LOUISIANA USED MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION STATE OF LOUISIANA

> REGULAR MEETING
> JANUARY 23, 2023 BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.

> 3132 VALLEY CREEK BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

## REPORTED BY:

BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR

APPEARANCES:

CHAIRMAN: MR. RICHARD WATTS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: MR. TRAVIS BROWN

MR. JEFFEREY BRITT
MR. RICKY DONNELL
MR. GEORGE FLOYD
MR. ROBERT "BOBBY" HINES
MR. MATTHEW PEDERSON
MR. WYNDETTE WILLIAMS

REPRESENTING THE LOUISIANA USED MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION:

ROBERT W, HALLACK, ESQUIRE HALLACK LAW OFFICE
13007 JUSTICE AVENUE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70816
SHERI MORRIS, ESQUIRE
DAIGLE, FISSE \& KESSENICH, PLC 8480 BLUEBONNET BOULEVARD, SUITE F BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70810

## ALSO PRESENT:

 MS. KIM BARON MR. DEREK PARNELL MR. MONTIE WISENOR MS. TONYA BURKSMR. WATTS: Call to order. (Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. WATTS:
Roll call, please.
MS. BARON:
Richard Watts?
MR. WATTS:
Here.
MS. BARON: John Poteet?

MR. POTEET: (No response.)

MS. BARON: George Floyd?

MR. FLOYD: Here.

MS. BARON:
Tony Cormier?
MR. CORMIER:
(No response.)
MS. BARON: Matthew Pederson?

MR. PEDERSON:
Here.

MS. BARON:
Jefferey Britt?
MR. BRITT:
Here.
MS. BARON: Ricky Donnell?

MR. DONNELL: Here.

MS. BARON:
Travis Brown?
MR. BROWN: Here.

MS. BARON: Robert Hines?

MR. HINES: Here.

MS. BARON: Wydette Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. BARON: Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.

MR. WATTS: Good deal. Anybody for public comments?

MS. BARON:
No, sir.
MR. WATTS:
The adoption and approval of the minutes from the November meeting. MR. WILLIAMS:

I make a motion.
MR. DONNELL:
So move.
MR. WATTS:
Mr. Donnell, is that a second?
MR. DONNELL:
Second.
MR. WATTS:
Items for discussion.
MR. PARNELL:
Chairman Watts, if $I$ may make a
request for amending the agenda to add Item E under D, ratification of imposed penalties. The policy and procedure licensing renewal. Also, under legal matters, Item B, an appeal. MR. WATTS:

What's under legal?
MR. PARNELL:
The appeal.

MR. WATTS:
All right.
MS. MORRIS:
Kandice Burnett.
MR. PARNELL:
Kandice Burnett.
MR. DONNELL:
Do we want to handle the other part
now and do it in public?
MR. PARNELL:
That's why I just amended the agenda.
MR. WATTS:
It's been put on the agenda.
MR. PARNELL:
Add as E.
MR. WATTS:
Financial matters.
MR. PARNELL:
All right. The Louisiana legislative auditor for fiscal year '21/'22. In a normal year, the Louisiana legislative fiscal audit is due September 31. Typically our auditor has been John McKowen. He represented us for many years presenting his findings to the Commission.

But this past year, it was quite different and we were not prepared to have the auditor conduct the audit in 2022. We needed additional time. We advised him that we would be requesting an extension from the legislative auditor. And so he declined actually moving forward with doing the scheduled audit because he had a scheduling conflict.

Upon the request of extension from the legislative auditor, we were approved to have the extension which extended our time frame to March 31 of 2023. What that meant from the -- we had to go out to the legislative auditor's approved auditor listing to submit some requests for bids for three potential auditors. We chose an auditor TWRU CPA and Financial Advisor firm. That audit is currently underway. It should be completed and the findings submitted to you hopefully in the February or the March meeting.

It is a different process with this particular company. So it's a company that's not familiar with our agency specifically, but has done audits on several other agencies in the past. So this a little bit different
process. They are a larger firm so they are looking for things in a little bit different manner. They reviewed some of the book in a little different manner. So we are just going through that process right now.

Next thing, a couple of weeks after we started that audit, $I$ got a call from the Compliance Review Purchase Card Program review was going to start as well. So we currently have two audits going on right now. This audit is used -- it is kind of auditing the Commission, the LaCarte card which is pretty much our credit cards that we use for business purposes only. This agency has four cardholders. So we are just going through that process right now. One of the main things that they are looking at is that each of the cardholders, they use the card for business purposes only. And that they have approvals and systems in place in order to make sure that the approvals are being conducted prior to those persons using those cards at all.

The next item is our new accountant, Ms. Rhonda Robertson. We have gone through a long process of finding someone to come in and
help our agency out. You know that we had one come in for a few months. That didn't work out with that person. So we posted the position again and we had several more times, numerous interviews, numerous candidates that we went through. So I would like to introduce Ms. Rhonda Robertson to fill the position that Ms. Mona Anderson held. Mona Anderson will stay on with us part time and work with us through this process to help train, to help the department kind of move forward. And so we will to welcome Ms. Rhonda Robertson. MS. ROBERTSON:

I look forward to working with
anyone. And, $I$ guess, the first order of business is for the audit. A few of you haven't completed the third-party questionnaire. So I have those today for you to fill out and return as soon as possible. MR. PEDERSON:

Thank you.
MS. ROBERTSON:
Thank you.
MR. PARNELL:
That's all that $I$ have for financial
matters. Hopefully we will -- well, we will have our financial reports moving forward for the next Commission meetings ongoing. Anybody have any questions or comments? Or anybody has any questions about the audits that are going on?

MR. WATTS:
We got until June?
MR. PARNELL:
March -- March 31.
MR. WATTS:
You have to have everything done by March 31st. MR. PARNELL:

We have to have it done. Like I
said, normally we have to have it done by September 31 and we would always have him come in the November or December meeting and present to you-all the findings. But they said that, you know, they have never had a problem with us. We have always been early with our audit. We have always been on time. And so they had no problem. They responded back to us in less than 24 hours to give us approval to extend it, you know. That made me feel pretty good.

MR. WATTS:
Who wants to talk about our license renewal update?

MR. PARNELL:
I will have Ms. Tanya Burks, the licensing supervisor.

