



Deposition of:  
**Mackhinton Enterprises Hearing**

*June 26, 2019*

In the Matter of:  
**In Re: Mackhinton Enterprises, LLC**

**Freedom Court Reporting**  
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ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MACKHINTON ENTERPRISES, LLC,  
d/b/a USIT INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES  
Applicant,

DOCKET NO. 32919

IN RE:

Application to institute a new operation as a  
common carrier by motor vehicle in intrastate  
commerce over irregular routes in the  
transportation of passengers in between all  
points in the counties of Lamar, Fayette,  
Walker, Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair, Calhoun,  
Cleburne, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Shelby,  
Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Sumter, Green, Hale,  
Perry, Bibb, Chilton, Coosa, Tallapoosa,  
Chambers, Choctaw, Marengo, Dallas, Autauga,  
Elmore, Macon, Lee, and Montgomery.

\* \* \* \* \*

TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS before the  
Honorable Sue Ellen Young, Administrative Law  
Judge, at the Carl L. Evans Chief Administrative  
Law Judge Hearing Complex, 900 RSA Union  
Building, 100 North Union Street, Montgomery,  
Alabama, on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, commencing  
at 10:06 a.m.; and reported by Haley Tunnell.

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APPEARANCES

FOR MACKHINTON ENTERPRISES, LLC:  
Mr. Shawn Blackburn  
809 8th Avenue  
Northport, Alabama 35476

\* \* \* \* \*

1           ALJ YOUNG: For the record, today is  
2           June the 26th, 2019. We are here for Docket  
3           No. 32919. This is an application to  
4           institute a new operation as a common carrier  
5           by motor vehicle intrastate commerce over  
6           irregular routes in the transportation of  
7           passengers between all points in the counties  
8           of Lamar, Fayette, Walker, Jefferson, Blount,  
9           St. Clair, Calhoun, Cleburne, Pickens,  
10          Tuscaloosa, Shelby, Talladega, Clay,  
11          Randolph, Sumter, Green, Hale, Perry, Bibb,  
12          Chilton, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Chambers,  
13          Choctaw, Marengo, Dallas, Autauga, Elmore,  
14          Macon, Lee, and Montgomery counties.

15                 The applicant's name is Mackhinton  
16                 Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a USIT Infrastructure  
17                 Services.

18                 This application was filed on or  
19                 about June the 12th, 2019, and the notice of  
20                 hearing was served on or about June 13,  
21                 2000 -- I said '10 -- 2019. And it just hit  
22                 me that I did that. I'm sorry. And the date  
23                 and notice of hearing was served on or about

1 June 13, 2019. The record indicates that  
2 there have been no interventions filed.

3 To begin with, we'll take  
4 appearances, who will be appearing on behalf  
5 of the applicant. If you'll say your name,  
6 position, and business address.

7 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes. I am Shawn  
8 Keith Blackburn. I am the owner of  
9 Mackhinton Enterprises, LLC. The address is  
10 809 8th Avenue, Northport, Alabama 35476.

11 ALJ YOUNG: All right. Thank you.

12 Let the record indicate there are no  
13 further appearances.

14 And do you have any preliminary  
15 matters? Any changes to your application,  
16 anything of that nature, updated information?

17 MR. BLACKBURN: None to provide at  
18 this time.

19 ALJ YOUNG: Okay. If you will raise  
20 your right hand, I will swear you in.

21 Do you solemnly swear that the  
22 testimony you give in this proceeding will be  
23 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but

1 the truth, so help you God?

2 MR. BLACKBURN: I do.

3 ALJ YOUNG: All right. If you will,  
4 when you're giving your testimony, if there  
5 are any questions from the bench, instead of  
6 nodding, be sure you answer so that the court  
7 reporter can hear your answers.

8 And can you hear him okay over  
9 there?

10 COURT REPORTER: Yeah. That's fine.

11 ALJ YOUNG: Okay. I don't think  
12 there's any need for you to move here, if you  
13 want to just stay there because you got more  
14 room.

15 So we can begin. And if you'll make  
16 your presentation in support of your  
17 application.

18 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes, ma'am.

