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6	LOUISIANA USED MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION
7	STATE OF LOUISIANA
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14	REGULAR MEETING
15	MARCH 20, 2023
16	BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.
17	3132 VALLEY CREEK
18	BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
19	
20	
21	REPORTED BY:
22	BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR
23	
24	
25	

1 APPEARANCES:

CHAIRMAN: MR. RICHARD WATTS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: MR. TRAVIS BROWN MR. JEFFEREY BRITT MR. RICKY DONNELL MR. GEORGE FLOYD MR. ROBERT "BOBBY" HINES MR. JOHN POTEET REPRESENTING THE LOUISIANA USED MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION: SHERI MORRIS, ESQUIRE DAIGLE, FISSE & KESSENICH, PLC 8480 BLUEBONNET BOULEVARD, SUITE F BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70810

2	MS.	KIM BARON
3	MR.	DEREK PARNELL
4	MR.	MONTIE WISENOR
5	MS.	TONYA BURKS
6	MS.	RHONDA ROBERTSON
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1	(Pledge of Allegiance.)
2	MR. WATTS:
3	Roll call.
4	MS. BARON:
5	Richard Watts?
6	MR. WATTS:
7	Here.
8	MS. BARON:
9	John Poteet?
10	MR. POTEET:
11	Here.
12	MS. BARON:
13	George Floyd?
14	MR. FLOYD:
15	Here.
16	MS. BARON:
17	Tony Cormier?
18	MR. CORMIER:
19	(No response.)
20	MS. BARON:
21	Matthew Pederson?
22	MR. PEDERSON:
23	(No response.)
24	MS. BARON:
25	Jefferey Britt?

1	MR. BR	ITT:
2	I	lere.
3	MS. BA	RON:
4	I	Ricky Donnell?
5	MR. DO	NNELL:
6	;	lere.
7	MS. BA	RON:
8		Fravis Brown?
9	MR. BR	OWN:
10	I	lere.
11	MS. BA	RON:
12	I	Robert Hines?
13	MR. HI	NES:
14	I	lere.
15	MS. BA	RON:
16	7	Nydette Williams?
17	MR. WI	LLIAMS:
18		(No response.)
19	MS. BA	RON:
20	I	Ar. Chairman, we have a quorum.
21	MR. WA	TTS:
22		Thank you. Anybody for public
23	comments?	
24	MS. BA	RON:
25		I don't think so.

1 MR. WATTS: Adoption and approval of minutes from 2 3 last month's meeting -- I mean January's 4 meeting. I need a motion. 5 MR. BRITT: 6 I make a motion. 7 MR. WATTS: 8 I need a second. 9 MR. HINES: 10 Second. 11 MR. WATTS: 12 Approval. 13 All right. Today, items for discussion. First of all, office staff. 14 15 MR. PARNELL: 16 Mr. Chairman, if I can, can I make 17 a -- I would like to amend the agenda to look 18 at -- look a little bit further into under 19 ratification of imposed penalties, Case 20 Number 2020-342, Robert Autin. I would like to 21 pull it off of the agenda and amend it to 2.2 remove it from the agenda for this month and 23 add it to next month's agenda. 24 MR. WATTS: All right. Do I need a motion to do 25

1 that? 2 MS. MORRIS: 3 You don't to defer it. 4 MR. WATTS: 5 Just going to defer to next month. 6 MR. PARNELL: 7 Right. 8 MR. WATTS: 9 That's noted. 10 Our next discussion is our --11 Commissioner Ricky Donnell wants to talk about 12 a receptionist here at the office. He has some 13 insight there, knowledge. MR. DONNELL: 14 15 No. I have been receiving some complaints that they couldn't get through to 16 here. Just kind of want to let y'all discuss 17 18 it. Do y'all have those problems? MR. HINES: 19 20 Yes. 21 MR. DONNELL: 2.2 What about you, Jeff? 23 MR. BRITT: 24 Oh, yes. We talked about it. We all 25 talked about it, I mean, it's -- I don't know

