



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

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# **Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

*Report on DWI Vehicle Forfeiture*

*Session Law 1998 – 182, Section 38*

*Senate Bill 1336*

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**Date Due: December 1, 2008**

**Report # 19**

**DPI Chronological Schedule, 2008-2009**

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## DWI Vehicle Seizures October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

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, 2007 through September 30, 2008, from reports prepared by the Division of Motor Vehicles and Tarheel Specialties.

- A total of 4,085 vehicles were impounded, averaging over 79 vehicles per week.
- A total of 708 vehicles were released to innocent owners or lienholders upon payment of towing and storage fees. (\$7,080 going to the General Fund of North Carolina)
- Tarheel Specialties splits the storage cost of released vehicles (90%/10%) with LEAs, resulting in \$45,058 revenue for the LEAs statewide.
- 1,826 vehicles were sold at public auction for a total of \$2,117,590 or an average of \$1,160 per vehicle. Tarheel Specialties paid out \$245,695 to local tow companies to take possession of seized vehicles. 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 \$18,260 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 \$232,169 from the contractor for storage fees and proceeds from the sale of vehicles forfeited to local School Boards. Tarheel Specialties also sent \$107,293 to the Clerks of Court for vehicles not yet forfeited.
- Tarheel Specialties has approximately 1,800 vehicles that remain impounded.
- During the reporting period 156 vehicles were reported forfeited by the Courts.
- Two forfeited vehicles have been retained by Local 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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008	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	60	9	\$ 4,388.00	\$ -	\$ 1,880.00
ALEXANDER	14	2	\$ 1,572.00	\$ -	\$ 995.00
ALLEGHANY	7	0	\$ 424.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00
ANSON	4	1	\$ 85.00	\$ -	\$ -
ASHE	22	1	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ -
AVERY	14	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BEAUFORT	52	6	\$ 597.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
BERTIE	6	0	\$ 1,806.00	\$ -	\$ -
BLADEN	22	7	\$ 480.00	\$ -	\$ -
BRUNSWICK	45	9	\$ 2,464.00	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00
BUNCOMBE	95	14	\$ 5,320.00	\$ -	\$ 1,140.00
BURKE	66	5	\$ 2,075.00	\$ -	\$ 1,515.00
CABARRUS	148	23	\$ 3,170.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00
CALDWELL	58	4	\$ 2,759.00	\$ -	\$ 805.00
CAMDEN	1	0	\$ 644.00	\$ -	\$ 595.00
CARTERET	86	13	\$ 5,910.00	\$ 8,129.00	\$ 1,640.00
CASWELL	6	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CATAWBA	73	3	\$ 5,323.00	\$ -	\$ 5,160.00
CHATHAM	27	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CHEROKEE	13	1	\$ 980.00	\$ -	\$ 440.00
CHOWAN	2	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLAY	4	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLEVELAND	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMBUS	11	2	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ -
CRAVEN	14	3	\$ 1,650.00	\$ -	\$ 275.00
CUMBERLAND	35	12	\$ 1,269.00	\$ 2,947.00	\$ 370.00
CURRITUCK	9	1	\$ 419.00	\$ -	\$ -
DARE	45	7	\$ 3,864.00	\$ 4,527.00	\$ 390.00
DAVIDSON	60	11	\$ 2,249.00	\$ -	\$ 310.00
DAVIE	22	1	\$ 1,382.00	\$ -	\$ 4,885.00
DUPLIN	24	2	\$ 97.00	\$ -	\$ -
DURHAM	18	1	\$ 172.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00
EDGEcombe	29	4	\$ 1,209.00	\$ -	\$ 780.00
FORSYTH	121	21	\$ 9,195.00	\$ -	\$ 3,480.00
FRANKLIN	54	10	\$ 882.00	\$ -	\$ 140.00
GASTON	126	13	\$ 7,957.00	\$ -	\$ 1,780.00
GATES	3	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRAHAM	5	1	\$ 235.00	\$ -	\$ -
GRANVILLE	3	1	\$ 44.00	\$ -	\$ -
GREENE	4	1	\$ -	\$ 5,116.00	\$ -
GUILFORD	215	44	\$ 14,624.00	\$ -	\$ 15,033.00
HALIFAX	22	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HARNETT	71	19	\$ 3,473.00	\$ -	\$ 2,455.00
HAYWOOD	21	1	\$ 838.00	\$ -	\$ 10.00
HENDERSON	68	6	\$ 5,281.00	\$ -	\$ 3,320.00
HERTFORD	11	3	\$ 212.00	\$ -	\$ -
HOKE	28	3	\$ 1,636.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00
HYDE	5	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IREDELL	106	21	\$ 5,913.00	\$ 4,832.00	\$ 7,320.00
JACKSON	10	1	\$ 142.00	\$ -	\$ -
JOHNSTON	74	18	\$ 333.00	\$ -	\$ 960.00
JONES	9	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LEE	25	6	\$ 2,094.00	\$ -	\$ 1,545.00
LENOIR	48	6	\$ 3,935.00	\$ 1,614.00	\$ 1,030.00

