

The City of New York BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION 100 Church Street · 20th Floor New York · New York 10007 Tel. (212) 437-0500

# DECISION OF THE BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION DENVING THE REGISTRATION RENEWAL APPLICATION OF LOJA JR CONSTRUCTION CORP. TO OPERATE AS A TRADE WASTE BUSINESS

## Introduction

On or about March 6, 2024, Loja Jr Construction Corp. (the "Applicant") applied to the New York City Business Integrity Commission to renew an exemption from licensing requirements and a registration to operate a trade waste business "solely engaged in the removal of waste materials resulting from building demolition, construction, alteration or excavation" (the "2024 Renewal Application").<sup>1</sup> Local Law 42 of 1996 authorizes the Commission to review and make determinations on such exemption applications. *See* Title 16-A, New York City Administrative Code § 16-505(a).

After a review of a trade waste registration renewal application, if the Commission grants the renewal of the exemption from the Commission's trade waste licensing requirements, the applicant will be issued a registration renewal. *See id.* at § 16-505(a)-(b). The Commission's review of an initial exemption application or an application to renew such an exemption 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 § 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 March 14, 2025, the Commission's staff issued and served on the Applicant a 6-page Notice to the Applicant of the Grounds to Deny the Registration Renewal Application of Loja JR Construction Corp. to Operate as a Trade Waste Business. The Applicant was given 10 business days to respond, until March 28, 2025. *See* 17 RCNY § 2-08(a). The Applicant did not respond to the Notice. On May 14, 2025, the Commission's staff issued and served on the Applicant an 8-page Revised Notice to the Applicant of the Grounds to Deny the Registration Renewal Application of Loja JR Construction Corp. to Operate as a Trade Waste Business (the "Revised Notice"). The Applicant was given 10 business days to respond, until May 30, 2025. *See Id*. The Applicant did not respond to the Revised Notice. The Commission has completed its review of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Trade waste" or "waste" is defined at Admin. Code § 16-501(f)(1) and includes "construction and demolition debris."

the 2024 Application, having considered the Revised Notice. Based on the record before it, the Commission now denies Loja Jr Construction Corp.'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; and
- 2. The Applicant has knowingly failed to provide information and/or documentation required by the Commission.

#### Statutory Background and 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 construction and demolition debris removal sector of the City's carting industry specifically has also been the subject of significant successful racketeering prosecutions. See United States v. Paccione, 949 F.2d 1183, 1186-88 (2d Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 505 U.S. 1220 (1992); United States v. Cafra, No. 94 Cr. 380 (S.D.N.Y.); United States v. Barbieri, No. 94 Cr. 518 (S.D.N.Y.).

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. *See* 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 assured of a fair, competitive market.

Pursuant to Local Law 42, a company "solely engaged in the removal of waste materials resulting from building demolition, construction, alteration or excavation," also known as construction and demolition debris, must apply to the Commission for an exemption from the licensing requirement. *Id.* If, upon review of an application, the Commission grants an exemption from the licensing requirement, it issues the applicant a class 2 registration. *Id.* at § 16-505(a)-(b). Before issuing such registration, the Commission must evaluate the "good character, honesty and integrity of the applicant." *Id.* at § 16-508(b); *see also id.* at § 16-504(a). An "applicant" for a license or registration means both the business entity and each principal thereof. *Id.* at § 16-501(a).

The Administrative Code provides an illustrative list of relevant factors for the Commission to consider in making a decision on an application for a license or registration:

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). See also id. at § 16-504(a).

The Commission also 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). *See also Elite Demolition Contracting Corp. v. The City of New York,* 125 A.D.3d 576 (1st Dep't 2015); *Breeze Carting Corp. v. The City of New York,* 52 A.D.3d 424 (1st Dep't 2008); *Attonito v. Maldonado,* 3 A.D.3d 415 (1st Dep't) (Commission may deny an application for an exemption "where the applicant fails to provide the necessary information, or knowingly provides false information"); leave denied 2 N.Y.3d 705 (N.Y. 2004). *See also* Admin. Code § 16-509(a)(i) (failure to provide truthful information in connection with application as a consideration for denial). In addition, the Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to an applicant that "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). *See also id.* at § 16-504(a). Finally, the Commission may refuse to issue a license or registration to any applicant or its principals have previously had their license or registration revoked. *Id.* at § 16-509(d); *see also id.* at § 16-509(d).

An applicant for a private carting license (including a registration for hauling construction and demolition debris) 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 Indus., Inc.,* 107 F.3d 985, 995 (2d Cir. 1997); *see also Daxor Corp. v. New York Dep't of Health,* 90 N.Y.2d 89, 98-100 (N.Y. 1997).

## Statement of Facts

On August 24, 2021, the Applicant applied to the Commission for a registration to operate a trade waste business that solely removes construction and demolition debris. See Loja Jr Construction Corp. Application for Exemption from Licensing Requirements for Removal of Construction and Demolition Debris (the "Original Application"). On March 10, 2022, the Commission granted the Applicant a registration to operate a trade waste business that removes construction and demolition debris, valid for the period ending on March 31, 2024. *See* Registration Order, effective April 1, 2022. On March 6, 2022, the Applicant filed a registration renewal application with the Commission. *See* 2022 Renewal Application.

