

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Investigation of **Baltazar G. Ruiz d/b/a Ruiz Trucking, of Garden City, Kansas**, Regarding the Violation(s) of the Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules and Regulations and the Commission's Authority to Impose Penalties, Sanctions and/or the Revocation of Motor Carrier Authority. ) Docket No. 22-TRAM-510-PEN

**JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF  
UNANIMOUS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Staff and Commission, respectively), and Baltazar G. Ruiz d/b/a Ruiz Trucking (Ruiz Trucking or Carrier), file this Joint Motion requesting the Commission issue an order approving the attached Unanimous Settlement Agreement. In support of its Motion, Staff and Carrier state as follows:

1. From May 3 to May 26, 2022, Commission Staff (Staff) Special Investigators (SIs) Erica Pargas and Penny Fryback conducted a compliance review on Carrier's motor carrier operations. As a result of the review, SIs Pargas and Fryback identified sixteen (16) violations of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.
2. On May 19, 2022, the Commission issued an order in this docket suspending the intrastate motor carrier operations of Ruiz Trucking based on the findings of the Staff's compliance review.
3. On June 28, 2022, the Commission issued a Penalty Order in this docket assessing a \$12,700 civil penalty against Carrier.
4. On July 11, 2022, Ruiz Trucking filed a Motion to Vacate Fine Upon Surrender of Motor Carrier Authority.

5. On August 11, 2022 and in subsequent correspondence thereafter, Van Z. Hampton, Attorney for Ruiz Trucking, and Ahsan Latif, Litigation Counsel for Staff, informally discussed the possibility of a settlement. During the informal discussions, Staff and Carrier were able to reach mutually agreeable terms in anticipated settlement of the issues. It was agreed that Staff would subsequently reduce the terms to writing and forward the draft to Carrier for approval and signature.

6. The resulting signed Unanimous Settlement Agreement is attached hereto and is hereby incorporated by reference. This Agreement resolves all issues in this proceeding between Staff and Carrier. The parties believe that the Agreement represents a reasonable and fair resolution of this matter and that the Commission should approve the Agreement.

7. Should the Commission accept the terms of the attached Unanimous Settlement Agreement, the parties waive their respective rights to cross-examine witnesses and present oral arguments or written briefs to the Commission. The parties also waive their rights to request reconsideration of the Commission order approving the Agreement and waive their rights to seek judicial review of said order.

**WHEREFORE**, for the reasons set forth herein, Staff and Baltazar G. Ruiz d/b/a Ruiz Trucking request this Joint Motion be granted, and that the attached Unanimous Settlement Agreement be approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Ahsan A. Latif*

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

*/s/ Van Z. Hampton*  
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Attorney for Ruiz Trucking

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners:      Dwight D. Keen, Chair  
                                     Susan K. Duffy  
                                     Andrew J. French

In the Matter of the Investigation of **Baltazar G. Ruiz d/b/a Ruiz Trucking, of Garden City, Kansas**, Regarding the Violation(s) of the Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules and Regulations and the Commission's Authority to Impose Penalties, Sanctions and/or the Revocation of Motor Carrier Authority.      Docket No. 22-TRAM-510-PEN

**UNANIMOUS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

This Unanimous Settlement Agreement (Agreement) is entered into by and between the Staff of the Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Staff and Commission, respectively), and Baltazar G. Ruiz d/b/a Ruiz Trucking (Ruiz Trucking or Carrier). Its effective date will be the date the Commission enters an order approving or amending the terms of the Agreement.

**I. JURISDICTION**

1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,108b, 66-1,111, 66-1,112 and 66-1,114b, the Commission is given full power, authority and jurisdiction to supervise and control motor carriers, as defined in 49 C.F.R. Part 390.5 and as adopted by K.A.R. 82-4-3f, doing business or procuring business in Kansas, and is empowered to do all things necessary and convenient for the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction.

2. Pursuant to K.S.A. Supp. 66-1,129a, 66-1,130 and 66-1,142b, and amendments thereto, the Commission may suspend operations, revoke or amend certificates, and initiate sanctions or fines against every motor carrier and every person who violates any provision of Kansas law in

regard to the regulation of such motor carriers and persons, or who fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the Commission.

