



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Report on DWI Vehicle Forfeiture

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DWI Vehicle Seizures October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has administered a statewide contract for the towing, storage, and sale of vehicles seized under North Carolina's DWI seizure law since June 1, 1999. This effectively removed local school systems from the administration of the DWI vehicle seizure laws. Tarheel Specialties Inc. of Linden, NC is the current statewide contractor for towing, storage, and sale of DWI seized vehicles.

The following data were compiled for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, from reports prepared by the Division of Motor Vehicles and Tarheel Specialties.

- A total of 4,747 vehicles were impounded, averaging over 90 vehicles per week.
- A total of 833 vehicles were released to innocent owners or lienholders upon payment of towing and storage fees. (\$8,330 going to the General Fund of North Carolina)
- For three months (since July 1, 2004) Tarheel Specialties split the storage cost of released vehicles (90%/10%) with LEAs, resulting in \$9,945 revenue for the LEAs statewide.
- 3,057 vehicles were sold at public auction for a total of \$2,049,035 or an average of \$670 per vehicle. Tarheel Specialties received \$323,255 for paying out initial towing and storage fees to local towing companies. Tarheel Specialties received \$22,745 for towing and selling fees, and \$1,231,628 for storage fees. The contractor is allowed to charge \$10 per day for storage, as long as the total cost does not result in any loss to the state or local school district. Administrative fees totaling \$30,570 were sent to the General Fund of North Carolina.
- Most DWI seized vehicles are auctioned under the expedited sales provision of the DWI seizure law.
- Local school systems received \$203,390 from the contractor for storage fees and proceeds from the sale of vehicles forfeited to local School Boards. Tarheel Specialties also sent \$70,338 to the Clerks of Court for vehicles not yet forfeited.
- Tarheel Specialties has approximately 2,100 vehicles that remain impounded.
- During the reporting period, 362 vehicles were reported forfeited by the Courts.
- Six forfeited vehicles have been retained by School Boards for their own use.

The attached document indicates breakdown by county of the numbers stated above.



Picture at left shows storage facility at Tarheel Specialties in Linden, NC.

For additional information, contact DPI Transportation Services, (919) 807-3570.

- Derek Graham, Section Chief
- Stephen Beachum, Consultant

DIVISION OF SCHOOL SUPPORT, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2003 - Sept. 30, 2004	Numer of vehicles released to innocent owners and lienholders	LEA Proceeds - Storage	LEA Proceeds - Forfeited Vehicles	Proceeds deposited with Clerk of Court - due to LEA if vehicle forfeited
ALAMANCE	115	22	\$ 1,319	\$ -	\$ 50
ALEXANDER	32	2	\$ 1,459	\$ -	\$ 920
ALLEGHANY	4	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ANSON	13	1	\$ 106	\$ -	\$ -
ASHE	6	0	\$ 1,024	\$ -	\$ -
AVERY	5	2	\$ 212	\$ -	\$ -
BEAUFORT	56	10	\$ 1,387	\$ -	\$ 550
BERTIE	2	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BLADEN	21	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BRUNSWICK	60	12	\$ 835	\$ -	\$ -
BUNCOMBE	76	11	\$ 3,313	\$ -	\$ 1,150
BURKE	88	9	\$ 2,172	\$ -	\$ 405
CABARRUS	170	32	\$ 4,913	\$ -	\$ 180
CALDWELL	88	12	\$ 722	\$ -	\$ 830
CAMDEN	1	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CARTERET	68	19	\$ 5,279	\$ 6,860	\$ 870
CASWELL	20	0	\$ 2,476	\$ -	\$ 645
CATAWBA	103	28	\$ 3,042	\$ -	\$ 2,340
CHATHAM	37	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CHEROKEE	16	1	\$ 541	\$ -	\$ 280
CHOWAN	6	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLAY	1	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLEVELAND	28	1	\$ 620	\$ -	\$ 3,245
COLUMBUS	20	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CRAVEN	30	9	\$ 3,953	\$ 405	\$ 2,535
CUMBERLAND	65	27	\$ 728	\$ -	\$ 110
CURRITUCK	9	2	\$ 1,702	\$ -	\$ -
DARE	72	11	\$ 1,790	\$ -	\$ -
DAVIDSON	81	13	\$ 953	\$ -	\$ -
DAVIE	30	5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DUPLIN	33	3	\$ 806	\$ -	\$ -
DURHAM	35	8	\$ 2,904	\$ -	\$ 830
EDGECOMBE	32	6	\$ 1,298	\$ -	\$ -
FORSYTH	170	39	\$ 7,202	\$ -	\$ 3,080
FRANKLIN	58	8	\$ 599	\$ -	\$ -
GASTON	166	24	\$ 7,343	\$ -	\$ 3,445
GATES	4	0	\$ 2,705	\$ -	\$ -
GRAHAM	1	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANVILLE	22	5	\$ 1,248	\$ -	\$ 1,065
GREENE	14	2	\$ 278	\$ -	\$ -
GUILFORD	244	40	\$ 11,590	\$ -	\$ 653
HALIFAX	33	2	\$ 354	\$ -	\$ -
HARNETT	58	15	\$ 2,780	\$ -	\$ 1,575
HAYWOOD	17	3	\$ 833	\$ -	\$ -
HENDERSON	66	4	\$ 6,135	\$ -	\$ 4,333
HERTFORD	17	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HOKE	29	5	\$ 1,754	\$ -	\$ -
HYDE	4	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IREDELL	95	13	\$ 5,032	\$ -	\$ 2,240
JACKSON	15	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
JOHNSTON	84	14	\$ 3,317	\$ -	\$ 2,480
JONES	4	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LEE	43	10	\$ 2,568	\$ -	\$ 10
LENOIR	44	12	\$ 2,101	\$ 3,745	\$ 2,325
LINCOLN	25	4	\$ 283	\$ -	\$ -
MACON	10	2	\$ 868	\$ -	\$ 560
MADISON	18	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MARTIN	14	3	\$ 657	\$ -	\$ 100
McDOWELL	17	1	\$ 708	\$ -	\$ 440