MS. BURKS:
Good morning, everyone. Currently, we are on the date of January 11th. We have paper applications that actually come through the office and we have the online applications. We have three ladies right now. We did have four, Tyteana, $I$ don't know if that was anybody's rep, but her last day was Friday. So we are now going to be looking for another employee to fill that position.

Just to give you a brief summary of our process. It takes about 14 business days for everything to be completed. Like when an application comes in, they have to go to accounting. It may be there for about a day or two depending on their workload. And then it is going to come over to the administrative coordinator. So they have to process everything. They have to make sure they have
their bond in place, their insurance in place, and any other documents.

Of course, during renewal time, it does take a little bit longer because we have so many. So if they don't submit everything at one time, it is going to prolong their process. So it may take a little bit more than 14 days, but we will actually go through -- we go by the applications of the day order.

MR. DONNELL:
My question is, are we sending
them -- once we send out a renewal notice, are we sending them a sheet to go along with this that tells them everything they need, a check sheet?

MS. BURKS:
Like, to renew their license?
MR. DONNELL:
To renew their license.
MS. BURKS:
Usually on the postcard -- I think
those are the ones for this year, we tell them we need the dealer application, the salesman application, the bond, and the insurance. So it's the same requirements.

MR. DONNELL:
Okay. We will talk about that.
MS. BURKS:
And we try not to put too much on
that postcard because the more they have, the less they are going to read. So we try to put as less as possible. It is the standard requirements. And once we get the application and if they are missing something, we are going to send them a letter to let them know exactly what's missing.

And if they send that information back, we might not get to it right then, but we will because, again, we are still processing these applications that are still coming in. So it may be a little bit past the 14 business days, but we try to work on them as quickly as possible.

We have emails. We have phone calls. We have people walking in. It's a lot. And we try to keep everything organized so that we can actually give them the correct information. MR. BRITT:

What time of the year do you start
that?

MS. BURKS:
We usually send out the postcards maybe the end part of October depending on -maybe between October 15 and October 30 . We try to get everybody -- we try to encourage them to get it in by November 1 or November 15. If they don't do that, we are still processing them up in date order. We try to get everybody by the end of December 31st.

I mean, we are in here working overtime hours, working Saturdays, holidays trying to get it done.

MR. BRITT:
I am just wondering if you ought to
send them at the end of August, 1st of
September.
MR. DONNELL:
That's what the next item on the agenda is.

MR. BRITT:
Oh, I am sorry.
MS. BURKS:
Trust me, we want to get them out quickly, too. MR. PARNELL:

Yes. That date, sometimes it fluctuates. We were pretty consistent on getting them out September 15 th through October 1st, in this time frame we are getting them out to everybody.

MR. BRITT:
Right.
MR. PARNELL:
Sometimes it kind of --
MR. BRITT:
If you get it out too early, it doesn't work. I mean where me and the sheriff are from, you got John Deere stores and a buddy of mine owns an 18-wheeler store. And everybody is laid up all winter long and they can be having these trucks worked on or these tractors worked on, but guess what, they wait until about three weeks before harvest time or three weeks before planting time and they all pile in there and they drive them crazy and that's exactly what's happening to y'all.

MR. PARNELL:
Well, we had in place -- we didn't do
it this year because we got things out much later than normal. We had a first deadline to
submit the application, which meant by -- if you have everything in this office, everything as it relates to a full packet -- a lot of dealers piecemeal these applications in here. They will send one or two items and wait and don't send the rest. But as we were doing it -- this is probably the first year we haven't given them that guarantee if it was here in the office by November 15, you are guaranteed to have your license before January 1. MR. WATTS:

> Let's talk in policies. MR. PARNELL:

Okay.
MS. BURKS:
But that is pretty much it. I do
want to say that I have been here for 13 or 14 years and this is one of our best renewal periods, I will say, because it wasn't too many issues as far as our CAVU system. It is actually going the way it should be going. MR. WATTS:

Dealer plates.
MS. BURKS:

Dealer plates, we can go over that.
I pretty much have everything lined up. I had to, you know, create the policies and procedures and issue out the plates. Currently, I am the only one that is doing -well, me, Ms. Kim, and Mr. Parnell, are trying to get -- I am the only one that's really doing it. We are trying to get two more employees. As of today from -- I think from, like, August, we have issued a total 150 new plates. And as far as renewing the stickers, I did close to 500. So we did almost about 140 dealers. We actually processed the plates. MR. DONNELL: Which netted us?

MS. BURKS:
I don't have that total. But it
's\$15 and \$10 for the convenience fee.
MR. PARNELL:
15 goes to -- it is really $\$ 10$. We
keep the $\$ 10$, right.
MR. DONNELL: Well, that's 500 and 150 so 650. MR. PARNELL:

So it's moving. I was, like, wow, it
is something that $I$ think is actually going to increase over the next year or so, once more dealers realize that it is going to be much faster for them to get their dealer plates with us than it is going with OMV. MR. DONNELL:

I can tell you what Jill said the first time. She said, "Be careful what you ask for."

MR. PARNELL:
Yes. So I am kind of thinking -- we are still working a lot of process. She wrote out all of the processes and procedures for it. But we are just trying to figure out different ways how it can be more efficient being that it is our first time doing it. We have to see what works, what doesn't work, which policy we can create to make it much more efficient.

But I had to go over by OMV and get two more boxes of plates. The first 100 plates went out kind of quick.

MS. BURKS:
And the dealers are satisfied. Out of all of these dealers, I may have had maybe five dealers to complain about the convenience
fee.
MR. PARNELL:
Yes. They didn't want to pay the \$10.

MS. BURKS:
It is convenient. Any other questions?

MR. BRITT:
Well, if they went to a private deal,
they are going to pay more. MR. HINES:

You can't go to private for dealer plates, specialty plate.

MS. BURKS:
You get your dealer plates here.
Great customer service.
MR. DONNELL:
Baton Rouge is good most of the time over yonder, but sometimes they can be a little tough. But they were more than ready to give us dealer plates.

MR. WATTS:
Thank you, Tonya.
Ratification of imposed penalties. MR. PARNELL:

All right. Commissioners, you will find in your packet a chart that illustrates the licensee with a violation -- that violated the state law. That case was investigated and determined that the public's interest can be served without further administrative proceedings, thus civil penalties were assessed.

