



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Transit
Administration

REGION I
Connecticut, Maine,
Massachusetts,
New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont

Volpe Center
55 Broadway Suite 904
Cambridge, MA 02142
617-494-2055
617-494-2865 (fax)

NOV 14 1997

Thomas Chilik, General Manager
Greenfield Montague Transportation Area
382 Deerfield Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

Dear Mr. Chilik:

Reference is made to your October 23, 1997, response to the charter complaint filed by Mr. Donald Sadler of Chapin & Sadler, Inc. Specifically, Mr. Sadler alleged that the Greenfield Montague Transportation Area (GMTA) performed impermissible charter service for a trip that was originally booked with Chapin & Sadler. In addition, he submitted evidence that GMTA advertises itself as a charter company in the local telephone directory.

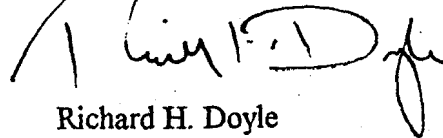
According to your response, GMTA did provide the charter service in question by transporting a group of passengers from the Blessed Sacrament Church to the Marian Fathers Shrine in Stockbridge. You explain that the violation occurred because your staff did not understand that this was a charter trip that should have been referred to a private operator, and maintain that you have taken corrective measures to avoid making such errors in the future. You also state that the reference to charter service will be deleted from the November 1997 issue of the telephone directory.

As you know, 49 U.S.C. 5323(d) and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) implementing regulation, 49 CFR Part 604, prohibit an FTA recipient from providing charter service using FTA-funded equipment or facilities if a private operator in its geographic area is willing and able to perform the service, unless one or more of the exceptions listed at 49 CFR § 604.9 apply. You are also reminded that applicants seeking FTA assistance must certify annually that they understand these requirements and that violation thereof may require corrective measures and the imposition of penalties, including debarment from the receipt of further Federal assistance for transportation.

In light of the foregoing, FTA deems it incumbent upon GMTA to properly train its employees to ensure that violations of this sort do not occur in the future. Finally, we request that you forward a copy of GMTA's listing from the November 1997 issue of your telephone directory for our records.

We trust this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please call Margaret Foley at (617) 494-2409.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the end.

Richard H. Doyle
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Sadler

