE BELOW BOX WILL BE FILLED	rnal use only and to be villed in by the company, furchaser in by the company upon completion / termination of service
UNDERSTANDS THE BELOW BOX WILL BE FILLED  Warehouse Departure: Pickup time:	IN BY THE COMPANY CHORTABULATION OF SERVICE
Warehouse Departure: Pickup time: Hrs booked ( @ \$129.00 per hour) \$	IN BY THE COMPANY CHOST COMPANY AND THE COMPANY CONTROL OF SECULOR
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Warehouse Departure: Pickup time: Hrs booked (_@ \$129.00 per hour) \$ Gratuity 20% = \$ Service charge 15% = \$	IN BY THE COMPANY CHOST COMPANY AND THE COMPANY CONTROL OF SECULOR
Warehouse Departure: Pickup time: Hrs booked (_@S129.00 per hour) \$ Gratuity 20% = \$ Service charge 15% = \$ Package price: \$	Drop off time: Warehouse Arrival:  - Covers applicable taxes, tolls, fuel & mileage.
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#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

No Smoking in the lime or you will be tilled \$500 per converces and no inderage drinking. If since occur the rental with be terminated If anyone unioness, womits, or any other manual bodily function takes place in the webble purchaser will be changed a minimum of \$500 axa elecaning for. If there is ancetavive sulling of the lime parchaser will be billed a minimum \$150, by discretion of the company. No flood is perulated in the lime, If food is brought in or eaten in the lime purchaser will be changed a minimum of \$775 for cleanup, not including damage. Purchaser authorizes additional charges pant the initial charge until all damages and incidentals are fully repaired. The company cannot guarantee that every electronic will be working in the vehicle, if something stops working or is not working correctly there will be no compensation to the purchaser. Due to unforcesed problems or high maintenance costs and/or availability of all and any vehicls maintenance parts, company cannot guarantee all but not limited to lighting, strokes CDDPVD player, cooling systems are will be properly working during the purchaser's service. These amendies are provided at no added cost and are not hourly rate/ package price. The agreement by the company is subject to proven detention by accidents, riots, strikes, epideriics, acts of God, or any other conductors beyond their control. If such incuminationes arise, all reasonable efforts will be made by the company to find replacement lineautic service at the agreed upon fees Should the company be unable to procure a replacement, purchaser shall receive a full credit to be used at the company for a future event. Purchaser parts that in all circumstances, the company shall not be liable for indirect or concequential damages arising from any trach of contract. Furchaser parts to the service date and the company shall not be liable for indirect or concequential damages arising from any trach of contract. Purchaser pro-pald and or reserved, then the time will be added after the very final dr

All payments are nonrefundable. Vehicle to dispatch from Cedar Repids. The purchaser's service date will not be seems intil your payment is received. Purchaser's payment is due on or before the signature of this agreement. If the rental contract is canceled outlain 365 days or less from the date of the rental the purchaser thail pay helf of the remaining rental fee. If the rental contract is canceled outlain 365 days or less from the date of the rental the purchaser will have to pay the full rental fee to include the estimated ravel time to the pickup and back from drop off to the warehouse. Payments are due immediately upon cancellation. If at any time a weather inclination prohibits the company from serving the purchaser based on the company's elected on, parchaser will have to reschedule the service date within 1 month of the purchaser's service date when the company and the into the company's schedule. Fifthe purchaser disputes or laquiries about any charge applied by the company's schedule. Fifthe purchaser disputes or laquiries about any charge applied by the company's send or administration costs applied to or bared by the company. Should this dispute or longity occur, the purchaser understands the \$550 fee per transaction will only be refunded to the purchaser if ordered to do so by a runninally agreeable third-party arbitrator that is selected and agreeable by both the purchaser and the company. In the event the purchaser, scheck bounces there will be an added \$100 fee applied per occurrence. Company is not responsible for any and all delays or the termination due to weather caused by unsafe road conditions (is, not salted, slippers), accidents, etc.). All sun reofs are locked and cannot be opened at any time. Tolls paid by purchaser on top of the penhage price. No each refunds will over its given back from the company to the prochaser. The recitic will be given by discretion of the company. No videos or photos taken during the rental mayor displayed publicly without the written content of the company.

