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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>Khambatta Karl</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>3200 OLYMPUS BOULEVARD</u><br><u>SUITE 300</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>DALLAS TX 75019</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring<br>Statement (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>06/17/2026</u> | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>FORWARD AIR CORP [ FWRD ]</u>                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                               | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><br><u>Chief Transformation Officer</u> | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed<br>(Month/Day/Year)<br><br><br><br>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check<br>Applicable Line)<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><br>Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities<br>Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership<br>Form: Direct (D) or<br>Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr.<br>5) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Common Stock</u>             | <u>6,378<sup>(1)</sup></u>                               | <u>D</u>                                                       |                                                          |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                    | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying<br>Derivative Security (Instr. 4) |                                     | 4. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 5. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect<br>Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | Date<br>Exercisable                                            | Expiration<br>Date | Title                                                                          | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                             |

**Explanation of Responses:**  
1. Includes an aggregate of 5,031 unvested restricted stock awards (RSAs). These RSAs vest in three equal annual installments on each anniversary of their respective grant dates, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Issuer through each applicable vesting date.

**Remarks:**  
See Exhibit 24.1 - Power of Attorney

/s/ Michael L. Hance, Attorney-in-  
Fact 06/29/2026  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.  
\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).  
\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).  
Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.  
Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints (i) Michael L. Hance and (ii) solely with respect to items 1, 2 and 3 below, Oliver Duke and Kristine Price, in each case, signing singly, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

1. obtain credentials (including codes or passwords) enabling the undersigned to make filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including (a) preparing, executing in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submitting to the SEC a Form ID (and any amendments thereto) or any other documents necessary or appropriate to obtain such credentials and legally binding the undersigned for purpose of the Form ID or such other documents; and (b) enrolling the undersigned in EDGAR Next or any successor filing system;
2. act as an account administrator for the undersigned's EDGAR account, including (a) appointing, removing and replacing account administrators, technical administrators, account users, and delegated entities; (b) maintaining the security of filer's EDGAR account, including modification of access codes; (c) maintaining, modifying and certifying the accuracy of information on the undersigned's EDGAR account dashboard; and (d) taking any other actions contemplated by Rule 10 of Regulation S-T;
3. cause Forward Air Corporation (the "Company") to accept a delegation of authority from the undersigned's EDGAR account administrators and authorize the Company's EDGAR account administrators pursuant to that delegated entity designation to appoint, remove or replace users for the undersigned's EDGAR account; and
4. execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company, (a) Forms 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and the rules thereunder, and (b) Forms 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules thereunder (collectively, the "Required Filings");
5. do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Required Filings, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the SEC and any stock exchange or similar authority;
6. take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-facts substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully

do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby revokes all previous powers of attorney that have been granted by him in connection with his reporting obligations, if any, under Section 16 of the Exchange Act with respect to his holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company. This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of June 19th, 2026.

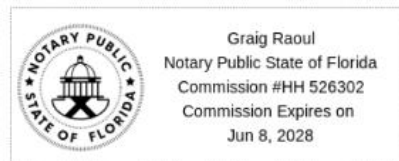
By:   
Name: Karl Khambatta  
State of Florida )  
County of Broward )

On 06-19-2026 before me, KARL MACK KHAMBATTA (insert name of the notary) personally appeared Karl Khambatta, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of Florida that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature  (Seal)



Online notarization performed via audio/video communication