I will now say the name of the dealer with the imposed civil penalties that we have. Anyone here representing this individual?

MS. BARON:
No, sir.
MR. PARNELL:
All right. The dealership is HD Pay
Here Auto Sales, LLC, from Denham Springs, Louisiana. The fine amount is $\$ 400$ for one count of employing an unlicensed salesperson and one count of non-delivery of title. The total amount of civil penalties for this person is $\$ 400$.

Commissioners, I ask that you ratify
the imposed penalties assessed. MR. DONNELL:

So moved.

MR. BRITT:
Second.
MR. WATTS:
Is this the first offense for HD?
Have they been here before on anything?
MR. PARNELL:
No.
MR. WATTS:
How long has he been a dealer?
MR. PARNELL:
He's been for a while.
He had some issues with a warranty.
The consumer purchased the warranty, but it didn't get processed. It didn't get sent over right away. So they did send it over. They did try to rectify the situation. So that is why we didn't charge him.

MR. WATTS:
Did he tell you why he did what he did? Forgot to send the application in? MR. PARNELL:

Well, he just got caught up.
MR. WATTS:
Caught up, okay.
Policies and procedure. Who is going
to lead that?
MR. PARNELL:
Commissioner Donnell.
MR. WATTS:
Donnell, you can lead us off on that since you filed the complaint.

MR. DONNELL:
I am not complaining at all. All
that I would like to do with y'all -- and this is what I was looking for here was just to tell these dealers that when they call me, they say, well, you took our money, but we ain't got a license. Well, $I$ got something to show them now why we haven't.

All that $I$ would like to do is go
back to September 1st, September 15th. MR. PARNELL:

Make that annually.
MR. DONNELL:
Do a mass email so we got proof by our email -- this is fine, but it doesn't prove anything unless we send it certified. So I think it cheaper to go mass email. MR. BRITT:

Still mail the card.

MR. DONNELL:
Still mail the card, but a mass email. And would like for a vote on that to start it September 1st or September 15th, whatever y'all decide. And let's get a month earlier so there is no excuse for this anymore. MR. BRITT:

Do we need a vote on it?
MR. DONNELL:
You can ask Montie. Let's get a vote on it and make sure we do it. MR. HINES:

The question is if we are going to do it in September, are we going to start issuing licenses in September for the next year? MR. PARNELL:

Once we send out the card, once they start submitting applications, at that point, we issue it. MR. BRITT:

It will go from whatever day they complete it and it will be good until that day next year. MR. PARNELL:

No, no. We will issue out the new
license, but it will be effective January 1st. MR. BRITT:

Okay.
MR. BROWN:
Has the other license, catalytic converters or any of that bogged the system down?

MR. PARNELL:
No.
MS. BURKS: Yes.

MR. PARNELL:
That is part of the process. That is part of what happened, the reason why we were later than we have ever been this year. Once the new license -- once the legislation went into place, then we had to kind of re-create a policy within the office on how we are going to issue.

We had to go out and talk with the -well, the accounting software that was kind of moved over, but the licensing program, sometimes that takes a while. So once we created the new license, we kind of have had to create -- the PTA license was a little bit
different.
But the catalytic converter license, it caused some problems for us early on with the licensing program. It took us several times and several -- actually months on getting that tested. Getting it perfected, and then trying to -- so we can push it out to everyone. I didn't want to go ahead and start our regular license renewal period without having the catalytic converter and the PTA system all in place. I wanted it all to be functional all at one time so everybody could have all of the functions if they needed it at one time. So it did take us a little bit longer.

MR. BROWN:
Can you move the catalytic converter license or some of the other license to mid-year?

MS. BURKS:
We shouldn't have this problem moving
forward. It was just because it was a new license he had to get it started.

MR. PARNELL:
A new license requires us to -- and we had to set up an account to kind of help
facilitate those funds. So it was just -MR. DONNELL:

> Are y'all clear on your legislation?

Have y'all got this year's legislation? MR. PARNELL:

No. We haven't talked about it. MR. DONNELL:

Are y'all -- are you two going to do any legislation this year? MR. PARNELL:

What I wanted to do was after the meeting today, kind of see if $I$ can talk with you guys about what we can do moving forward because $I$ got some phone calls. MR. BROWN:

I got some calls out of Texas and everywhere else wanting to know if they had to have a place of business.

MR. PARNELL:
Yes. We are about to start right now the rule and regulation process of writing the rule and regulations of the statute that's out there right now. But we know that the statute that is out there right now is not really clear. It is not really covering everything.

I know that you want to change it and other individuals as well.

So I will try -- I want to try to set
up a date maybe early next month or early February to try to have a legislative meeting so we can really talk to get the gist of what we want to do. MR. DONNELL: When does the session start? MR. WATTS: It starts in March. MR. PARNELL:

Pre-filing is in February. MR. DONNELL:

This is the sessions where there ain't very many bills. MR. WATTS:

We have a special session going on
for insurance coming up. They are going to do that.

MR. PARNELL:
But to your point, I couldn't find
the language. What is it?
MS. MORRIS:
April 10.

MR. DONNELL:
I never did get the email.
MR. PARNELL:
Because I never sent it to you. I didn't find the information. I sent Mona an email. She said she sent it to me, but I was, like, I couldn't find it. It might be in my emails. So I had Rhonda reach out.

MR. DONNELL:
That's why I come in early, but I got a printout and I saw it.

MR. PARNELL:
Before, there was something that they changed literally like within the last week or so because it was 72 hours that we got ahold of it.

MR. DONNELL:
Now, I got something that I can show instead of listening to those complaints.

All $I$ want to do is get a vote on it to start it September 1st or September 15 th. MR. PARNELL:

That's fine.
MR. DONNELL:
Get that out, mass email, and then
there is no excuse.
MR. PARNELL:
Well, we send mass emails out.
MR. DONNELL:
Yes. I want to send them September 1st or September 15th.

MR. PARNELL:
Got you.
MR. WISENOR:
Excuse me. The online renewal, the system has to be changed for our system to accept an online renewal. Wasn't that making an issue with dealers' licenses at Motor Vehicle because we put them in a different active status and active renewal?