By executing this contract as purchaser, the person executing said contract, either individually, or as an agent or representative, represents and swarrants that he or she is eighteen (18) years of age, and further, if executing said contract as agent or representative, that he or she has the authority to enter had this agreement and should be or she not have such authority, he or she personally accepts and assumes full responsibility and the bit terms of this contract. All this observables are an integral part of this contract will superage any other contract. If any part of this contract will superage any other contract. If any part of this contract will superage any other contract. If any part of this contract will remain the entire agreement between the parties and no statement, promises, or inductments made by any party shorts, or agent or representative or either party beints, which are not contained in this written contract, shall be will or binding. This contract shall not be enlarged, modified, or altered except in writing by both parties and endoused hereon besides company filling in the lines and paskage price box on the first page upon service being completed or canceled. The laws of the Sists of Pa, shall govern this agreement in the event of suit involving or relating to this agreement purchaser agrees to defend, indemnify, assume listifity for and hold the company and or in representatives harmless from any claims, damages, losses and expresses by or to any person, regardless of the basis, which pertains sheetly or indirectly to the company. Purchaser agrees that all actions brought in Frie County, Eric PA is properly venued. Purchaser may not transfer the contract to mother party without the prior written consent of the county, Eric PA is properly venued. Purchaser may not transfer the contract to mother party without the prior written consent of the county. Eric PA is properly venued. Purchaser may not transfer this contract to mother party without the prior written consent of the county. Eric

The parties hereto promise to shide but he to see the line agreement and instant to be in	ally bound thateby.
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Punchaser Signatural Entail A	dress:
Street Address: City:	State: Zipt

NO PE

Please place your credit or debit card in the box below.

PLACE YOUR CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD HERE.

I authorize you to bill the card above in accordance to contract attached.

I egree to make payment per the issuer guidelines.

Please place your photo ID in the in the box below.

The name on your photo ID must match the name on your credit or debit card.

PLACE YOUR PHOTO ID HERE.

Please make sure your copy is legible. Thank you for helping control credit/debit card fraud.

#### WWW.GOVIPWORLDWIDE.COM

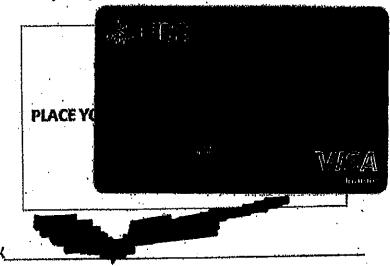
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RULES AND DEGULATIONS