1 how to fix it other than put a human on there, 2 but I know this. I mean, we are not the only 3 ones that has got the problem. The Department 4 of Public Safety's got it. 5 MR. DONNELL: 6 They just got called out publicly. 7 MR. BRITT: 8 And I just don't want to see that 9 happen for us. And I think it might have 10 something to do with not -- I think we hear 11 more complaints because I think of the time of 12 year. Don't our dealers in different parts of 13 the state get their licenses at different 14 months? 15 MR. DONNELL: 16 Every other year. 17 MR. BRITT: 18 So I think that is why "we," the central, north Louisiana guys heard a little 19 20 bit more about it this cycle and y'all will 21 hear about the next time if we don't figure 22 something out. All that I want is -- and I 23 don't mind people calling me. Evidently, Kim 24 knows. Evidently, I am the guy that they pull 25 up on the web page and they call me. And I

1 enjoy interacting with some of these people and 2 listening to their problems and trying to help But, you know, it is something that 3 them. 4 needs to be addressed. 5 And, like I said, I just saved the 6 I don't know if I texted it to any of article. 7 y'all or not, but the DPS just made the news for it and I don't want to see us. I just want 8 9 us to fix it any way we can fix it. 10 MR. WATTS: 11 Making that statement, I am going to 12 let --13 MR. PARNELL: 14 With that, I do know that there have 15 been concerns for everyone. You know, I am 16 trying to look at the performance of what we 17 have been doing and how we can approve upon it. 18 With that, I went in and tried to really look 19 at it and evaluate what we could do and how we could do it better and differently. So we went 20 21 in and tried -- I am restructuring that 22 department. 23 What I mean by "restructuring," I am 24 bringing an additional person on. That person 25 will be a licensing person. They will have the

1 full responsibility of providing the licenses 2 for an individual. If you notice in that 3 office space right there, we had one person there. I am breaking that up into two persons 4 5 to be in that office. The persons that are not 6 sitting in the office, number one, their prime 7 responsibility, one of them, is to answer the Second one is to take the walk-ins that 8 phone. 9 is coming up.

10 With that said, there was a meeting 11 that was held here with those individuals, and 12 if that continues not to operate the way it is 13 supposed to operate, they won't be here 14 anymore. I will get some people in that can 15 conduct it better.

16 Now, the way that I have the phones 17 set up, I did set it up that way for a reason, 18 because the amount of phone calls that normally 19 would come in without the phones set up that 20 way, it is insurmountable. One person couldn't 21 handle that, period. Reason being because it 22 is the simple question that they are asking. 23 What do I have to submit later? Did I submit 24 everything into you?

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So I kind of tried to set it up in a

1 way to actually kind of put the due diligence 2 on the dealer so that they can understand what 3 they are supposed to have and to conduct and to 4 hold their business and I think it's worked 5 really well. I know we are still getting calls 6 sliding through, I mean, we probably had 20 or 7 30 or so during this renewal period, we licensed 5100 licensees. I do understand that 8 9 those calls are coming through, but the way I 10 believe it is going to work moving forward, we 11 won't have as many calls with those kind of 12 complaints.

13 I believe that's the solution for 14 I will be able to see it more in action now. 15 once we get into renewal season once again. 16 But bringing on an additional person to 17 handle -- handle our licenses. And so when I 18 say those two persons -- one person right now, 19 their goals are different. They do license the 20 dealerships, but they actually have way less 21 licensees to license because of the two other 22 responsibilities that they are supposed to be 23 covering. So I believe -- I believe it will be 24 handled. I don't believe this is going to be 25 an ongoing issue that's going to create a

larger snowball effect --1 2 MR. BRITT: 3 Let's just monitor it and see what 4 happens. Monitor the complaints that we get. 5 MR. DONNELL: 6 When do you think this will go into 7 effect? MR. PARNELL-- : 8 9 I placed -- right now, I have gone in we are posting for job descriptions. 10 Just 11 creating a job description, which is really 12 transposing them over to the other spaces. 13 Right now we are just waiting to see if the 14 jobs have posted so we can start the 15 interviewing process now. 16 That's going to be effective 17 immediately. And surplusing that desk and some 18 other spaces around here, and I purchased two 19 new desks already. 20 MR. DONNELL: 21 So two weeks, anybody will be able to 22 call in here and a live person will answer. 23 MR. PARNELL: 24 No, I am not going to say that is 25 going to happen in two weeks.