I had a couple of calls from PTA
offices. During that transition, some of the -- the codes won't recognize because we have issued a new code for that following licensing period that -- I don't know if that too early might play a factor.

MR. DONNELL:
You see, that's another thing these dealers are complaining that the auctions are kicking their buyers out, you know.

MR. WISENOR:
Those are the ones that haven't been actually issued a new one.

MR. PARNELL:
But right before we send out the mass email and the postcards, Kim goes in the system and she changes to -- I think it is called active and renewal. And at that point the way our system actually operates is -- as we all know that it is a bit antiquated system. But we have been in the past looking into and trying to get a new licensing program but what we kept finding was we would lose functionality. We would pay so much money, but lose the functionality that we already have. So right now we are trying to work with the system that we have. Once they go -say September 1 and we send that information out, once she changes everybody's status to active and renewal, it is not showing active anymore. And it won't change until we issue the new license out to them. So what happens when they --

MS. BARON:
When we renew their licenses, they
have a dealer code. Y'all know what y'all dealer code is and that dealer code changes. So if you are selling something in the current year, your dealer code is for the next year. And so Motor Vehicle has to call us and verify it. A lot of them don't because they know these dealers and they know the dealer. If the dealer knows their dealer code, it's usually not an issue. But then you have these dealers that don't know their dealer code and they are trying to put the new one there and it won't go through.

MR. PARNELL:
So let me ask you this, Kim. How is it working now? Like, say, August 1. If we -if we get that person issued, they have their new license for January 1. Their current license that they are under that dealer code is no longer in existence.

MS. BARON:
Right.
MR. PARNELL:
So if they go to the auction, they can't do anything? MS. BARON:

Well, if they go to the auction, they can take their license with them and they can see that they are licensed. MR. PARNELL:

But that's a licensing program.
That's something that we need to change.
That's what $I$ talked about how we ran into
issues with the licensing program just because it is an antiquated system and it doesn't allow us.

MR. DONNELL:
So, in other words, once we issue a
'23, that means the '22 is invalid?
MS. BARON:
No. It doesn't mean it is invalid.
It means your dealer code is not going to show up in the system. MR. BRITT:

I don't mean to interrupt, but that's like a programming issue. MR. PARNELL:

Right. That's a programming issue. MS. BARON:

That's the way that CAVU is
programmed that when you issue that then for
their next year, that dealer code changes. MR. BRITT:

You talked about adjusting the computer program?

MS. BARON:
No. It can't be adjusted.
MR. PARNELL:
I have tried to do that since I have been here. And it is either get a new program or deal with the one that we have.

MR. DONNELL:
We are going to have to get a new program.

MR. PARNELL:
We already know that because that's what we have been trying to do, we have tried to work on. But the last three years, I haven't been messing with that as much because just $I$ kept seeing all of the cost that was associated, 4- or $\$ 500,000$, for a program and $I$ am losing functionality on what we are doing. We tried to get together with several agencies to get new program all built, but then that didn't work out. So that's something we definitely got to get, a new program. Because
it's -- the program that we currently have is an old program and it hinders us from being -MR. BRITT:

How many have new programs like that?
Because I know the sheriff and I deal with companies, there is 15 or 20 companies that deal with programs that he and I use every day. MR. PARNELL:

I thought it would be more. But when we started the process for licensing entities, we ran into about six or seven. And those six or seven, you know, the numbers were ridiculous. Then we ran into some persons that they were trying to look at building a program for us. And, like I said, we got with several other state agencies and we were all going in together and build a program that would fit each agency and bring the costs down. MR. BRITT:

I got a guy that you can talk to. MR. DONNELL:

As far as the auctions go, they have our -- they have these dealers' old number. MR. PARNELL:

They should be fine.

MR. DONNELL:
And come the first of the year when they are looking for that new number, so that is what $I$ am trying to improve, too.

MR. PARNELL:
Sure, the timing. MS. BARON:

The auctions also go to our website and if they see they are active in renewal, sometimes that causes a problem. And I tell the dealer, tell them that your license is still for the current year and they should be able to let you in. And for the most part, it hasn't been a problem.

MR. PARNELL:
Let us send notice out to all of the auctions just letting the auctions know that we turn everybody to. So can define to the auction what that means for us so they don't want some to, you know, create another extra step.

MR. WISENOR:
It mainly affects the registration end where on the retail side, once it goes to motor vehicle, that is where the -- that might
affect it. But as far as the auction -MR. DONNELL:

Well, it could be a problem because they don't have the dealer code. MR. WISENOR:

The auction should have a current license on file that they know the dealer license expires December 31 of ' 22 . MR. PARNELL:

So can I say moving forward, we will get the cards, mass emails out no later than September 15? MR. DONNELL:

That will be fine. But $I$ would like to put that in a vote so I can tell these guys that is our policy now. MR. WATTS:

I have been doing this for
40-something years since 1972. And the ones that complain file on December 15, the week before Christmas holiday. I have been late. I do it on November 1 time after time. They won't follow the rules.

Your man tried to get four dealerships with one bond. They sent the
paperwork back. If they take care of their business like they are supposed to, it is just creating another mountain to climb to me. That's my personal opinion.

MR. DONNELL:
I kind of just want to finish this
up. We are giving them -- we are going a month ahead. Now, if they don't file and they file late, then all we say 250 instead of 100 . MR. WATTS:

If they all would just take care of their business. MR. PARNELL:

We would have to go to the
Legislature to move it up to 250 versus 100 . MR. DONNELL:

Just trying to get them to get it done. MR. PARNELL:

In a perfect world. I agree. I agree 100 percent what you are saying as far as making sure you do it.

MR. DONNELL:
I know we got employees during the Christmas holidays that will be out. So I
would like to handle before the Christmas holidays. 99 percent of them.

MR. BRITT:
Well, you can put this in policy.
You certainly don't need a vote. Put it in policy and procedures. And then you know what, once you change that in the next week or two, send a mass email out and that way they can't say come September when they get the second email, well, $I$ didn't know, you know. That's just my opinion. I don't know. MR. WATTS:

All right. Anybody else on policy? We are all clear.

