

December 15, 2025

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
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**REPORT AND DECISION**

SUBJECT: King County For-Hire Licensing file no. 25766

**JABIR ROBELE**  
For-Hire Driver Enforcement Appeal

For Hire no.: 7249

Appellant: **Jabir Robele**  
[REDACTED]  
Seattle, WA 98118  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

King County: King County For-Hire Licensing  
*represented by Elizabeth Stenson*  
King County For-Hire Licensing  
201 S. Jackson Street Suite 206  
Seattle, WA 98104  
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Overview

1. After hearing the witnesses' testimony and observing their demeanor, studying the exhibits admitted into evidence, and considering the parties' arguments and the relevant law, the Examiner denies the appeal and upholds the civil penalty.

Procedural Background

2. On September 15, 2025, the Department of Records and Licensing – For Hire Licensing (“Licensing”) issued Citation 25766 to Jabir Robele. Ex. D2. Jabir Robele filed a timely appeal on September 17. Ex. D7.

3. We went to hearing on December 1. Participating in the hearing were: Elizabeth Stenson representing Licensing, and appellant Jabir Robele.

### Appeal Issues

As set forth in the Notice of Hearing, the issues identified for consideration on appeal are as follows:

Has Records and Licensing Services (hereinafter “Licensing”) demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that on September 9, 2025, at approximately 10:47 a.m.

Appellant:

- A. Operated without having a valid for-hire driver’s license in violation of KCC 6.65.070.A?
- B. Picked up passengers in the arrivals area of SeaTac Airport without the appropriate permit to pick up passengers in that location in violation of KCC 6.65.185.A?

### Factual Findings

Weighing all the evidence, the hearing examiner finds the following facts by a preponderance of the evidence:

4. On September 9, 2025, when returning from a break, King County License Inspector Stenson observed a passenger departing from Blue Cab #1078 and another individual approaching the driver in the arrivals drive and appearing to be asking for a ride. Exs. D1-001, D3; Stenson testimony.
5. The driver nodded in agreement and pulled his vehicle forward toward a group of passengers. He loaded multiple passengers and pieces of luggage. None of the passengers appeared to be disabled. Exs. D1-001, D2, D3; Stenson testimony.
6. During the investigation of this case, Blue Cab confirmed the driver was Mr. Jabir Robele, FH #17249. Port of Seattle Ground Transportation confirmed that Mr. Robele does not have the appropriate “Belled-In” permit to pick up pre-arranged passengers on the arrivals drive. Exs. D1-001, D4, D5; Stenson testimony.
7. Additionally, Inspector Stenson’s review of Mr. Robele’s For Hire record revealed that his For Hire license expired on January 11, 2025, and he was operating without a valid for-hire license at the time of the incident. Exs. D1-001, D6; Stenson testimony.
8. On September 15, 2025, Licensing issued a Citation with a \$1,125 civil penalty to Jabir Robele, owner of Medallion #1078, and operator of Blue Cab #1078. Exs. D1-001, D2; Stenson testimony.

9. Mr. Robele timely submitted an appeal on September 17, 2025, in which he states that made a mistake and was trying to help a disabled customer with a lot of luggage because he felt bad for them. His appeal does not address or deny the violation of KCC 6.65.070 – operating without a valid for-hire driver license. Exs. D1-001, D7.

Conclusions of Law

10. The hearing examiner has jurisdiction pursuant to KCC 20.22.040.
11. Licensing bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of evidence both the violation and the appropriateness of the remedy it has imposed. KCC 20.22.080.G; .210.B. We do not grant substantial weight or otherwise accord deference to agency determinations. Exam. R. XV.F.3.
12. Licensing has borne its burden of proof that Mr. Robele operated a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without a valid regional for-hire driver’s license in violation of KCC 6.65.070.A. As to the appropriateness of the remedy, KCC 6.65.430.E.1 provides that the director “shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for each offense” of KCC 6.65.070.A.
13. Licensing has borne its burden of proof that Mr. Robele violated KCC 6.65.185.A – Seattle Tacoma International Airport operation standards – which states that regional for-hire drivers operating at SeaTac airport shall load or unload passengers only as permitted by SeaTac Airport rules and regulations. KCC 6.65.430.K provides that any violation not enumerated in KCC 6.65.430 shall have a civil penalty of up to \$500. Licensing has historically applied a Class A civil penalty of \$125 to any violations of KCC 6.65.185.A. Licensing has borne its burden of proof of the appropriateness of the remaining \$125 of the civil penalty.

DECISION:

1. The appeal is **DENIED**.
2. The civil penalties are upheld.

ORDERED December 15, 2025.



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Alison Moss  
Hearing Examiner pro tem

## NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

King County Code 20.22.040 directs the Examiner to make the County’s final decision for this type of case. This decision shall be final and conclusive unless appealed to superior court in accordance with Ch. 7.16 RCW. It is the responsibility of the party seeking to appeal the examiner’s decision to determine and meet the legal requirements for filing an appeal.

### **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2025, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF JABIR ROBELE, KING COUNTY FOR-HIRE LICENSING FILE NO. 25766**

Alison Moss was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner’s Office.

The following exhibits were offered by the department and entered into the record:

Exhibit no. D1	King County For-Hire Licensing staff report Licensing Staff Report
Exhibit no. D2	Case #25-766 Citation
Exhibit no. D3	Video of Incident (3 minutes, 41 seconds)
Exhibit no. D4	Port of Seattle Ground Transportation Email and December 1 email from Ofc. Stenson
Exhibit no. D5	Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Ground Transportation Rules and Regulations
Exhibit no. D6	Accela Workflow History
Exhibit no. D7	Mr. Robele’s Statement of Appeal

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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**JABIR ROBELE**  
For-Hire Driver Enforcement Appeal

I, Lauren Olson, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **REPORT AND DECISION** to those listed on the attached page as follows:

- EMAILED to all County staff listed as parties/interested persons and parties with e-mail addresses on record.
- placed with the United States Postal Service, through Quadient-Impress, with sufficient postage, as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the non-County employee parties/interested persons to addresses on record.

DATED December 15, 2025.



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Lauren Olson  
Legislative Secretary

**Bailey, Kendall**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Cantu, Eddie**

King County For-Hire Licensing

**City of Seattle Hearing Examiner**

**Megow, John**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Newhouse, Cregan**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Robele, Jabir**

Hardcopy

**Stenson, Elizabeth**

King County For-Hire Licensing

**Taylor, Tyson**

King County For-Hire Licensing