1	MR. DONNELL:
2	I am just asking.
3	MR. PARNELL:
4	I do not personally, I do not
5	believe there will be a live person I do not
6	believe to be effective and efficient having a
7	live person answering phone calls, every phone
8	call that comes into this building, is
9	efficient. I do not believe it.
10	I have seen the difference when we
11	had that in place and I see where we are today.
12	Big difference on the complaints that's coming
13	in. Far less, far, far less.
14	Now, if these persons take care of
15	the business as they are supposed to in the
16	office, y'all shouldn't be getting the
17	complaints y'all are getting now. I believe
18	the situation will be handled. I can't give
19	you a two-week time frame.
20	MR. BRITT:
21	If you got somebody to answer the
22	phone and still got the automated thing, that
23	is going to relieve that should help.
24	MR. PARNELL:
25	So with that said, that is how this

1 is structured and how it is supposed to go. Ιt 2 wasn't happening. Without getting in too deep 3 with that, that will be happening in the future, so. 4 5 But, no, not every single call that 6 is coming in somebody is going to pick up the 7 phone. I just didn't think that's efficient for this agency to be productive. 8 9 MR. WATTS: 10 I would like to remind everybody that 11 we're an agency. That you are out in the 12 field -- Montie, what are you doing? Your 13 people out in the field, they get a complaint 14 and get their number. Do they call Kim and discuss it to help them out if they can't get 15 16 in for some reason. We are all out there for 17 them. 18 MR. WISENOR: 19 Yes, sir. 20 MR. WATTS: 21 I know I get plenty -- not plenty, 22 but I do and I follow up on it. I settled one 23 for Ricky. He didn't have enough bond for four 24 licenses. So we got the license so he could 25 buy at the auction.

1 MR. DONNELL: 2 That was his complaint. He couldn't 3 find out what he needs. 4 MR. PARNELL: 5 That's my concern, that's my issue 6 right there. That is what I run into over and 7 over since I have been here. I think that a dealer -- he is a dealer and he should have 8 9 four licences falls upon that dealer. I don't 10 think that it is our responsibility to 11 constantly be telling you what you need to be 12 in business. All of the information is there. 13 All of the information has been provided. Ιt 14 is printed out. Check it off as you go. We 15 shouldn't run into these problems. 16 The complaints that usually come in are the persons who, number one, submitted 17 18 their stuff incredibly late. Number two, they want it within a week. Number three, the 19 20 persons that did not submit everything. Number 21 four, the persons that have no idea what they 22 are supposed to do who say they have been in 23 business for 20, 30, 40 years. 24 MR. DONNELL: 25 I agree with you solely, but these

dealers pay our salaries -- and do they not? 1 2 MR. WATTS: 3 Do they pay our salaries? MR. DONNELL: 4 5 Not mine, yours. 6 MR. WATTS: 7 I don't get much. 8 MR. PARNELL: 9 But efficiency -- when I was brought 10 on, I was brought here to make sure this place would be efficient and become an actual 11 12 business model that could be looked at. That's 13 what is happening. I don't want to get into the situation where everybody is calling. 14 15 MR. DONNELL: 16 I appreciate what you just said, but you just also stated that we license 5800 17 18 dealers. MR. PARNELL: 19 20 Yes. 21 MR. DONNELL: 2.2 What's one of the requirements of 23 licensing a dealer? 24 MR. PARNELL: 25 What's one of the requirements?