Legal matters.
MS. MORRIS:
The first legal matter, Federated
Mutual Insurance Company versus $H \& H$ Auto Sales. This is a claim that the commissioners named as a defendant with several other entities. There was a complaint filed with the Commission and the Commission didn't proceed with the complaint. It arises out of a sale of a stolen vehicle. So we have insurance through Risk Management for the State Office of Risk

Management. And I had forwarded the claim to them and they confirmed that it is covered. They are defending the claim. The suit was initially filed in Civil District Court for Orleans Parish. All suits against the commissioners are supposed to be filed in East Baton Rouge Parish.

So the Assistant General Attorney assigned to the case, Courtney Payton filed an exception of improper venue, which was granted, and the case is being transferred to East Baton Rouge Parish.

So when it gets transferred to East Baton Rouge Parish, she is going to file other exceptions to terminate the case, but she wanted to change the venue before she did that. So that's where it is.

There is really nothing for the Commission to do at this point. And I think all of the facts that Ms. Payton will need if she is not successful with her exceptions, the staff can -- the staff has it logged as a complaint and all of the information relevant to it.

MR. WATTS:

Any questions on that?
The appeal of Kandice Burnett.
MS. MORRIS:
I think Mr. Hallack is going to talk about that.

MR. HALLACK:
We have the paperwork together. We needed the copy of the record. The record has to be lodged because the appeal is based entirely on the record. So we got the transcript from Ms. Glissman. Kim prepared the exhibits and we had the finding of fact. That's what our record consists of. We will probably get that filed today in answer to that appeal.

So as many of you may recall, Ms.
Burnett, she -- well, actually let's go back a little further. Clark Crane had filed an application for a license as a dealer in Zachary. His license application was denied. He asked for it to be appealed to the full board. And we advised him that we would be using the proceeding from the New Car Commission to show why he should not be entitled to a license.

He then withdrew his license application and then his girlfriend, Kandice Burnett, applied for a license at the same location. It was denied also because of her relationship with Clark Crane. She and Clark Crane got -- well, they got married, then her application was denied based on the fact they were close in relationship and, therefore, it was another license basically for Mr. Crane.

So she appealed the denial of the application to the 19th Judicial District Court and we are answering that appeal and we are providing to the court the record. MR. WATTS:

Any questions for counsel?
Compliance investigator's report.
MR. WISENOR:
Mr. Chairman, yes, sir. These are the monthly production reports totals for the months of November and December of 2022.

For the month of November, there were six audits conducted. There was one notice of revocation issued. There were 64 site visits conducted. One cease and desist issued. There were 11 consumers that were assisted with
receiving titles or registration. Two violations issued. One refund, which totaled $\$ 6,500$ where a consumer was assisted in receiving.

There were 13 cases closed that were assigned by the Commission. There were 24 cases that were closed that were not assigned, and 21 physical inspections completed by the field.

For the month of December, there were
three audits conducted. There were no revocations issued. There were 72 site visits conducted. There were no cease and desist issued. There were 20 registration or titles that were assisted and consumers receiving. There were two violations issued. There were two refunds that were issued that totaled $\$ 4,338.34$. There was -- I'm sorry, 16 cases that were closed that were assigned. There were 26 cases that were closed that were not assigned. And there were nine physical inspections completed by the field. MR. WATTS:

A question for you. Do we do random checks for license and everybody is following
the rules like in each district like pull up on the used car lots and checking them?

MR. WISENOR:
Yes, sir. Just depending on
what's -- some of them are related to consumer complaints and we kind of base that if the dealers are receiving multiple complaints filed on the same dealership that may -- that is where the audits normally come into play where we are going to look a little bit further into their -- either temp tags or title deliveries, things like that.

But, yes, sir, we do -- the site visits are normally what we do when we just stop in. If we are in a particular area and to see what's going on from dealer to dealer, so, yes.

MR. WATTS:
Yes. How about repair shops? I see
a lot in Baton Rouge really where a car is sitting out there with no plates out there trying to be retailed.

MR. WISENOR:
Just curbstoning, per se.
MR. WATTS:

I don't know if they are owners or not, you know. But some of these tire shops, I just don't know. MR. WISENOR:

Yes, sir. We do that as well.
MR. WATTS:
They are out there actively doing this?

MR. WISENOR:
Oh, yes, sir. Not just dealers. If we observe a location that has multiple vehicles are coming and going or we do -- you know, we stop in and try to document the vehicles.

During our seminars, we explain that dealers, new and existing dealers that, you know, if they see something like that going on in their area, try to reach out to us either anonymously. We don't go to the competition down the street and say so-and-so down the road turned you in kind of thing. But we have to prove that the same company or individual is selling more than one vehicle that's in violation of the law. MR. BRITT:

How many vehicles can an individual
sell a year without a license?
MR. HALLACK:
Five.
MR. WISENOR:
The law states five. But the statute reads those vehicles have to be registered, insured by family members. MR. BRITT:

Like I got two right now I am fixing to get rid of. MR. WISENOR:

Yes, sir. As long as they are
registered in your name, you are good. But statute also reads if you basically sell a vehicle with the intent to make a profit, you are considered a car dealer -- I mean, you are acting as a car dealer. One or two really don't throw up any flags. Because I have people call me and ask me, well, what if $I$ sell five and my wife sells five, my son sells five. I am thinking they are trying to get around the law. We kind of squash that as quick as we can.

MR. HALLACK:

And the selling of five only creates a presumption. So you are presumed to be a dealer if you sell five. That doesn't mean that you are a dealer.

The other thing, too, Montie kind of hit on this. But if you are acting as a used car dealer and you put a sign out that says Bob's Used Cars and all of that and you have only sold one, you are still a dealer because you are putting yourself out there a dealer. So it doesn't matter really how many you sell. If you are acting as a used motor vehicle dealer, you are a used motor vehicle dealer. MR. WISENOR:

I think if your intent is to make a profit on some purchase and sell a vehicle, you are a dealer.