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008	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
LINCOLN	38	1	\$ 959.00	\$ 1,018.00	\$ 40.00
MACON	28	2	\$ 1,952.00	\$ -	\$ 3,082.50
MADISON	5	0	\$ 392.00	\$ -	\$ 320.00
MARTIN	11	4	\$ 381.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
McDOWELL	9	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MECKLENBURG	116	35	\$ 2,891.00	\$ -	\$ 1,265.00
MITCHELL	12	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MONTGOMERY	22	1	\$ 517.00	\$ -	\$ -
MOORE	56	13	\$ 5,989.00	\$ -	\$ 1,380.00
NASH	92	14	\$ 7,229.00	\$ -	\$ 8,340.00
NEW HANOVER	162	54	\$ 8,395.00	\$ 8,790.00	\$ 1,795.00
NORTHAMPTON	10	1	\$ 1,076.00	\$ -	\$ 3,265.00
ONslow	72	13	\$ 3,239.00	\$ -	\$ 1,260.00
ORANGE	18	3	\$ 3,940.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00
PAMLICO	4	2	\$ 66.00	\$ -	\$ -
PASQUOTANK	14	1	\$ 1,158.00	\$ 1,692.00	\$ -
PENDER	27	7	\$ 2,204.00	\$ -	\$ 1,917.00
PERQUIMANS	4	0	\$ 516.00	\$ -	\$ 1,075.00
PERSON	36	5	\$ 1,665.00	\$ -	\$ 240.00
PITT	46	6	\$ 1,431.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00
POLK	5	1	\$ 44.00	\$ -	\$ -
RANDOLPH	83	17	\$ 5,845.00	\$ -	\$ 5,890.00
RICHMOND	24	3	\$ 1,674.00	\$ -	\$ 890.00
ROBESON	41	12	\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
ROCKINGHAM	94	4	\$ 5,997.00	\$ -	\$ 2,845.00
ROWAN	42	4	\$ 3,739.00	\$ -	\$ 1,170.00
RUTHERFORD	47	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SAMPSON	15	0	\$ 1,285.00	\$ -	\$ 125.00
SCOTLAND	18	1	\$ 318.00	\$ -	\$ -
STANLY	38	3	\$ 1,182.00	\$ -	\$ 160.00
STOKES	19	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SURRY	70	6	\$ 2,756.00	\$ -	\$ 1,620.00
SWAIN	6	1	\$ 613.00	\$ -	\$ -
TRANSYLVANIA	10	2	\$ 364.00	\$ -	\$ 850.00
TYRRELL	2	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	61	10	\$ 381.00	\$ -	\$ -
VANCE	17	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WAKE	323	104	\$ 19,603.00	\$ -	\$ 4,795.00
WARREN	8	1	\$ 31.00	\$ -	\$ -
WASHINGTON	8	1	\$ 661.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00
WATAUGA	28	6	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WAYNE	57	9	\$ 1,069.00	\$ -	\$ 510.00
WILKES	58	7	\$ 3,098.00	\$ 3,402.00	\$ 1,935.00
WILSON	61	11	\$ 319.00	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 155.00
YADKIN	40	7	\$ 1,155.00	\$ -	\$ 415.00
YANCEY	7	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	4,085	708	\$ 203,166	\$ 47,237	\$ 107,293

Two forfeited vehicles were retained by Local School Boards for their own use

1. Transylvania County - 2001 Dodge Ram Truck

2. Beaufort County - 2002 Ford Explorer

1,800 vehicles remain impounded by Tarheel Specialties (Contractor)