



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
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**DECISION OF THE BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION TO DENY THE
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION OF FANTASTIC WASTE REMOVAL
INC. TO OPERATE AS A TRADE WASTE BUSINESS**

I. INTRODUCTION

On or about May 30, 2024, Fantastic Waste Removal, Inc. (“Fantastic Waste” or the “Applicant”) applied to the New York City Business Integrity Commission (the “Commission”) to renew its license to operate as a trade waste business (the “Instant Renewal Application”). Local Law 42 of 1996 authorizes the Commission to review and make determinations on such applications. *See* Title 16-A, New York City Administrative Code (“Admin. Code”) § 16-505(a).

The Commission’s review of a license application focuses on determining whether the applicant possesses business integrity, i.e., good character, honesty and integrity. *See* Title 17, Rules of the City of New York (“RCNY”) § 1-09 (prohibiting numerous types of conduct reflecting lack of business integrity, including violations of law, knowing association with organized crime figures, false or misleading statements to the Commission, and deceptive trade practices); Admin. Code § 16-504(a) (empowering the Commission to issue and establish standards for issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses and registrations); Admin. Code § 16-509(a) (authorizing the Commission to refuse to issue licenses or registrations to applicants lacking “good character, honesty and integrity”).

On or about July 15, 2025, the Commission’s staff issued and served on the Applicant an eight-page Notice to the Applicant of the Grounds to Deny the License Renewal Application of Fantastic Waste Removal Inc. to Operate as a Trade Waste Business (the “Notice”). The Applicant was given ten business days to respond, until July 30, 2025. *See* 17 RCNY §2-08(a). The Applicant did not respond to the Notice. The Commission has completed its review of the Instant Renewal Application, having considered the Notice. Based upon the record before it, the Commission now denies Fantastic Waste Removal Inc.’s application because the Applicant lacks good character, honesty and integrity based on the following independently sufficient grounds:

1. The Applicant has failed to pay taxes, fines, penalties, or fees that are related to the Applicant's business for which judgment has been entered by a court or administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction;
2. The Applicant provided the Commission with false and misleading information on its application; and
3. The Applicant has knowingly failed to provide information and/or documentation required by the Commission.

II. BACKGROUND AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Every commercial business establishment in New York City must contract with a private carting company to remove and dispose of the waste it generates, known as trade waste. Historically, the private carting industry in the City was operated as a cartel controlled by organized crime. As evidenced by numerous criminal prosecutions, the industry was plagued by pervasive racketeering, anticompetitive practices and other corruption. See, e.g., *United States v. Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters (Adelstein)*, 998 F.2d 120 (2d Cir. 1993); *People v. Ass'n of Trade Waste Removers of Greater New York Inc.*, Indictment No. 5614/95 (Sup. Ct. N.Y. Cty.); *United States v. Mario Gigante*, No. 96 Cr. 466 (S.D.N.Y.); *People v. Ass'n of Trade Waste Removers of Greater New York*, 701 N.Y.S.2d 12 (1st Dep't 1999).

The Commission is charged with, among other things, combating the influence of organized crime and preventing its return to the City's private carting industry, including the construction and demolition debris removal industry. Instrumental to this core mission is the licensing scheme set forth in Local Law 42, which created the Commission and granted it the power and duty to license and regulate the trade waste removal industry in New York City. Admin. Code § 16-505(a). This regulatory framework continues to be the primary means of ensuring that an industry once overrun by corruption remains free from organized crime and other criminality, and that commercial businesses that use private carters can be ensured of a fair, competitive market.

Local Law 42 provides that "[i]t shall be unlawful for any person to operate a business for the purpose of the collection of trade waste . . . without having first obtained a license therefor from the [C]ommission." Admin. Code § 16-505(a). Before issuing such license, the Commission must evaluate the "good character, honesty and integrity of the applicant." *Id.* at § 16-508(b). The New York City Administrative Code provides an illustrative list of relevant factors for the Commission to consider in making a licensing decision:

1. failure by such applicant to provide truthful information in connection with the application;
2. a pending indictment or criminal action against such applicant for a crime which under this subdivision would provide a basis for the refusal of such license, or a pending

civil or administrative action to which such applicant is a party and which directly relates to the fitness to conduct the business or perform the work for which the license is sought, in which cases the commission may defer consideration of an application until a decision has been reached by the court or administrative tribunal before which such action is pending;

3. conviction of such applicant for a crime which, considering the factors set forth in section seven hundred fifty-three of the correction law, would provide a basis under such law for the refusal of such license;