MR. WATTS:
The reason that I am questioning like that, everybody has got to pay to get licensed, insurance, and be a reputable dealer. And you got these guys out there paying none of that. MR. WISENOR:

Facebook, social media. MR. WATTS:

Usually tire repair shops, mechanic shops that they bought a car and they have no plates on it. I really suspect that, you know. They are not paying for licenses. MR. BRITT:

Or everybody in the neighborhood says, well, $I$ am going to take it down there to Richard's and park it at his tire shop. Richard is going to make something off of it. MR. HINES:

The problem is places like Copart that don't require a dealer license. They help sell to the public. That's the biggest problem because anybody can go in there and buy as many cars from Copart as they want to buy. MR. WATTS:

Is that right?
MS. BARON:
Yes.
MR. DONNELL:
Bobby, when did that change? I
understand it changed.
MR. HINES:
I don't know.
MS. BARON:

It's been several years.
MR. WISENOR:
That's when they got rid of their buyer ID cards.

MS. BARON:
And that's been a long time ago.
MR. DONNELL:
Are they collecting sales tax?
MR. HINES:
That, $I$ don't know.
MR. WISENOR:
They are supposed to.
MS. MORRIS:
They are supposed to. And we had met with the Office of Motor Vehicles about that whether or not they were collecting sales tax. Remember, we went to the office.

MR. DONNELL:
Do they have a dealer's license?
MS. BARON:
They don't have to.
MR. HINES:
Copart, yes. But the people buying
them --
MR. DONNELL:

I think the Office of Motor Vehicles needs to audit whether they are collecting sales tax.

MS. MORRIS:
They were trying to do that at one point many years ago. They were looking -they have a database and they were trying to see where there were multiple -- people repeatedly buying cars from Copart. MR. HINES:

I am sure it is going to be a lot of repeat.

MS. MORRIS:
So they were trying to look at that at one time. MR. WISENOR:

I had a complaint where Copart had collected the taxes on one of their sales. It was a trailer or a piece of equipment that was on an axle or something. But, anyway, the person that had bought it had to go and pay taxes twice. And they were trying to argue that they had already paid their taxes. So Copart is not doing what a dealer would normally do. When they collect the taxes, they
actually do the paperwork at Motor Vehicles. So it didn't really go. I think that he was trying to get Revenue to determine whether they received that tax revenue that was filed. MS. MORRIS:

I think the Office of Motor Vehicles was aware of that issue. MR. HINES: We can spend the whole day on Copart. MR WISENOR.

Copart does turn the title over to the purchaser even if it is an individual, whether that person goes to actually register it, I don't know.

MR. WATTS:
That's not considered a retail sale
either. Is that a retail sale from Copart?
MR. WISENOR:
It is.
MR. WATTS:
Do they file a monthly report?
MS. BARON:
Yes.
MS. MORRIS:
They are supposed to.

MR. HINES:
Well, if they file a monthly report, then we will see who is buying the cars and we can see who the repeat offenders are?

MS. BARON:
The report they send to us just shows how many cars they sold. It doesn't give the purchaser.

MS. MORRIS:
They do have to report to Motor
Vehicles.
MR. DONNELL:
It gives the amount of sales tax. MS. BARON:

That, $I$ don't know.
MR. WATTS:
We don't get that?
MS. BARON:
No. That one goes to Motor Vehicles.
MS. MORRIS:
We had at one point because there was an allegation that they weren't doing the transactions properly. And then copart came in and said that they were. They were not collecting the sales tax. That they were not
required to. And it is up to the purchaser.
And so I know that there was some tracking of it many years ago, but $I$ don't know since the pandemic.

MR. WATTS:
That is a question for Jill Jarreau. MR. PARNELL:

Jill was part of that deal. MR. DONNELL:

And this is going on the record. I promise they will be addressing this when they read our minutes next month.

MR. WATTS:
Let's hope so.
All right. Executive director's
report. Do you have anything else to report?
MR. PARNELL:
Again, $I$ just want to try to get with
you guys today so we can set a time to decide what we are going to crunch, what we are going to do as it relates to the Legislature this year as it relates to the catalytic converter. Another item that $I$ kind of want to look into, I am about to reach out to Office of Motor Vehicles. Something that we had discussed a
while back about the PTA. Once we got it -got the authority to actually do that process, it was a bit strange that we had to do -- we also had to do -- get a bond and insurance to actually conduct that part of the business. But I was talking to Jill Jarreau and she was saying that what we do is apply for an exemption that we don't have to have a bond and insurance. Initially, when I requested the insurance and bonding, the State, they were like, why are you trying to get insurance from a State agency to a State agency. And so they thought it was strange, but they went ahead and processed it. But that's something that I am going to look at legislatively this year to kind of get us on the exemption list so we don't have to have the bonding and insurance for that.

MR. DONNELL:
Okay. I have told Jill -- and I
think that $I$ have told you -- but Neil Riser is going to carry that bill for you.

MS. BARON:
Neil who?
MR. DONNELL:

Neil Riser.
MR. PARNELL:
Another item I know everybody has been asking over a long period of time, I had started the process of the IDs for you-all, the commissioners. And I thought I did a great job with it, but $I$ had someone else kind of start the process and they did a better job. I told them that if they do a better job with creating the IDs for commissioners, I will buy them lunch. So I got to go ahead and bite that bullet and buy one of my staff members lunch. Two weeks ago she ordered the IDs. So we should have them for you-all within the next couple of weeks or so.

MR. BRITT:
Do you have somebody that is going to be put them on the card?

MS. BARON:
It's a card.
MR. PARNELL:
It's a plastic ID creator.
MR. BRITT:
Kind of like that one?
MR. PARNELL:

Yes. It is going to be a card.
She asked if you-all wanted, like, a lanyard or anything like that. I said that I don't think that you-all would use it in that fashion. You would just put it in your wallet if anything.

MR. DONNELL:
All I need is a photo and the commission name. MR. PARNELL:

It went through the website ID
Creator. It was a good price and they gave us one. So I should be getting this out to you-all.

We also had a meeting with Office of Motor Vehicles. They invited LuMVC and various other agencies that is could be potentially affected by the law. What they are looking at doing is creating electronic titles for vehicles moving forward. They are kind of at the early stages right now of how they want to do that. So they said they will kind of keep us informed on when we can try to meet again so they can get a little bit more information to everyone.

MR. BRITT:
Are they going to do away with the regular titles?