19 ALJ YOUNG: It's your turn.

20 MR. BLACKBURN: Okay. Thank you.

21 Thank you.

22 Again, I'm Shawn Blackburn. I'm  
23 currently working for the City of Northport

1 Police Department. I am the systems  
2 administrator in the IT department. IT has  
3 been my background. And prior to working for  
4 the City of Northport, I worked 15 years for  
5 the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.  
6 Prior to that, I worked out of the mayor's  
7 office in Birmingham for about nine months.  
8 And prior to that, I spent a long 20-year  
9 career working for Department of the Army in  
10 Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, at an  
11 installation, Letterkenny Army Depot. There,  
12 I maintained a secret security clearance, and  
13 I wrote software products, wrote and  
14 maintained software products for the Defense  
15 Logistics Agency.

16 I have quite a bit of a history in  
17 IT, so -- which leads me to why I'm trying to  
18 start a business in transportation. I saw  
19 the need. I'm going to try to address these  
20 things maybe out of order in which you gave  
21 me.

22 ALJ YOUNG: You can take -- you can  
23 do it in whatever order you would like to.

1 Just make sure you hit on the points that  
2 I've told you I need to hear about.

3 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes, ma'am.

4 So I also happen to be the acting  
5 chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission  
6 for the City of Northport. And I often talk  
7 to the mayor, the city administrator, and  
8 folks in planning about what's lacking in the  
9 city of Northport. The city of Northport is  
10 really a stone's throw away from Tuscaloosa,  
11 Alabama. And it is about -- situated about  
12 an hour south of Birmingham and about an hour  
13 and a half north of Montgomery.

14 And so right now, as far as a  
15 service to the citizens of Northport, there  
16 is no transit authority, and the city of  
17 Tuscaloosa's Transit Authority makes no stops  
18 in Northport.

19 There are -- when I ask for numbers,  
20 there are very few, if no transportation  
21 business licenses in the city of Northport.  
22 In the rural area, we have a population that  
23 I think is neglected. So I thought this

1 is -- what better way to serve my community  
2 and also go into business in the start of a  
3 small transportation service.

4 I am not interested in being a  
5 trucker or driving big rigs or anything of  
6 that nature, nor am I interested in going  
7 outside of the state of Alabama. I am  
8 specifically looking at honing in on that  
9 geographical area to service.

10 And also how I got into the  
11 transportation business is that I was looking  
12 to satisfy a DHR request, and they had an RFP  
13 for transportation needs. So I said that  
14 that's further evidence for me that this is  
15 where I need to focus. So that's how my --  
16 how the transportation idea or the  
17 transportation business actually got started.  
18 That is a need that I am trying to satisfy.

19 We're looking at operating from  
20 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We're looking at  
21 being available not only for non-profits and  
22 for business entities, but also for a  
23 doctor's office or someone that may want to

1 contract on a legitimate schedule from A and  
2 B and want to do it everyday. So we're  
3 looking at trying to satisfy that requirement  
4 or that need as well.

5 As far as insurances are concerned,  
6 I am fully insured with Alfa Insurance  
7 Agency. We've had to, of course, get the  
8 bonding and surety from a secondary insurance  
9 company, but I do have that.

10 And I currently have just one  
11 vehicle in my fleet right now. And quite  
12 frankly, that's not going to be the vehicle  
13 that I proceed with. Once I get my business  
14 up and running off the ground, I will  
15 purchase two new 14-passenger vans. That's  
16 what we're targeting right now. The vehicle  
17 I have right now is insured. It is a 2007  
18 Caravan. It seats only about seven, maybe  
19 eight folks. I have -- as of right now, I  
20 have not used that vehicle for this  
21 transportation business purpose. I have had  
22 no clients or customers thus far. I felt  
23 that it was strong that I get all of these

1       certifications and requirements behind me and  
2       learn as much, more, as I can about the  
3       transportation business before I actually  
4       carried someone. And I am in the midst of  
5       doing all of those things as we speak.

6               The business, of course, will  
7       preside at -- if you notice, it's the same  
8       address as my home address. It is a HUB  
9       zone. We will take advantage of those  
10      opportunities as well.

11              And as far as finances are  
12      concerned, I am committed to using my  
13      personal finances to help finance the  
14      business, and I've done that thus far to  
15      date. That's why I continue to stay  
16      employed.

17              But it is my intentions, though,  
18      once I get the transportation services up and  
19      going full speed, full steam, 100 percent, I  
20      am going to -- I know I don't look like I'm  
21      at retirement age, but I'm going to retire  
22      early, and I'm going to pursue my passion,  
23      which is to be my own business owner and to

1 be successful in this transportation  
2 business.