4. a finding of liability in a civil or administrative action that bears a direct relationship to the fitness of the applicant to conduct the business for which the license is sought;

5. commission of a racketeering activity or knowing association with a person who has been convicted of a racketeering activity, including but not limited to the offenses listed in subdivision one of section nineteen hundred sixty-one of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute (18 U.S.C. § 1961 *et seq.*) or of an offense listed in subdivision one of section 460.10 of the penal law, as such statutes may be amended from time to time, or the equivalent offense under the laws of any other jurisdiction;

6. association with any member or associate of an organized crime group as identified by a federal, state or city law enforcement or investigative agency when the applicant knew or should have known of the organized crime associations of such person;

7. having been a principal in a predecessor trade waste business as such term is defined in subdivision a of section 16-508 of this chapter where the commission would be authorized to deny a license to such predecessor business pursuant to this subdivision;

8. current membership in a trade association where such membership would be prohibited to a licensee pursuant to subdivision j of section 16-520 of this chapter unless the commission has determined, pursuant to such subdivision, that such association does not operate in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter;

9. the holding of a position in a trade association where membership or the holding of such position would be prohibited to a licensee pursuant to subdivision j of section 16-520 of this chapter;

10. failure to pay any tax, fine, penalty, or fee related to the applicant's business for which liability has been admitted by the person liable therefor, or for which judgment has been entered by a court or administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction; and

11. failure to comply with any city, state or federal law, rule or regulation relating to traffic safety or the collection, removal, transportation or disposal of trade waste in a safe manner.

Id. at § 16-509(a)(i)-(xi). Additionally, the Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to any applicant who has "knowingly failed to provide information or documentation required by the Commission . . . or who has otherwise failed to demonstrate eligibility for a license. *Id.* at § 16-509(b). The Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to an applicant when such applicant was previously issued a license which was revoked or not renewed, or where the applicant "has been determined to have committed any of the acts which would be a basis for the suspension or revocation of a license." *Id.* at § 16-509(c). Finally, the Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to any applicant where the applicant or its principals have previously had their license or registration revoked. *Id.* at § 16-509(d).

An applicant for a trade waste license or registration has no entitlement to and no property interest in a license or registration and the Commission is vested with broad discretion to grant or deny a license or registration application. *Sanitation & Recycling Industry, Inc.*, 107 F.3d at 995. *See also Daxor Corp. v. New York Dep't of Health*, 90 N.Y.2d 89, 98-100, 681 N.E.2d 356, 659 N.Y.S.2d 189 (1997).

III. FACTS

On or about January 13, 2016, Fantastic Waste applied to the Commission for a trade waste license. *See* Fantastic Waste License Application. Willie Rivera ("Rivera") was disclosed as the only principal of the business. *See* Fantastic Waste Application at 20. Effective May 1, 2016, the Commission granted Fantastic Waste a license to operate as a trade waste business for two years. *See* Fantastic Waste Order, dated June 16, 2016. On or about June 16, 2016, Rivera signed the License Order on behalf of the Applicant, thereby agreeing to its terms. *See id.* at 6.

On or about April 26, 2018, Fantastic Waste filed its first Renewal Application with the Commission. *See* Fantastic Waste First Renewal Application. The Commission granted Fantastic Waste's First Renewal Application and authorized Fantastic Waste to operate for another two years, until April 30, 2020. In 2021 and 2022, Fantastic Waste

filed Registration Renewal Applications. *See* Fantastic Waste Second Renewal Application; Third Renewal Application. On or about May 30, 2024, Fantastic Waste filed the Instant Renewal Application with the Commission. *See* Instant Renewal Application.

On the Instant Renewal Application, the Applicant continued to disclose Rivera as its only principal. *See* Instant Renewal Application at 8. The Applicant disclosed (347) 832-7887 as its “business telephone number,” and that its email addresses are fantasticwaste@icloud.com and willyrivera@live.com. *See* Instant Renewal Application at 1 and 8. In the Application, the Applicant stated that its email addresses are “fantasticwaste@icloud.com and WillRivera@live.com” *See* Application at 1.

Question 13 of the Instant Renewal Application asks: “Has the applicant and its principals timely filed all tax returns and timely paid all taxes due in all jurisdictions?” In response, the Applicant responded “Yes.” *See* Instant Renewal Application at 5.

