

March 23, 2026

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

SUBJECT: King County For-Hire Licensing file no. 25-970

**ZAKARI ISHAQ**  
For-Hire Driver Enforcement Appeal

For-hire no.: 96661

Appellant: Zakari Ishaq  
*represented by* **Mohamud Adan**  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

King County: King County For-Hire Licensing  
*represented by* **Elizabeth Stenson**  
King County For-Hire Licensing  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
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Overview

1. After hearing the parties' testimony, reviewing the exhibits admitted into evidence, considering the parties' arguments, and applying the relevant law, we deny Mr. Ishaq's appeal but reduce the monetary penalty.

Procedural Background

2. On December 30, 2025, King County For-Hire Licensing (Licensing) issued Notice and Order of Violation 25-970 to Zakari Ishaq. Ex. D3. Zakari Ishaq filed a timely appeal on January 16, 2026. Ex. D4.

3. We held a hearing on March 12, 2026. Participating in the hearing were: Elizabeth Stenson representing Licensing, appellant Zakari Ishaq, and his union representative Mohamud Adan.

#### Appeal Issues

Per the Notice of Hearing, the issues identified for consideration on appeal are as follows:

4. The issue on appeal is whether the December 30, 2025, \$250 civil penalty for violation of KCC 6.64.360.F based on a cracked windshield violation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence and appropriate under the facts of this case.

#### Factual Findings

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

5. On December 4, 2025, Inspector Stenson booked a compliance ride with Lyft driver Mr. Ishaq. During the ride she observed a large crack in the car's windshield. Ex. D2-005. Because there were no other safety or licensing issues, Ms. Stenson did not discuss the windshield crack with Mr. Ishaq at that time.
6. On December 9, Ms. Stenson emailed and mailed Mr. Ishaq a "Vehicle Inspection Report" with instructions to replace the windshield and provide proof of replacement by December 16, 2025. Ex. D2. Mr. Ishaq testified that he did not receive this communication. Ishaq Testimony.
7. On December 30, when there had been no response from Mr. Ishaq, Ms. Stenson issued a Notice of Violation (NOV), assessing a \$250 penalty for the broken windshield. Ex. D3-004. The NOV was emailed to the same email address as the Vehicle Inspection Report. *Id.*
8. Mr. Ishaq did receive the NOV and, with his union representative, Mr. Fofana, filed an appeal on January 16, 2026. His appeal states that he repaired the windshield after receiving the Notice and Order on December 30.
9. Based on Mr. Ishaq's January 16, appeal statement indicating that the windshield had been repaired, Ms. Stenson emailed a request for photo evidence that it had been repaired to facilitate settlement of the NOV. There was no response from Mr. Ishaq.
10. On March 11, 2026, we received an email from Mr. Ishaq's new union representative, Mr. Adan, with pictures showing the repaired windshield and the properly placed TNC endorsement decal. Ex. A1. At our hearing, Mr. Adan explained that the prior union representative had left his position about a month ago and had not communicated with Mr. Ishaq about his case or the need to respond.

11. Ms. Stenson testified that because the notices were sent to the same email address, Mr. Ishaq should have received all of them. Licensing believes that regardless of the change in union representation, there was time for Mr. Ishaq to comply with the multiple requests for proof of repair and the penalty should be upheld.
12. Mr. Ishaq requests that the penalty be dropped because the delay in establishing his compliance was due to miscommunication with his union representatives.

#### Conclusions of Law

13. The hearing examiner has jurisdiction pursuant to KCC 20.22.040.
14. 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.
15. There is no dispute that Mr. Ishaq's windshield was cracked on December 4, 2025, in violation of KCC 6.64.360. The only issue is whether a reduction in the \$250 penalty is warranted.
16. It seems unlikely that Mr. Ishaq didn't receive the original Vehicle Inspection Form at his email address which is the registered email address with his license. Even if he didn't receive the December 9 communication, he did receive the January 21 email from Ms. Stenson requesting proof of windshield repair, to which Mr. Ishaq did not respond.
17. Based on the testimony from Mr. Ishaq and Mr. Adan, it appears that there was a significant gap in communication transferring Mr. Ishaq's case between the union representatives. Mr. Ishaq testified that he reached out to Mr. Fofana about his appeal but did not get a response and did not know Mr. Fofana had left and transferred his case to a new representative. This situation likely impacted Mr. Ishaq's failure to respond to the January 21 email from Ms. Stenson.
18. Because Mr. Ishaq testified that he did repair the windshield prior to filing his appeal on January 16, and has established compliance with photographs provided by Mr. Adan, a reduction in the monetary penalty is appropriate in this case.

#### DECISION:

1. The monetary penalty is reduced from \$250 to \$125.
2. The appeal is otherwise DENIED.

ORDERED March 23, 2026.



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Devon Shannon  
Hearing Examiner

### **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 MARCH 12, 2026, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF ZAKARI ISHAQ, KING COUNTY FOR-HIRE LICENSING FILE NO. 25-970**

Devon Shannon 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 Records and Licensing and entered into the record:

Exhibit no. D1	Department staff report
Exhibit no. D2	Vehicle Inspection Form Mail and Emailed
Exhibit no. D3	Notice and Order, issued December 30, 2025
Exhibit no. D4	Appeal, received January 16, 2026
Exhibit no. D5	Email response to Mr. Ishaq’s Statement of Appeal

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

Exhibit no. A1	Email, received March 11, 2026, with photographs and video
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

SUBJECT: King County For-Hire Licensing file no. **25-970**

**ZAKARI ISHAQ**  
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 Quadiant-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 March 23, 2026.



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Lauren Olson  
Legislative Secretary

**Adan, Mohamud**

**Bailey, Kendall**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Cantu, Eddie**

King County For-Hire Licensing

**City of Seattle Hearing Examiner**

**Fofana, Nurayne**

Drivers Union

**Ishaq, Zakari**

Hardcopy

**Megow, John**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Newhouse, Cregan**

Finance and Admin Svcs, Consumer Protection Div

**Stenson, Elizabeth**

King County For-Hire Licensing