1 MR. DONNELL: 2 They have a phone. 3 MR. PARNELL: 4 Okay. 5 MR. WATTS: 6 They have to have a land baseline. 7 MR. PARNELL: Okay. I hope my suggestion and what 8 9 I produced to you-all will be taken into 10 consideration. 11 MR. DONNELL: 12 Yes, yes. 13 MR. WATTS: 14 To follow-up, I went to Derek right 15 when I talked to Jeff right when that happened, 16 and that's what I was waiting for this meeting 17 to discuss this with you-all. I wanted to put 18 it on the agenda, but that's where we are at 19 right now. I haven't had that problem. I always 20 21 handle it when I do, but that's just me. 2.2 MR. POTEET: 23 You know, in our business, we have a 24 receptionist and we try to get her to -- we 25 have always done this, we try to get her to do

1 other things besides being a receptionist. 2 Because for one thing, I can be boring and you 3 get somebody good in there and they don't want to be a receptionist anymore, they want new 4 5 titles or talk to customers or whatever it is. 6 The biggest problem that we find 7 is -- and I kind of feel your pain here a little bit -- is she answers the phone and 8 9 somebody starts asking her and they go on for 10 two minutes with a question, you know, a 11 two-minute-long question. So now this one 12 lights up, this one lights up. So she tries to 13 answer the question as best she can or move it 14 to another person. But it is the trafficking 15 that they have to really work at. The 16 receptionist or the people answering the phone 17 and, you know, it's amazing to me that a lot of 18 times when our receptionist is out -- she only 19 works three days a week -- we are more 20 efficient without her because the people who 21 are doing the other work can get to the 22 question more quickly. So the receptionist is 23 not, in our case, is not well-versed in 24 Maryland titles, but I have four people that do 25 know about Maryland titles. And so, you know,

1 it's -- I think the issue that I found when 2 people complain to me, well, I call over there 3 and nobody answers the phone. I think the 4 issue is from what I can see is sometimes you 5 don't know how to answer the question. And so 6 it is like who is going to answer this 7 question.

8 I want to give Derek a little bit of 9 a pass here and say, I think that if you -- it 10 is not so much hiring a person, although you 11 said that you are hiring a person anyway, but 12 it's a matter of properly dispersing the work. 13 MR. PARNELL:

14

15

23

Right.

MR. POTEET:

16 So people do get their questions 17 answered. Theoretically, it should be -- to 18 me, answering the phone is not that big of a 19 deal. Having the message returned is the big 20 If I do leave the message and it gets deal. 21 returned, I am not concerned about it since I 22 am getting a response.

MR. BRITT:

24The other thing that I am sure you25see it in your business, the guys that have

1 been around the longest in this business are 2 the ones that are computer savvy or savvy with 3 the modern way of doing things. And that's 4 going to be the ones to first complain, you 5 To kind of go with what Derek said a know. 6 while ago. I mean, it's all self-explanatory, 7 if you get on the internet and you look at it and if you need the guidelines. 8

9 But a lot of people aren't -- I mean, 10 it's just not -- they are not going to. I own a business that has a lot to do with 11 12 technology. And I theoretically can say why do 13 you still maintain a call center? I maintain a call center because there is about 25 percent 14 15 of my business that's never going to get on a 16 phone -- I mean on any app I have got or any 17 web page, they can't do it and they won't do 18 it. So theoretically probably where we are 19 getting complaints from are those people that 20 aren't going to get on and use technology.

That's my two cents. But, I mean, all that I know to do is we will try it. And I think if it works, that satisfies everybody. It looks like you got a plan. We will see as long as it works we don't end up on Fox 8 or

1 whatever that was. We will all be happy. 2 MR. POTEET: 3 The worse thing ever happened to me since I have been on this commission is when I 4 5 get something done. Because somebody will call me and say, I can't get anything done with the 6 7 commission. And I call up Kim, oh, we just sent that out. So I call the guy back, okay, 8 9 your license is on its way. Oh, my God, John, 10 you are the best. 11 MR. PARNELL: 12 I truly, truly understand the 13 concerns and especially during -- in the middle of the renewal period, I heard everything that 14 15 you guys were saying and I understood it. 16 That's why I really kind of try to look at it 17 how can I improve upon the process and make it 18 more efficient. 19 MR. DONNELL: 20 And thank you. Because I call 21 sometimes during the renewal and you got right 22 on and tended to it. Thank you. 23 MR. PARNELL: 24 Yes. It is just you do what you have 25 to do.