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2003 - Sept. 30, 2004	Numer of vehicles released to innocent owners and lienholders	LEA Proceeds - Storage	LEA Proceeds - Forfeited Vehicles	Proceeds deposited with Clerk of Court - due to LEA if vehicle forfeited
MECKLENBURG	159	54	\$ 6,297	\$ 5,255	\$ 1,300
MITCHELL	7	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MONTGOMERY	35	6	\$ 1,348	\$ -	\$ -
MOORE	50	7	\$ 1,762	\$ -	\$ 635
NASH	81	10	\$ 1,482	\$ -	\$ 1,405
NEW HANOVER	133	32	\$ 3,462	\$ -	\$ 919
NORTHAMPTON	9	1	\$ 1,080	\$ -	\$ 2,010
ONslow	88	20	\$ 2,832	\$ -	\$ 605
ORANGE	45	6	\$ 1,031	\$ -	\$ 900
PAMLICO	5	0	\$ 1,047	\$ -	\$ -
PASQUOTANK	24	2	\$ 1,988	\$ -	\$ 2,070
PENDER	26	6	\$ 590	\$ -	\$ -
PERQUIMANS	2	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PERSON	39	4	\$ 1,296	\$ -	\$ 1,585
PITT	45	4	\$ 798	\$ -	\$ -
POLK	15	1	\$ 162	\$ -	\$ -
RANDOLPH	99	13	\$ 4,495	\$ -	\$ 220
RICHMOND	30	4	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -
ROBESON	31	6	\$ 1,318	\$ -	\$ 545
ROCKINGHAM	84	9	\$ 3,633	\$ -	\$ 800
ROWAN	69	13	\$ 1,806	\$ -	\$ 115
RUTHERFORD	47	3	\$ 912	\$ -	\$ 220
SAMPSON	42	5	\$ 2,144	\$ -	\$ 590
SCOTLAND	38	7	\$ 460	\$ -	\$ -
STANLY	50	6	\$ 2,675	\$ -	\$ 685
STOKES	43	4	\$ 2,736	\$ -	\$ 1,420
SURRY	72	3	\$ 1,363	\$ -	\$ 930
SWAIN	7	0	\$ 103	\$ -	\$ -
TRANSYLVANIA	11	1	\$ 1,312	\$ -	\$ 485
TYRRELL	7	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	55	11	\$ 3,581	\$ -	\$ 5,100
VANCE	56	6	\$ 984	\$ -	\$ 760
WAKE	248	84	\$ 14,879	\$ -	\$ 8,010
WARREN	18	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WASHINGTON	8	0	\$ 143	\$ -	\$ -
WATAUGA	25	4	\$ 512	\$ 1,010	\$ -
WAYNE	74	15	\$ 2,579	\$ -	\$ 15
WILKES	64	3	\$ 2,354	\$ 870	\$ 205
WILSON	46	2	\$ 5,597	\$ -	\$ 1,563
YADKIN	53	6	\$ 3,597	\$ 903	\$ -
YANCEY	12	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	4,747	833	\$ 184,342	\$ 19,048	\$ 70,338

Forfeited Vehicles Retained for use by School Boards

Carteret County	1996 Dodge Pickup
Cumberland County	1998 Ford F150
Franklin County	2003 Toyota Tacoma
Mecklenburg County	2001 Chevrolet Suburban
New Hanover County	1997 Nissan Frontier
Pender County	1994 Isuzu Trooper