3 I think I may have touched on most  
4 of the qualifications. Are there any  
5 questions at this point?

6 ALJ YOUNG: Yeah, I'll have a few  
7 questions. You can finish everything that  
8 you would like for us to know, and then I  
9 will ask a few clarification questions.

10 MR. BLACKBURN: Okay.

11 A little bit about the structure of  
12 the business. I do believe in  
13 diversification. So when you see -- I just  
14 think this was God. When you look at the  
15 name of the business and it says USIT  
16 Infrastructure Services, when you think  
17 infrastructure, you right away can think  
18 about transportation. But, actually, the  
19 doing business as was for doing business as  
20 United States Information Technology  
21 Infrastructure Services. That's where we  
22 were focusing on, because that's what I did  
23 at the University of Alabama for 15 years,

1 and I have a son who's also in the IT  
2 industry, doing that very thing, IT  
3 infrastructure, installing switches,  
4 installing fiber, cabling, telephony, cable  
5 television, et cetera, et cetera.

6 So what we thought we would do is  
7 just parlay that into the transportation  
8 opportunity and seek any opportunities out  
9 there for transportation. So that's kind of  
10 the relationship between the Mackhinton  
11 Enterprises and the doing business as name.  
12 We plan to extend the d/b/a and have one that  
13 actually says Mackhinton Transportation in  
14 the future so that we make it very clear to  
15 our customers what our intentions are.

16 So I just wanted to give you that  
17 tidbit as well in case there is some  
18 confusion or questions along that line.

19 That's all I have, I think, at this  
20 juncture.

21 ALJ YOUNG: Okay. I would like to  
22 ask just a few questions to clarify.

23 So at the outset, are you going to

1 be the only driver?

2 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes.

3 ALJ YOUNG: And what kind of  
4 training will you have as a driver?

5 MR. BLACKBURN: I will proceed with  
6 all of the safety training. I'm working  
7 right now with Tuscaloosa since there's very  
8 few opportunities in Northport to receive any  
9 type of training. So I'm actually working  
10 with the transit authority on Greensboro  
11 Avenue, the bus station there, and some other  
12 folks on getting a list of the type of  
13 training that they have all had, and I'm  
14 going to pursue that same training approach.

15 I've yet to receive any or go after  
16 any training, but that's on the very near  
17 horizon.

18 ALJ YOUNG: Do you have any  
19 citations or violations of rules of the road?

20 MR. BLACKBURN: None whatsoever.

21 ALJ YOUNG: Do you -- you talked  
22 about doctors' appointments, non-emergency  
23 medical transportation.

1           Do you intend on having the  
2           availability for non-ambulatory wheelchair  
3           patients to ride?

4           MR. BLACKBURN: I do plan to have --  
5           that very thing has been on our discussion  
6           for some time now. Because with a  
7           14-passenger van, you know, what type of  
8           handicap accessibility can I create? Is it  
9           one by which that handicapped person can --  
10          we can assist them into the vehicle and have  
11          a safety seat and be able to take their  
12          apparatus that they're in and have it on the  
13          outside of the vehicle. We're exploring that  
14          option. Is there any way we can have a  
15          vehicle that we can tailor for transportation  
16          services of handicapped.

17          And what we're thinking is that as  
18          the business grow, let's get off our feet,  
19          and then let's look at purchasing such a  
20          vehicle down the road. As of right now,  
21          let's just try to accommodate that  
22          handicapped passenger as best we can  
23          according to regulations.

1           ALJ YOUNG:  You said that DHR had a  
2           need.

3           What was the need that DHR has, what  
4           kind of passengers and to go where.

5           MR. BLACKBURN:  Absolutely.  We were  
6           taking a look at the DHR childcare facility  
7           program.  They have 128 kids to place, and I  
8           think that contract was let and is closed  
9           now, and I did not apply for that contract.  
10          But it had a proponent on it that followed  
11          for transportation of these children.  And I  
12          said what better opportunity for my  
13          transportation business.

14          So we are looking at right now at  
15          trying to be able to capitalize on that need  
16          by DHR to transport those children from  
17          whatever group home facility they're in to  
18          wherever service that they need to provide  
19          for those children.

20          ALJ YOUNG:  Okay.  And are you aware  
21          that there's a nonprofit certificate that you  
22          can get from this commission that will allow  
23          you to do work for -- it doesn't mean you're

1 not for profit.