On or about February 28, 2025, a member of the Commission's staff informed the Applicant of the existence of seventeen outstanding Environmental Control Board violations against the Applicant:

Date of Violation	Respondent Name	Filing No.	Amount Due
7/15/22	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000724479M	\$455.00
6/7/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000808053N	\$1,300.00
6/14/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703294736	\$2,473.03
7/17/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703315169	\$2,455.83
7/17/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703330440	\$2,455.83
7/28/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703331155	\$2,455.83
8/11/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703347572	\$2,439.74
8/11/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703353521	\$2,439.74
8/16/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703351010	\$2,439.74
8/23/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703361845	\$2,422.54
8/30/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703363587	\$2,422.54
10/2/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000821386H	\$1,650.00
10/19/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000821390K	\$2,200.00
11/15/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0217746046	\$2,321.01
11/21/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703442612	\$2,372.05
9/20/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703697720	\$780.00
10/3/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703710435	\$1,530.00

The Commission's staff member also informed the Applicant about the existence of a New York City tax warrant:

Date of Filing	Debtor Name	Filing No.	Amount Due
9/19/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	2597483	\$218.86

The Commission staff member asked the Applicant to provide proof that it is addressing these debts before March 10, 2025. See February 28, 2025 email from Commission staff member to the Applicant. The Applicant was warned that "[y]our failure to provide the Commission with this documentation and/or information could result in the denial of your registration renewal application. See Title 16-A of the New York City Administrative Code Section16-509-(b)." The Applicant did not respond.

On March 14, 2025, the Commission's staff served the Applicant with "Notice... of the Grounds to Deny the Registration Renewal Application of Loja Jr Construction Corp. to Operate as a Trade Waste Business" (the "Notice"). The Notice and the accompanying cover letter informed the Applicant that it had 10 business days from the date of the Notice to submit a written

response to the Commission. See Notice; see also March 14, 2025 cover letter from Commission staff to the Applicant. The Applicant did not respond to the Notice.

Date of Violation	Respondent Name	Filing No.	Amount Due
7/15/22	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000724479M	\$455.00
6/7/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000808053N	\$1,300.00
6/14/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703294736	\$2,473.03
7/17/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703315169	\$2,455.83
7/17/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703330440	\$2,455.83
7/28/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703331155	\$2,455.83
8/11/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703347572	\$2,439.74
8/11/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703353521	\$2,439.74
8/16/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703351010	\$2,439.74
8/23/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703361845	\$2,422.54
8/30/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703363587	\$2,422.54
10/2/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000821386H	\$1,650.00
10/19/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	000821390K	\$2,200.00
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9/20/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703697720	\$780.00
10/3/24	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	0703710435	\$1,530.00

On April 2, 2025, the Commission's staff again informed the Applicant of the existence of seventeen outstanding Environmental Control Board violations against the Applicant<sup>2</sup>:

The Commission's staff also informed the Applicant about the existence of a New York City tax warrant:

Date of Filing	Debtor Name	Filing No.	Amount Due
9/19/23	Loja Jr Construction Corp.	2597483	\$218.86

The April 2, 2025 letter from the Commission's staff warned the Applicant:

Please allow this to serve as your final warning. You must provide the Business Integrity Commission with proof that you are addressing the above-mentioned debts before the close of business on April 16, 2025. Your failure to provide the Business Integrity Commission with this documentation and/or information could result in the denial of your registration renewal application. *See* Title 16-A of the New York City Administrative Code Section 16-509(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Commission's staff emailed the April 2, 2025 letter to the Applicant at <u>lojaluis78@gmail.com</u>, which is the email address that the Applicant provided to the Commission on the 2024 Renewal Application. The Commission also unsuccessfully attempted to personally serve the Applicant with the April 2, 2025 letter.

If the Loja Jr Construction Corp. Registration Renewal Application is denied, Loja Jr Construction Corp. will not be legally authorized to operate as a trade waste business in New York City. Unauthorized trade waste activity in New York City could result in criminal charges and/or significant civil monetary penalties. *See* Title 16-A of the New York City Administrative Code Section 16-515(b).

Again, the Applicant failed to respond.

# **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  $a[n] \dots$  administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction..." See Admin. Code § 16-509(a)(x); see also 16-513(a)(iv).

As of the date of this Revised Notice, the Applicant has failed to pay \$34,612.88 in Environmental Control Board violations and \$218.86 in New York City tax warrants. The Commission's staff informed the Applicant of the existence of these violations and the tax warrant. Despite the warnings, the violations and the tax warrant remain unsatisfied. Moreover, the Applicant has not even demonstrated an attempt to address these debts. Based on this independently sufficient ground, the Commission's staff recommends that the Commission deny the 2024 Renewal Application.

# 2. The Applicant Knowingly Failed to Provide Information and 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 communications which notified the Applicant of the existence of several Environmental Control Board violations and a New York City tax warrant, the Applicant did not resolve the violations or the tax warrant and did not respond to the Commission's communications. Based on this independently sufficient ground, the Commission's staff recommends that the Commission deny the 2024 Renewal Application.

# Conclusion

The Commission is vested with broad discretion to refuse to issue a license or registration to any applicant that it determines lacks good character, honesty, and integrity. The record as detailed above demonstrates that the Applicant lacks those essential qualities. Accordingly, based on the two independently sufficient grounds detailed above, the Commission denies Loja JR Construction Corp.'s Registration Renewal Application.

This registration denial is effective immediately. Loja JR Construction Corp. may not operate as a trade waste business in the City of New York.

Dated: New York, New York July 1, 2025

# [SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

SIGNATURE PAGE Loja JR Construction Corp. Denial Decision

> THE NEW YORK CITY BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Elizabeth Crotty

Commissioner and Chair

Frank Marshall Assistant Commissioner Department of Sanitation

Jocelyn Strauber Commissioner Department of Investigation

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