No Smoking in the vehicle or you will be billed \$300 per occurance and no underage districting. If either occur the restal will be terminated. If saryone minutes, wonits, or any other unimal bodily function takes place in the vehicle purchaser will be charged a minimum of \$500 as a cleaning foe. If there is excessive stilling of the vehicle purchaser will be billed a minimum \$350, by discretion of the company. No found is permitted in the vehicle. If food is brought in or extent in the vehicle the parciases will be charged a minimum of \$275 for eleman, not including damage. Purchases antiporties additional charges past the initial charges will be charged a minimum of \$275 for eleman, not including damage. Purchases antiporties additional charges past the initial charges until all damages and incidentals are fully repaired. The company cannot guarantee that avery electronic will be working in the vehicle, if something stops working or is not working correctly there will be no compensation to the purchases. Due to unforessen problems or high maintenance casts and for availability of all and any vehicle maintenance expanse, company cannot guarantee all but not limited to lighting, studies CD/DVD player, cooling systems etc will be properly working chiring the purchases's activities. These amendides are provided at the added cost and act not continue the purchases's activities. working during the purchaser's netwice. There amend be any provided at the added cost and are not past of hourly rate/ package price. The agreement by the company is subject to proven deterding by accidents, viers, unites, epidemics, acts of flod, or any other conditions beyond their control. If such chaupstances arise, all restouble efforts will be made by the company to find replacement limesting service at the agreed upon fees. Should the company be anable to procure a replacement, purchaser shall receive a full credit to be used at the company for agreed upon fees. Should the company be anable to procure a replacement, purchaser shall receive a full credit to be made at the company for a future event. Purchaser agrees that in all dircumstances, the company shall be exclusively limited to an amount equal to any foce paid to the company by the purchaser prior to the service date and the company shall not be liable for indirect or consequential damages arising from any breach of countries. Purchaser understands that third party affiliates will likely provide the services to the purchaser on the service date. The third party is not appeared to the purchaser on the service date. The third party is not appeared to the purchaser on the service date. The third company will be allowed up to 30 minutes for delay with no compensation. If due to any circumstances less time is provided to the purchaser then purphase pre-paid and or reserved, then the time will be added after the very final drop-off time on the reservation at the discretion of the company if available, if the company estimate after the discretion of the character may be rescheduled when uniqually agreed upon by both the nurchaser and the company at the discretion of the company. Vehicles may not be located and when mapping it available, it me company cames not are notementioned missed and after me prop of time then may not be deschooled when mapping agreed upon by both the purchaser and the company at the discretion of the company. Vehicles may not be located part capacity. The company is not responsible for lost, damaged or sloten items loft in the lime. The driver/agent of the third party and or the company has the right to terminate activity without radiud, if there is bland indiscretion on the part of the elternish and to be decided solely by the third party or the company. No food or beverage left in the vehicle will be returned to the purchase or their invited and or uninvited guests after the rental period. If there is a disagreement regarding service or the contract all denisions by the company will be final, All payments are after the rental period. If there is a disagreement regarding service or the contract all decisions by the company will be trial. All payments are nonrefundable. The purchaser's service date will not be secure until your payment is recieived. Furchaser's full payment is due on or before the aignature of this agreement. The vehicle will dispatch from Minni KL for close to the pickup if possible and will be determined order to be purchaser and sent back to the company. If the tental contract is canceled at any time after the company when this from is signed by the purchaser and sent back to the company. If the tental contract is canceled at any time after the purchaser signs this doctroment, the purchaser will fall have to pay the full cost for the rental. Such cost will be calculated by using Mapopast to estimate/determine the travel time to the pickup and back from prop off to the wavelence, in addition to the time reserved from pickup to drop in order to determine the total door due. Payments are due immediately upon cancellation. If at any time a weather inclination prohibits the an exect to determine the total cost due, rayments are due inimentally upon cancellation, that are weather incrementally promise are company from serving the purchaser based on the company's discretion, purchaser will have to reschedule the service date which I month of the purchaser service date when the company can fit is into the company's actionable. If the purchaser disputes or inquiries about any charge applied by the company to their credit / divit cardit / di paircleaser understands the \$575 fee per transaction will only be colouded to the parchaser if ordered to do so by a manually agreeable third-party subirrator that is selected and agreeable by both the purchaser and the company. In the event the purchaser's check bounces there will be an added \$100 fee applied per occurrance. Company is not responsible for any and all delays or the termination that to weather caused by installar and conditions (ie, not ratiod, alippery, a criteria, etc.). All our roofs are locked and cannot be opened at any time. Totis paid by installar and conditions (ie, not ratiod, alippery, a criteria, etc.). All our roofs are locked and cannot be opened at any time. Totis paid by installar on top of the parchaser. Time credits will be given by discretion of the company. No videos or photos taken during the rental maybe displayed publicly without the written connect of the company. A 4% convenience fee will be added to the total parchase price for all payments placed on a debit or credit card. Creatify in 140% company. A 4% convenience fee will be added to the total parchase price for all payments placed on a debit or credit card. Creatify in 140% considered added grantily only and the printips added to the hourly rate. If the purchaser give/pay the driver may cash for the service, it will be considered added grantily only and the printips added to the purchaser credit debit card will not be refunded. He cash will be applied toward the printips of grantily only and the printips and shower arrives back to the wavefouncelor it is to be broased at after the very final drop off. All interbilling runs consecutively and is bited in 1-hour blocks of time. Purchaser understands the time agreement are only the men precess and service onling some when no server arrives new to me wearouse not a server at any one way had a billed in 1-hour blocks of time. Further understands the times listed on the agreement are only the subminum times and purchaser is solely responsible to pay for all ions consumed along with the minimum time indicated. Early themistad, subminum times and purchaser is solely responsible to pay for all ions consumed along with the minimum time indicated. Early themistad, downwing, or shortening like result lions will not reduce the cost of the service originally requested. No illegal drugs may be used and or in amyone's possession while occupying our whileder. No shows are considered the same as the purchaser constring, the caused request will be affectly a the same by the former as purchaser, the person executing said southers, and distributed the same and for the control of the same and for the control of the con either individually, or as an agent or representative, represents and warrants that he or she is eighteen (18) years of age, and further, if executing said contract as agent or representative, that he or she has the authority to enter into this agreement and should be or she not have such authority, no or she personally accepts and assumes full responsibility and liability under the terms of this contract. All attached riders are an integral part of this contract. This contract will superscue any other contract. If any part of this contract is illegal or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this contract will remain valid and enforceable to both parties. This contract contains the enance agreement between the remaining provisions of this counter will remain value and emories to do parties and on sections of the party hereto, which we not parties and no statement promises, or indicements made by any party hereto, or agent or representative or either party hereto, which we not considered in this written contract, shall be waited or binding. This contract shall not be colarged, medified, or altered except in writing by both parties and endorsed hereon basiless company filling in the times on the first page upon service being completed or cancelled. The laws of the parties and endorsed hereon basiless company filling in the times on the first page upon service being completed or cancelled. The laws of the State of PA, shall govern this agreement. In the avent of suit involving or relating to this agreement purchases agreed to defend, indemnify, State of PA, shall govern this agreement. In the event of suit involving or relating to this agreement perchaser agrees to defend, indemnify, assume liability for and indicate company and or its representatives humbers from any claims, damages, losses and appears by or to any person, regardless of the basis, which pertains alresty or indirectly to the company. Purchaser agrees that all seniors brought to enforce any previous of this contest shall be brought in a caset of competes, jurisdiction in Rich County, Eric PA and that any action brought in Rich County, Eric PA is properly wetned. Purchaser may not transfer this contract to another party without the prior written consent of the company. This agreement is not bluding until signed by both purphases and the company. Any changes must be written and signed by both the purchasers and the company for the amendment to be enforce and accepted. Or all agreements are non-binding. If any clause in this agreement is found to be illegal, the rest of the agreement shall remain in force. By signing this form purchaser agrees all charges, vehicle provided, pickup forms and service was conducted to purchaser's sufficients. The parties basic promises additional or like agreement and intend to be lime and service was rendered to purchaser's sufficient. The parties havelo promine to ablde by the terms of this suprement and in end to be legally bound thereby.

