



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

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Report to the Joint Legislative Education
Oversight Committee

Report on DWI Vehicle Forfeiture

Session Law 1998 – 182, Section 38

Senate Bill 1336

Date Due: December 1, 2009
Report # 13
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2009-2010

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DWI Vehicle Seizures

October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

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, 2008 through September 30, 2009, from reports prepared by the Division of Motor Vehicles and Tarheel Specialties.

- A total of 3,720 vehicles were impounded, averaging 72 vehicles per week.
- A total of 615 vehicles were released to innocent owners or lienholders upon payment of towing and storage fees. (\$6,150 going to the General Fund of North Carolina)
- Tarheel Specialties splits the storage cost of released vehicles (90%/10%) with LEAs, resulting in \$35,928 revenue for the LEAs statewide.
- 1,917 vehicles were sold at public auction for a total of \$1,831,350 or an average of \$955 per vehicle. Tarheel Specialties paid out \$345,618 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 \$19,170 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 \$247,210 from the contractor for storage fees and proceeds from the sale of vehicles forfeited to local School Boards. Tarheel Specialties also sent \$61,049 to the Clerks of Court for vehicles not yet forfeited.
- Tarheel Specialties has approximately 1,860 vehicles that remain impounded.
- During the reporting period 97 vehicles were reported forfeited by the Courts.
- No forfeited vehicles were 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

SCHOOL SUPPORT DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009	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	65	4	\$ 5,766.00	\$ -	\$ 591.36
ALEXANDER	4	-	\$ 532.00	\$ -	\$ 320.00
ALLEGHANY	4	-	\$ 223.00	\$ -	\$ -
ANSON	3	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ASHE	18	4	\$ 422.00	\$ -	\$ -
AVERY	11	1	\$ 617.00	\$ -	\$ -
BEAUFORT	43	4	\$ 1,372.00	\$ 2,763.00	\$ 570.00
BERTIE	4	2	\$ 212.00	\$ -	\$ 165.00
BLADEN	14	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BRUNSWICK	29	7	\$ 579.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00
BUNCOMBE	77	13	\$ 3,940.00	\$ -	\$ 3,435.00
BURKE	63	5	\$ 3,199.00	\$ -	\$ 810.00
CABARRUS	134	25	\$ 11,211.00	\$ -	\$ 6,955.00
CALDWELL	59	6	\$ 2,095.00	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 780.00
CAMDEN	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CARTERET	60	8	\$ 2,879.00	\$ 3,562.00	\$ 1,655.00
CASWELL	10	1	\$ 454.00	\$ -	\$ -
CATAWBA	58	8	\$ 2,633.00	\$ -	\$ 855.00
CHATHAM	39	1	\$ 1,975.00	\$ -	\$ 185.00
CHEROKEE	14	1	\$ 1,737.00	\$ -	\$ -
CHOWAN	3	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLAY	2	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLEVELAND	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMBUS	11	1	\$ 388.00		\$ 150.00
CRAVEN	14	2	\$ 699.00	\$ 1,037.00	\$ 780.00
CUMBERLAND	32	11	\$ 2,559.00	\$ -	\$ 4,045.00
CURRITUCK	11	-	\$ 41.00	\$ -	\$ -
DARE	43	7	\$ 792.00		\$ 580.00
DAVIDSON	47	8	\$ 1,056.00	\$ 1,502.00	\$ 650.00
DAVIE	12		\$ 364.00		\$ 145.00
DUPLIN	16	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DURHAM	27	9	\$ 2,454.00		\$ 115.00
EDGECOMBE	33	6	\$ 3,474.00		\$ 2,230.00
FORSYTH	160	26	\$ 6,564.00		\$ 2,855.00
FRANKLIN	47	5	\$ 2,422.00	\$ 1,345.00	\$ 3,395.00
GASTON	126	19	\$ 3,908.00		\$ 340.00
GATES	9	-	\$ 198.00	\$ -	\$ -
GRAHAM	3	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANVILLE	9	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GREENE	14	4	\$ 517.00		
GUILFORD	210	41	\$ 11,481.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 2,494.00
HALIFAX	37	4	\$ 94.00	\$ -	\$ -
HARNETT	43	15	\$ 807.00	\$ -	\$ -
HAYWOOD	16	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HENDERSON	53	6	\$ 5,113.00		\$ 1,930.00
HERTFORD	15	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HOKE	17	1	\$ 1,336.00	\$ -	\$ -
HYDE	1	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IREDELL	119	12	\$ 3,875.00	\$ 45,323.00	\$ 1,865.00
JACKSON	15	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
JOHNSTON	52	10	\$ 322.00	\$ -	\$ -
JONES	9	1		\$ -	\$ -
LEE	33	5	\$ 49.00	\$ -	\$ -