MR. DONNELL:
The E title?
MR. BRITT:
They can't do that. There are too many elderly people. MR. PARNELL:

Some people were kind of getting
upset, but they said they didn't want to answer too many questions until they get a little further along.

MR. BRITT:
They are planning on doing that into
LA Wallet. That's what they are planning on doing.

MR. PARNELL:
I bet they are.
MR. FLOYD:
I love it. You can't lose it. MR. BRITT:

At the same time, you got an elderly
population that still doesn't use computers. One of my companies, $I$ can go -- I mean, I got
two apps. I got a web page. But I got a call center and I would love to close that call center down, but I cannot because there is a population out there that cannot handle all of this. And there is a young population that can can't handle it, not counting the older ones. MR. WISENOR:

They are also doing away with notary requirements on certain transactions.

MR. WATTS:
Are y'all aware of that?
MS. BARON:
That's another thing. The notaries were saying y'all will put us out of business. That's the majority of their business. MR. DONNELL:

Arkansas and Mississippi doesn't use notaries anymore. MR. WISENOR:

Texas.
MR. BRITT:
Speaking of Arkansas, I am going to tell the guys what $I$ told you. I bought -upgraded Jill's car about two months ago. I bought it in Conway, Arkansas, because they had
three of them on the lot. Instead of me ordering one, $I$ just got it there. And when they issued -- the handed me the temp tag, I thought they were going to stick it in the back window like everybody else does. They put it on the back and it has a sticker. The F\&I guy pulled the desk drawer out and under lock and key a roll. And he peeled a big sticker off. It is about half the size of an iPhone and stuck it on the back of that. It's distinct. And every trooper, everybody can walk up there and scan in and program that number in there and tell you where it came from, and how valid it is, and it expires every 30 days.

But my point is there we have been
faced with just count after count of these people doing that. I want to get with Jill -and that's another thing. I mean that would be an easy fix and an easy database to add. That will solve a lot of problems. MR. HINES:

When we buy temp tags, they record who gets them. And then when we issue one to a customer, we are supposed to at the time of sale you enter everybody in there.

MR. WATTS:
You can go the website and enter it in.

MR. HINES:
So that number, that temp tag and license plate, the state police can run it because it is registered if the dealer does what he is supposed to do.

MR. BRITT:
Half of them don't do it.
The sheriff and I can both tell you, you got people stopping these cars every day and you can't figure out where they came from. MR. DONNELL:

That's what the dealer wants because the State's system is so antiquated, you can't keep up with who is doing it or not. MR. BRITT:

The system is there but you take like the case that we had a while back where they were just doling them out, doling them out. This will resolve -- a system like this would help resolve something like that.

MR. WATTS:
All right. Are you done?

MR. PARNELL:
I am. Kim has something.
MS. BARON:
Jose Matamoros, I don't know how many
of y'all remember his -- he does not speak
English. But he calls me every once in a while and that's interesting enough.

He came in the office and paid his $\$ 50,000$ down payment. And he did that before the end of December, it was like the week before -- before Christmas actually he came in. MR. BRITT:

He didn't happen to do that in cash, did he?

MS. BARON:
No. It was a cashier's check. But he came in and paid his $\$ 50,000$ down payment and he posed a question to me. At that point, he said I only -- according to the findings, I only have 10 days to pay my next payment because y'all have made the payments due for his -- his $\$ 15,000$ payments had to be due on the 10 th of each month and he asked me could we move that.

So I called Ms. Morris and asked her.

And she said if the chairman and the executive director and Mr. Hallack agree, we can move their payment -- the $\$ 15,000$ monthly payments to the 30 th of each month. So they would have the actual 30 days between each one.

They all three agreed. So they are scheduled to make their next payment on the 31st of January. And $I$ will let you know if they do that.

MR. BRITT:
I have no doubt that he is going to make every payment on time, none whatsoever. MS. BARON:

And he did the seminar again. MR. BRITT:

Did he take an interpreter with him? MS. BARON:

His son supposedly interpreted for him so he could understand it this time. MR. HINES:

The one that couldn't get a license again, that son?

MS. BARON:
Yes, the one that can't get a license again, yes.

And he supposedly interpreted for
him. But since they are done online, you know, I took his word for it, so. But they did attend, according to Stacey and Montie that they did attend. So I went ahead and reinstated Jose Matamoros' license and the dealership license was reinstated, so. MR. WATTS:

Are they still getting temp tags? MS. BARON:

That, $I$ don't know. MR. WISENOR:

According to Ms. Jarreau, she was going to allow -- they were going to do their best to prevent that, the temp tags. MS. BARON:

So I am not sure what they are going to do about that. MR. WATTS:

We have one more in South Carolina. MS. BARON:

Yes. L's Auto Sales. That was the one where the lady was on Zoom. She was in South Carolina, the dealer didn't bother to show up. He is also in South Carolina at this
point.
I got the findings from Ms. Morris.
And $I$ have sent it to the dealer. And it is on my calendar if he doesn't respond within 30 days to go ahead and send it to the bond company, Ms. Cassandra can be -- get her restitution for the vehicle that she purchased from him. MR. BROWN:

Did we turn him in to, say, South Carolina's used motor vehicle commission? MS. BARON:

I can if y'all request that $I$ do so.
I can turn it in to them and it should be. MR. HALLACK:

We copied them on the notice.
MR. WATTS:
I thought we contact them.
MS. BARON:
They were on the notice.
MR. WATTS:
They are aware of it anyway.
MS. BARON:
And I think Perry had contacted them or something, too, and let them know that he
was in that area and that his track record was not kosher.

MR. WATTS:
Why don't you send the notice of the final result when it gets there and send them a notice that this is we, the State of Louisiana, alert them to the fact.

MS. BARON:
Okay.
MR. WATTS:
All right. Items for next agenda,
February 20.
MR. DONNELL:
I am going to open another can of
worms, but a receptionist.
MR. WATTS:
I didn't understand you.
MS. BARON:
A receptionist, a live receptionist.
MR. WATTS:
Oh, you want a receptionist on the agenda? You want a live receptionist. You don't want a voicemail or nothing like that. MR. DONNELL:

Once that breathes.