2 MR. BLACKBURN: Right.

3 ALJ YOUNG: It means you're doing  
4 work for nonprofit.

5 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes, ma'am. I got  
6 that certificate and the e-mail just two days  
7 ago, and I have it.

8 ALJ YOUNG: All right.

9 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes.

10 ALJ YOUNG: And would you say that  
11 you consider your past experience overall as  
12 a qualifier for you to run a company and  
13 provide service, transportation service?

14 MR. BLACKBURN: My past experience  
15 absolutely from a managerial administrative  
16 prospective gives me what I need, I think, to  
17 run such a business. Because transportation  
18 is new to me, it would be a falsehood to say  
19 that I'm an expert in transportation. I'm  
20 not there yet, but I think I can get there,  
21 and that is our goal, is to provide flawless  
22 service to folks who need transportation.  
23 And that's why I'm taking an approach of just

1 being a single driver first by myself, get up  
2 to speed, learn everything we need, and be  
3 very cautious about the people that I hire.

4 And, again, I have a son who has  
5 graduated from the University of Alabama, who  
6 needs some direction and some guidance, and  
7 I'm thinking and hoping that I can bring him  
8 on board, and he will help me with this  
9 business. As a matter of fact, I know he  
10 will.

11 ALJ YOUNG: Okay. Are you willing  
12 to familiarize yourself with the rules and  
13 regulations of the Alabama Public Service  
14 Commission, rules of the road, et cetera, and  
15 to continue to make yourself aware of those  
16 and follow those and to seek -- you can  
17 always seek help at the commission, if you  
18 have a question, you're not sure how  
19 something works. You can always do that.

20 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes.

21 ALJ YOUNG: But will you familiarize  
22 yourself and follow the rules?

23 MR. BLACKBURN: Absolutely, I will.

1 I got to tell you, I hope that  
2 Mr. Bentley is not tired of me calling, but  
3 I've called that office a couple of times.

4 Is that Mr. Bentley?

5 ALJ YOUNG: No. But those two  
6 people here will be happy to help you.  
7 They're the experts.

8 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes. Awesome.  
9 Thank you. I'll make sure that I, please,  
10 get your contact information.

11 But I've already made several calls  
12 just wanting to know first what should I  
13 expect today at 10:00 or, you know, what's  
14 going on with my application, what do you  
15 need. My Form E is not -- oh, it's not  
16 accurate, you know. So, okay, I'll get that  
17 document to you, et cetera, et cetera.

18 So I think -- I don't think you know  
19 be my name down here yet, but I've already  
20 established some communications with you.

21 And, yes, as far as familiarizing  
22 myself, I -- the rules of practice, I'm  
23 perusing through them and also trying to

1       apply them to the questions asked in the  
2       application about 1370 -- I forget which  
3       passage that was, and the also the Motor  
4       Carrier general orders as well as the 1975  
5       Alabama State law.

6               ALJ YOUNG: That concludes any  
7       questions I have.

8               Do you have anything else that you  
9       would like to add?

10              MR. BLACKBURN: I just thank you for  
11       this opportunity. I really do appreciate it.

12              ALJ YOUNG: You're welcome for that.  
13       We are happy to provide this public service.

14              And, well, there's one other thing.  
15       You have a right to a report and recommended  
16       order. And if you would like to -- it can  
17       possibly expedite the processing of your  
18       application, if you would like to waive your  
19       right to that report and recommended ordered.

20              Would you like to do that?

21              MR. BLACKBURN: Yes, ma'am, I would  
22       like to waive.

23              ALJ YOUNG: All right. Seeing that

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there are no further questions, I'll take  
this matter under advisement, and this  
hearing is concluded.

Thank you.

(Proceedings adjourned at 10:24  
a.m.)

\* \* \* \* \*  
END OF PROCEEDINGS  
\* \* \* \* \*

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALABAMA  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I, Haley Tunnell, Court Reporter,  
Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large,  
hereby certify that on June 26, 2019, I reported  
the testimony and proceedings in the foregoing  
cause and that pages 3 through 20 contain a true  
and accurate transcription of the proceedings  
set out herein.

I further certify that I am neither kin nor  
counsel to any of the parties to said cause, nor  
in any manner interested in the results thereof.



HALEY TUNNELL, Court Reporter  
Commissioner for the  
State of Alabama at Large  
ACCR 639, Expires 09/30/19  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 02/25/23

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