COUNTY	Number of DWI seized vehicles Oct 1, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009	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
LENOIR	30	5	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
LINCOLN	27	4	\$ 747.00	\$ 1,116.00	\$ 45.00
MACON	25	3	\$ 868.00	\$ -	\$ 580.00
MADISON	5	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MARTIN	23	8	\$ 220.00	\$ -	\$ 255.00
McDOWELL	14	1	\$ 157.00	\$ -	\$ -
MECKLENBURG	121	47	\$ 2,974.00	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 1,585.00
MITCHELL	5	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MONTGOMERY	16	2	\$ 1,318.00	\$ -	\$ 460.00
MOORE	37	10	\$ 997.00	\$ -	\$ 3,235.00
NASH	81	19	\$ 4,390.00	\$ -	\$ 1,760.00
NEW HANOVER	163	57	\$ 5,471.40	\$ 18,694.20	\$ 3,042.20
NORTHAMPTON	3	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ONslow	71	13	\$ 2,516.00	\$ -	\$ 690.00
ORANGE	15	4	\$ 3,442.00	\$ -	\$ 110.00
PAMLICO	1	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PASQUOTANK	13	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PENDER	20	4	\$ 652.00	\$ 124.00	\$ 910.00
PERQUIMANS	3	1	\$ -	\$ 2,017.00	\$ -
PERSON	19	1	\$ 188.00	\$ -	\$ 1,105.00
PITT	35	7	\$ 595.00	\$ -	\$ -
POLK	2	-	\$ 376.00	\$ -	\$ -
RANDOLPH	72	11	\$ 2,037.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
RICHMOND	19	3	\$ 818.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
ROBESON	33	4	\$ 914.00	\$ -	\$ 1,120.00
ROCKINGHAM	77	5	\$ 707.00	\$ -	\$ 635.00
ROWAN	37	6	\$ 594.00	\$ -	\$ -
RUTHERFORD	47	2	\$ 1,593.00	\$ -	\$ 157.00
SAMPSON	28	5	\$ 76.00	\$ 1,453.00	\$ -
SCOTLAND	29	5	\$ 524.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00
STANLY	32	2	\$ 243.00	\$ 1,806.00	\$ -
STOKES	10	-	\$ 1,016.00	\$ -	\$ -
SURRY	72	5	\$ 1,335.00	\$ -	\$ 745.00
SWAIN	9	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TRANSYLVANIA	7	-	\$ 430.00	\$ -	\$ -
TYRRELL	4	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	51	4	\$ 1,948.00	\$ -	\$ 660.00
VANCE	16	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WAKE	265	59	\$ 10,283.00	\$ -	\$ 3,205.00
WARREN	2	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WASHINGTON	2	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WATAUGA	33	2	\$ 839.00	\$ 3,279.00	\$ -
WAYNE	64	11	\$ 1,333.00	\$ -	\$ 745.00
WILKES	46	1	\$ 1,607.00	\$ 1,517.00	\$ 1,000.00
WILSON	50	5	\$ 1,463.00	\$ -	\$ 550.00
YADKIN	28	5	\$ 208.00	\$ 204.00	\$ -
YANCEY	10	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	3,720	615	\$ 141,738	\$ 105,472	\$ 61,050

No forfeited vehicles were retained by Local School Boards for their own use
1,860 vehicles remain Impounded by Tarheel Specialties (Contractor)