On or about November 19, 2024 a member of the Commission’s staff notified the Applicant of the existence of 15 outstanding tax warrants filed by New York State, one outstanding judgment filed by the New York State Insurance Fund, and three outstanding judgments filed by the New York City Environmental Control Board. The member of the Commission’s staff asked the Applicant to provide the Commission with “proof of payment, satisfaction, or release . . . or provide proof that you have entered into and are in compliance with the terms of a payment plan” regarding these judgments and warrants on or before December 2, 2024. *See* November 19, 2024 email from Commission staff member to the Applicant. The Applicant did not respond to the Commission staff member’s request for information and/or documentation.

On or about December 2, 2024, a Commission staff member reminded the Applicant of the outstanding request, and set a new deadline of December 4, 2024 for the Applicant to comply. *See* December 2, 2024 email from Commission staff member to the Applicant. Although the Applicant did not respond to the Commission’s staff by the December 2, 2024 deadline, on or about January 13, 2025, the Applicant responded by emailing the Commission staff member: “please reach out to us when possible, thank you!! . . . 13478327887.” *See* January 13, 2025 email from the Applicant to the Commission staff member. The Commission staff member spoke to Rivera later on January 13, 2025. Rivera told the Commission staff member that it would start working to provide the Commission with proof that the Applicant was addressing its debts.

On or about April 11, 2025, a Commission staff member reminded the Applicant of the outstanding request again via email, setting another deadline of April 18, 2025 for the Applicant to respond. *See* April 11, 2025 email from Commission staff member to the Applicant. Again, the Applicant did not respond to the Commission staff member’s request for information and/or documentation.

On or about April 22, 2025, a Commission staff member again reminded the Applicant of the outstanding request for information and/or documentation via email and telephone. *See* April 22, 2025 email from Commission staff member to the Applicant. The

Commission staff member spoke to Applicant by telephone and the Applicant stated that he would begin sending the required documentation/information. Although Rivera represented that he would provide the information and/or documentation, Rivera again failed to do so.

On or about May 12, 2025, a Commission staff member again demanded proof that the Applicant was addressing its debts and extended another deadline to May 19, 2025 for the Applicant to comply. *See* May 12, 2025 letter from the Commission's staff member to the Applicant. The Applicant was notified that failure to provide such information/documentation could be a ground to deny the Instant Renewal Application. *See Id.* Admin. Code § 16-509(b). On or about May 19, 2025, the Commission received a letter from the Applicant that stated "after consulting with my accountant regarding the matter of open and past due taxes, I have been advised that he is currently working on resolving the issue. He expects the matter to be addressed and finalized soon." Yet, as of June 23, 2025, the Applicant has not provided the Commission with the required documentation/information.

A search of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance database on June 23, 2025 revealed the following 15 tax warrants issued against the Applicant, which total \$418,260.38:

Tax Warrant ID	Filing Date	Balance Due
E049813161W001	6/10/2021	78,867.30
E049813161W008	4/27/2023	59,629.00
E047541624W018	4/20/2023	53,913.00
E049813161W009	2/29/2024	48,959.40
E047541624W004	12/12/2019	30,841.87
E049813161W012	9/14/2024	23,745.47
E047541624W020	2/29/2024	23,615.66
E047541624W014	2/17/2022	22,992.44
E049813161W003	2/4/2022	22,568.99
E047541624W017	4/21/2022	15,606.41
E047541624W012	9/9/2021	12,430.41
E047541624W007	12/4/2020	11,891.16
E047541624W023	4/25/2024	10,145.06
E047541624W008	12/4/2020	2,826.45
E047541624W024	1/30/2025	227.76

A June 23, 2025 search of the New York County Clerk's filing database also revealed the following judgment issued against the Applicant by the New York County Clerk on behalf of the New York State Insurance Fund:

Filing Number	Filing Date	Balance Due
453536/21	1/11/2022	\$139,284.57

A June 23, 2025 search of the New York City Environmental Control Board database revealed default judgments issued against the Applicant that total \$3,900:

Violation Number	Filing Date	Balance Due
000768918J	10/20/2023	\$1,300
000765222H	10/2/2023	\$1,300
000761448M	07/06/2023	\$1,300

Together, these warrants and judgments total \$561,444.95.

IV. BASIS FOR DENIAL

- 1. The Applicant has failed to pay taxes, fines, penalties, or fees that are related to the Applicant's business for which judgment has been entered by a court or administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction.**

The Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to an applicant who lacks good character, honesty and integrity. *See* Admin. Code § 16-509(a). One factor the Commission may consider in making this determination is whether there is a "failure of the applicant to pay any tax, fine, penalty, or fee related to the applicant's business... for which judgment has been entered by a[n] ... administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction..." *See* Admin. Code § 16-509(a)(x); *see also* 16-513(a)(iv).