Purchaser Name Prints

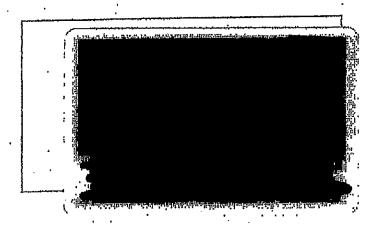
Please place your credit or debit card in the box below.



i authorize you to bill the card above in accordance to contract attached.
i agree to make payment per the issuer guidelines.

Please place your photo ID in the in the box helow.

The name on your photo ID must match the name on your credit or debit card.



Please make sure your copy is legible. Thank you for helping control credit/debit card fraud.

## EXHIBIT 8

you will have to reschedule the date within I month of your date when we can fit it into our company schedule. If the purchaser thurges back, our company long, arbitration the \$500 penulty fee per transaction will be refunded to the purchaser. In the event the purchaser's check Payments are due immediately upon cancellation. If at anytime a weather inclination prohibits us from reving you based on our discretion, of this agreement. If the restal contract is canceled anytime outside of 365 days from the restal the purchaser shall pay half of the remaining All payments are nounclimbable. Your date will not be secure until your payment is received. Your payment is due on or before the nighthire or credit card. Contains of 20% and 13% service compe will be automatically added to the bourly rate. If you give pay the driver any cash for paid by purchaser on top of the package price. No cash refunds will ever be given back from our company to the purchaser. Time credits will caused by unsafe road conditions (in not saited, slippery, accidents, etc.). All sun roofs are locked and can not be opened at any time. Talks to be charged to their credit / debit card to cover fees, pensities and or administration costs applied to or bared by the company. In the event tental fee. If the rental contract is canceled within 365 days or less from the date of the rental the purchaser will have to pay the full rental fee service originally requested. No illegal drugs maybe used and or in your possession while occupying our vehicles. No shows are considered consecutively and is hilled in I hour blocks of time. Early dismissal, downstring, or abortering the renal hours will not reduce the cost of the pickup and service/billing ends when the driver univer back to the building it is housed at after your very final drop off. All time runs loward the package price. Client understands that reconsoliting begins when the driver leaves the building it is housed at to go to your first Barnes Professional Lincusine Service LLC. A 4% convenience fee will be added to the total package price for all payments placed on a debit be given by discretion of the company. No videos or photos taken during the rental maybe displayed publicly without the written consent of bounces there will be an added \$100 fee applied per occurrence. Not responsible for any and all ubiays or the termination due to weather disputes or inquires about any charge applied by our company to their credit ( debit card, purchaser authorizes a charge of \$500 per transaction the same thing as the purchaser canceling and the cancel request will be affective the same day as the rental whereas no refund will be due the service it will be considered added gratuity only and the gratuity added to your card will not be refunded also no cash will be applied