3. The Commission has the authority, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-237, to investigate an entity under the Commission's jurisdiction and issue an order on the Commission's own motion when the Commission believes the entity is in violation of the law or any order of the Commission.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

4. From May 3 to May 26, 2022, Commission Staff (Staff) Special Investigators (SIs) Erica Pargas and Penny Fryback conducted a compliance review on Carrier's motor carrier operations. As a result of the review, SIs Pargas and Fryback identified sixteen (16) violations of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

5. On May 19, 2022, the Commission issued an order in this docket suspending the intrastate motor carrier operations of Ruiz Trucking based on the findings of the Staff's compliance review.

6. On June 28, 2022, the Commission issued a Penalty Order in this docket assessing a \$12,700 civil penalty against Carrier.

7. On July 11, 2022, Ruiz Trucking filed a Motion to Vacate Fine Upon Surrender of Motor Carrier Authority.

8. On August 11, 2022 and in subsequent correspondence thereafter, Van Z. Hampton, Attorney for Ruiz Trucking, and Ahsan Latif, Litigation Counsel for Staff, informally discussed the possibility of a settlement. During the informal discussions, Staff and Carrier were able to reach mutually agreeable terms in anticipated settlement of the issues. It was agreed that Staff would subsequently reduce the terms to writing and forward the draft to Carrier for approval and signature.

### **III. TERMS OF THE UNANIMOUS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

9. The parties agree that the Commission has jurisdiction and authority over this matter.

10. The parties also agree that adoption of this Agreement is in the public interest and that the Commission should approve the stipulations as set forth below.

11. Carrier stipulates to the violations as listed in the Commission's Penalty Order, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

12. Baltazar G. Ruiz agrees not to drive a motor vehicle while his U.S. driver's license remains suspended.

13. Ruiz Trucking agrees and understands that the Commission's Order Suspending Intrastate Motor Carrier Authority will remain in place and is not affected by this settlement.

14. Carrier has inactivated its USDOT Number and agrees not to operate as a motor carrier. Staff agrees to hold in abeyance the \$12,700 civil penalty contingent on Carrier's agreement to refrain from motor carrier operations and Mr. Ruiz's agreement not to operate a motor carrier while his driver's license remains suspended. Carrier has agreed to these terms.

15. Carrier understands that if it chooses to resume motor carrier operations or if Mr. Ruiz is found driving a motor vehicle while his license is suspended, the \$12,700 civil penalty would be reinstated and become due and owing immediately. Failure to pay prior to operation could result in further penalties and sanctions.

16. Staff agrees to recommend to the Commission that this Agreement be approved. Staff further agrees that upon approval by the Commission, this Agreement shall constitute a final resolution of this matter.

#### **IV. RESERVATIONS**

13. This Unanimous Settlement Agreement fully resolves issues specifically addressed between the parties. The terms of this Agreement constitute a fair and reasonable resolution of the issues addressed herein.

##### ***A. Negotiated Settlement***

14. This Agreement represents a negotiated settlement that fully resolves the issues raised in this proceeding. The Signatories represent that the terms of this Agreement constitute a fair and reasonable resolution of the issues addressed herein. Except as specified herein, the Signatories shall not be prejudiced, bound by, or affected in any way by the terms of this Agreement: (1) in any future Commission or court proceeding; (2) in any proceeding currently pending before the Commission under a separate docket; and/or (3) in this proceeding, if the Commission decides not to approve this Agreement in total or in any way conditions its approval of the same. This paragraph is not meant to limit future enforcement of this Agreement, should either party fail to fulfill all terms and provisions

##### ***B. Interdependent Provisions***

15. The terms and provisions of this Agreement have resulted from negotiations between the Signatories and are interdependent. In the event the Commission does not approve the terms of the Agreement in total, or materially changes the Agreement terms, the Agreement shall be voidable and no Signatory Party hereto shall be bound by, prejudiced, or in any way affected by any of the terms or provisions hereof, unless otherwise provided herein.

16. If the Commission approves this Agreement in its entirety and incorporates the same into a final order in this docket, the Parties agree to be bound by its terms and the Commission's order incorporating its terms as to all issues addressed herein, and will not appeal the Commission's order.

17. This Unanimous Settlement Agreement shall be binding on all parties upon signing.

**IN WITNESS WHERETO**, the parties hereby execute and approve this Unanimous Settlement Agreement by subscribing their signatures below.

By: /s/ Ahsan A. Latif  
Ahsan A. Latif, S.Ct. #24709  
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Attorney for Ruiz Trucking

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

22-TRAM-510-PEN

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Joint Motion for Approval of Unanimous Settlement Agreement and Unanimous Settlement Agreement were served via First Class US Mail and electronic service this 13th day of September, 2022, to the following:

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Ann Murphy