1 MR. DONNELL: 2 Good job. 3 MR. PARNELL: 4 In a nutshell, that is what we do. 5 We shouldn't be running into those phone calls 6 if everybody is doing what they are supposed to 7 do. 8 MR. WATTS: 9 Anybody else have anything to say on 10 this? 11 I do want to point out, if somebody 12 hears a complaint out there, just pick up the 13 phone and call Kim or something like that. 14 MR. WISENOR: 15 Well, when I receive complaints or calls --16 17 MR. WATTS: 18 Or call me. 19 MR. WISENOR: 20 -- I have explained to the dealers 21 that during renewal, it is hard for the ladies 22 that are processing the application are the 23 person to stop and have to answer every call 24 that takes them off their actual work that we 25 are trying to process the application. I mean,

1 as long as that call is returned. 2 MR. WATTS: 3 One thing about car dealers, they want their stuff right then. They don't tend 4 5 to it three or four months ahead of time, they 6 want it right in and they want it done right 7 now. 8 MR. BRITT: 9 Either on the deadline or the week 10 after. 11 MS. BARON: 12 Like what Derek said, they can call 13 him, me, Tonya. If I don't answer my phone, 14 it's because I am not sitting at my desk. 15 MR. WISENOR: 16 I will try to keep them from calling 17 I will call the lady or send an email to them. 18 whoever is processing and we normally get it 19 sorted out. 20 MR. WATTS: 21 All right. That's good. We are 22 going to ratification of imposed penalties. 23 MR. PARNELL: Commissioners, you will find in your 24 25 package, a chart that illustrates the licensees

that were in violation of state law. This case 1 2 was investigated and I have determined that the 3 public's interest can be served without further 4 administrative procedure; thus, civil penalty 5 were imposed. Total amount for civil penalties is 6500. 6 7 Commissioners, I ask that you ratify 8 the imposed civil penalties listed. The 9 dealership name is Auto Trends, LLC, Christen 10 Bossier, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, committed 11 one fraudulent act of causing injury to the 12 public, one count. 25 counts of non-delivery 13 of title. 14 MR. WATTS: 15 I need a motion to ratify. 16 MR. POTEET: 17 Make a motion that we ratify this. 18 MR. WATTS: I need a second. 19 20 MR. BRITT: 21 Second. 2.2 MR. WATTS: 23 Second by Commissioner Britt. 24 MR. BRTTT: 25 Quick question. We have seen this

name before, haven't we? 1 2 MR. PARNELL: 3 Yes. 4 MR. BRITT: Have they got anything else pending 5 6 or coming up? 7 MR. WATTS: 8 Do we have a whole bunch coming 9 through? 10 MS. BARON: 11 Not a bunch. 12 MR. WATTS: 13 This is just a fine right here. 14 MR. PARNELL: 15 Yes. Once we go out there and saw 16 something, we issue a fine that is out there. 17 And if they agree to paying, we go ahead and 18 accept the fine amount and present it to 19 you-all. Some of the cases are not -- they 20 don't warrant hearings on this one. 21 MR. WATTS: 22 The one that sticks out to me is the 23 non-delivery of titles, it is 25 counts. 24 That's a lot. 25 MR. BRITT:

1 That's my question. Are we going 2 to --3 MR. WATTS: 4 If we fine them, are we still working 5 on getting the titles for the 25 people? 6 MR. WISENOR: 7 They have delivered the titles. They 8 were just way late. That seemed to be the 9 pattern that dealer had was very late. Months, many months later after the sale. 10 11 MR. WATTS: 12 Where do we stand with it now? 13 MR. WISENOR: 14 They have been delivered. I hadn't 15 looked to see recently what's new since that's 16 been imposed. 17 MR. WATTS: 18 Legal matters. 19 MS. MORRIS: 20 So the one case that's pending, 21 Federated Mutual Insurance Company versus H and 2.2 N Auto Sales and the Commission, that was filed 23 in Orleans. It is being handled by the 24 Attorney General's Office in-house and they 25 filed an exception. So it going to be