MR. WATTS:
We will discuss that next agenda.
MR. PARNELL:
Also, when did you say the
legislative sessions starts?
MS. MORRIS:
It is April 10 and the deadline for pre-filing is March 29. MR. WATTS:

Commissioners, anything else for the next agenda? MR. HALLACK:

Yes. Commissioner Donnell called me and brought this issue up. It's always been an issue here and therefore we've always avoided it. That is the broker's license.

We have in our law the broker's
license. And Mr. Donnell asked me what do we need to do to start using a broker's license. MR. WATTS:

Tell me what a broker's license is.
MR. HALLACK:
It's generally a wholesale dealer. A
guy that doesn't need a lot. A guy that doesn't need garage liability insurance. He
does not sell anything retail. He only sells to other dealers. He is a broker. And we have had in our law ever since our inception, but we have never used it. And maybe administratively there is a reason why we don't use it. MR. WATTS:

What does the law say?
MR. HALLACK:
I would have to look it up. MR. WATTS:

Put that on the next agenda for next month we will discuss it.

MR. DONNELL:
You know, to finish that up, just -that big company out of Dallas, give me the name? They have several buyers here, shouldn't they have to apply for a license, some kind of broker's license?

MR. WATTS:
They are drafting on getting to be licensed dealer. MR. BRITT:

We will need to abolish that in some sort of way. MR. HINES:

It is in the books.
MS. BARON:
Mr. Hines made a very good point.
MR. HINES:
This broker license, there will be more people curbsiding from Marketplace. If I can get a broker license and go to his auction and buy cars and come back home and wholesale to other dealers, I mean, I know enough dealers where $I$ could -- and dealers are creative. They will put it on Marketplace and then if they have to -- they will never get caught. They will figure out a way.

I mean, I think we need to abolish that. That's a loophole that's going to create problems.

MR. PEDERSON:
I agree.
MR. WISENOR:
Mr. Parnell and I talked -- or you can probably google it now, there are sites where you can actually go to and get signed up as a salesperson under an existing dealer whether it is Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and operate as a wholesale dealer and even
apply for a dealer plate in that state. But then they are doing retail sales with that license even though they are not supposed to. They are only supposed to be doing wholesale. So, yes, it is kind of the same
thing. It just opens the door.
MR. WATTS:
Well, you draw the public. You have it in South Carolina right now. MR. HALLACK:

I think the point that Mr. Donnell
was trying to make is that these are people that are buying cars without a license. And the potential to tap into that market with a broker's license. You know, the whole idea behind having a broker's license is that nobody is supposed to sell retail. So, I mean, I don't know.

If there was an untapped potential
for us to license more people, that's what I thought we should look at.

MR. WATTS:
Put on the agenda for next month and we can do a little homework on it and come up with something. I don't like that idea myself.

MR. HALLACK:
But we have always had it on the
books for the Commission. It is just that we never licensed it before.

MR. WATTS:
You say "it's on the books"?
MR. HALLACK:
Yes. There is a definition for
broker.
MR. WATTS:
We have no license, but he is legal.
He can be a broker?
MR. HALLACK:
No. We just never issued a license
for a broker. MR. WATTS:

We need to take it off the books
then.
MR. HALLACK:
We should.
MR. DONNELL:
We need to make a decision on what we are going to do. MR. BRITT:

Is it a statute?

MR. HALLACK:
It's a statute.
MR. BROWN:
Have y'all had any complaints on
Carvana?
MS. BARON:
Yes.
MR. WISENOR:
Not a lot, but we have had some. MR. BROWN:

They are in severe financial trouble.
MS. BARON:
Yes, they are. We have a lot of out-of-state Carvana -- complaints. And we send them to whatever prospective state the people purchased the vehicle from, you know. There are a lot of people go online to buy from Texas.

MR. WATTS:
How do did they get their paperwork to the customer? Do y'all know how it is done by Carvana?

MR. WISENOR:
It is all online.
MR. HALLACK:

It is all electronic.
MS. BARON:
If we have Louisiana consumers with a problem that bought from there -MR. DONNELL:

Do we have that?
MS. BARON:
Yes. That bought it from here, the ones here, we take care of. But the ones that bought it from another dealer out of state, we can't do anything with. So we sent it to that state.

MR. DONNELL:
But they are injuring the Louisiana
public.
MR. HALLACK:
Louisiana residents, yes.
MR. DONNELL:
We need to figure that out.
MR. HALLACK:
Now, Carvana is licensed by us.
MS. BARON:
Right. But if they didn't buy the licensed dealer here, there is not so much we can do about it because they say they bought it
online, from Arizona or wherever.
MR. WATTS:
Well, they buy it out of state from a dealer out of state, they probably say, well, you pay your taxes in Louisiana. They just give them the paperwork. That's the process probably.

MS. BARON:
And they don't give them the title. MR. DONNELL:

How can they process the paperwork without a title?

MR. WISENOR:
I am working a complaint right now that is a consumer in North Louisiana bought it before they even became a licensed dealer in Louisiana. And the customer has had this vehicle since February of 21 and still had never gotten their registration -- never gotten their plate or registration. Carvana's response, I recently received, says that they couldn't get the customer to provide whatever proper paperwork they needed to provide for them to move forward with the registration, but yet the vehicle stayed out there for almost two
years without the registration.
The customer finally let it back for repossession right before we received their complaint. So I am not sure. At this point, I am I still working it trying to figure out which direction to go with. But this come out of Georgia.

MR. DONNELL:
If we have any other dealer that does that, we revoke his license.

MR. WISENOR:
We cite them for a violation, correct.

MR. HALLACK:
What about Vroom? Have you had any complaints on Vroom?

MS. BARON:
Yes. People that purchased them online and we send it out the respective states as well.

MR. HALLACK:
If you google Carvana, there are
thousands of complaints nationwide for non-delivery of the title.

MS. BARON:

Aren't they the vending machine?
MR. DONNELL:
Yes. Carvana is.
MR. BROWN:
They were in our insurance group. We told them good-bye. MR. WATTS:

Anybody have any questions that you want to talk about before we adjourn?

Enough said, we will see y'all on the 20th of February. MR. DONNELL: So moved. (Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.)

## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, BETTY D. GLISSMAN, Certified Court Reporter, Certificate No. 86150, in and for the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle Commission January 23, 2023, meeting was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding.

This February 7, 2023, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER



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