As of October 20, 2025, the Applicant has failed to pay \$418,260.38 in judgments to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance; the Applicant has failed to pay a \$139,284.57 judgment to the New York State Insurance Fund; and the Applicant has failed to pay \$3,900 in fines to the New York City Environmental Control Board. The Commission's staff repeatedly informed the Applicant of these debts and repeatedly provided the Applicant with the opportunity to demonstrate that the Applicant was addressing the debts. Despite these repeated notifications, the debts remain unsatisfied. Moreover, the Applicant has not even demonstrated that it has attempted to address these debts. The Applicant did not dispute this point. The Commission denies Fantastic Waste's application on this independently sufficient ground.

2. The Applicant provided the Commission with false and misleading information on its application.

“The commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to an applicant [for] ... failure by such applicant to provide truthful information in connection with the application.” Admin. Code § 16-509(a)(i).

As described above, on or about May 30, 2024, the Applicant filed the Instant Renewal Application. Question #13 on the application asks, “Has the applicant and its principals timely filed all tax returns and timely paid all taxes due in all jurisdictions?” As the evidence above establishes, the Applicant provided the Commission with false and misleading information by answering “yes” to question #13. The Applicant did not dispute this point. The Commission denies Fantastic Waste’s application on this independently sufficient ground.

3. The Applicant has knowingly failed to provide information and/or documentation required by the Commission.

“The Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to an Applicant for such license or an Applicant for registration who has knowingly failed to provide the information and/or documentation required by the Commission pursuant to this chapter or any rules promulgated pursuant hereto.” *See* Admin. Code § 16-509(b).

Here, despite the Commission’s numerous communications with the Applicant seeking information and/or documentation about the Applicant’s outstanding debt, the Applicant did not provide the required information and/or documentation. The Applicant did not dispute this point. The Commission denies Fantastic Waste’s application on this independently sufficient ground.

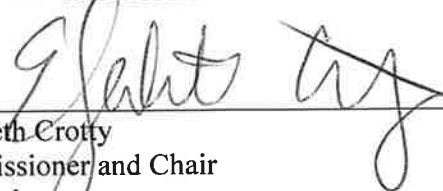
V. CONCLUSION

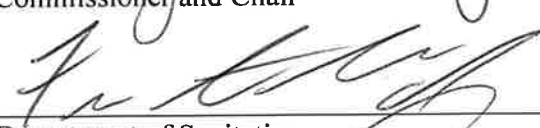
The Commission is vested with broad discretion to refuse to issue a license to any applicant who it determines lacks good character, honesty and integrity. The record as detailed above demonstrates that the Applicant falls short of that standard. Accordingly, based on the above independently sufficient reasons, the Commission denies Fantastic Waste Removal Inc.’s license renewal application.

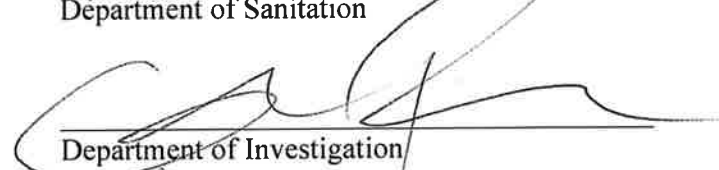
This license denial is effective immediately. Fantastic Waste Removal Inc. may not operate as a trade waste business in the City of New York.

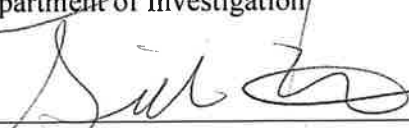
Dated: October 28, 2025
New York, NY

THE NEW YORK CITY
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION

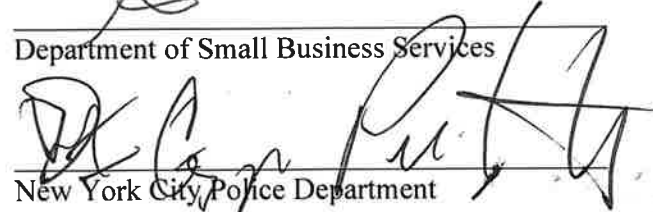


Elizabeth Crotty
Commissioner and Chair

Department of Sanitation

Department of Investigation

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection

Department of Small Business Services

New York City Police Department