

Yellow Cab asks judge to halt new taxi contracts

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SALT LAKE CITY — One of the taxi companies that lost out on a bid to provide service at Salt Lake City International Airport is not giving up without a fight.

Yellow Cab Drivers Association has filed a complaint in civil court asking a judge to issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction against Salt Lake City Corp., which awarded contracts to two taxi companies to provide taxi service at the state's largest airport and citywide.

The matter will go before Judge Kate Toomey Friday morning.

The legal action stemmed from the announcement Wednesday that the Salt Lake City Department of Airports had awarded Ace Taxi Service of Cleveland, Ohio, and Total Transit of Glendale, Ariz., contracts to provide ground transportation at the airport and across the city. The companies were selected in a competitive bid process.

The new companies would replace Yellow Cab, Ute Cab and City Cab whose contracts are about to expire.

The Department of Airports said that companies submitted proposals that were ranked by a seven member voting panel that based its decision on evaluation of six criteria, including quality of service, driver programs, operational plan, prior general and specialized experience, fees and financial performance.

In a statement, the department said the winning companies offered plans that included employment opportunities for current local drivers who have a demonstrated record of

competence and quality customer service.

Yellow Cab and Ute Cab had contracted with the city for years, but the Salt Lake City Council voted to turn ground transportation responsibilities over to the Department of Airports in August. Soon after, the department devised a plan to open taxi contracting up to a competitive bid process. Ace Taxi and Total Transit were selected based on reviews of their detailed proposals, according to airport spokeswoman Barbara Gann.

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