1 transferred to East Baton Rouge. And I am not 2 really sure why it hasn't been transferred 3 earlier, but that's really the plaintiff's issue to resolve. We did receive a letter from 4 5 Sedgwick Claims Management Services, which is 6 the third-party adjusting company for the 7 Office of Risk Management. This Commission 8 pays into the risk management pool which covers 9 certain losses. And Sedqwick did issue a 10 reservation -- what we call a reservation of 11 rights letter saying that they will provide 12 indemnity in defense tort claims, but any other 13 claims they will not cover.

14 So, for that reason, you know, it 15 leads us to monitor it because there may be 16 uncovered claims. But until it gets 17 transferred and the case moves forward, I think 18 it is in good hands with the Attorney General's 19 Office. She has been communicating with me. You know, once it gets transferred and then the 20 21 records, we will probably have to have some 22 records sent to the other side and request 23 their records and it will go through a 24 discovery phase.

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But right now, not much is going on

1 with it. It seems the transfer was ordered by 2 the Court. 3 MR. WATTS: 4 What's the update with H and N? 5 MS. BARON: 6 He was murdered. 7 MS. MORRIS: 8 It is not in business anymore. So, 9 for that reason, it is not a concern that any 10 other administrative hearing needs to be 11 taken -- the allegation against the Commission is that the Commission didn't bring a 12 13 disciplinary action which you-all have 14 discretion to do. So the insurance company is 15 complaining about that. MS. BARON: 16 17 It has to be moved back to Baton 18 Rouge, you said? MS. MORRIS: 19 20 It is going to be moved to the 19th 21 Judicial District in East Baton Rouge. There 2.2 was a transfer. 23 I have another suit that's similar 24 and the judge ordered it transferred before 25 this one and it hasn't made it to Baton Rouge

1 yet. I don't know if it's because the 2 plaintiffs didn't pay for the cost, there is a 3 transfer cost, maybe they didn't go in and pay 4 their transfer cost. But really, it is the 5 defendant, it is their suit that they need to 6 move. 7 MS. BARON: 8 Okav. 9 MR. WATTS: 10 Compliance investigator report, 11 Montie. 12 MR. WISENOR: 13 Yes, sir. I have the monthly 14 production totals for the field for the month 15 of January and February of 2023. The totals 16 for January were -- there were 5 audits 17 conducted. There were no 5-day notices issued. 18 There were 76 site visits conducted. There were no cease and desist or hand deliveries 19 20 issued. There were 19 cases where consumers 21 were assisted in receiving title and 2.2 registration. There were 4 violations issued. 23 There were 4 refunds issued which total 24 \$12,900. There were 16 cases closed that were 25 assigned. 21 cases closed that were not

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assigned, and 18 physical inspections.

2 For the month of February, there were 3 4 audits conducted. There was no 5-day notice issued for notice of revocation. 79 site 4 5 visits conducted. There were no cease and desist issued. There were 16 consumers 6 7 assisted in receiving title and registration. There were no violations issued. There were 5 8 refunds issued that total 31,884.67. There 9 10 were 16 cases closed that were assigned. 26 11 cases closed that were not assigned and then 29 12 physical inspections conducted. And those are 13 the totals for those two months. 14 MR. WATTS: 15 Montie, while I got you here. 16 MR. WISENOR: 17 Yes, sir. 18 MR. WATTS: 19 I was scrolling through the Louisiana buy and sell app or the websites. 20 21 MR. WISENOR: 2.2 Yes, sir. 23 MR. WATTS: 24 Who is that that just came up that we 25 just -- ABC? What's the name?

1 MR. WISENOR: 2 ABZ. 3 MR. WATTS: 4 He is up there selling cars. 5 MS. BARON: 6 Jason Helmke. 7 MR. WATTS: 8 I just signed something for him to 9 get something collected over the last time and his response was y'all can't do me nothing. 10 11 MS. BARON: 12 He told you that? 13 MR. WATTS: 14 That's what one of y'all told me, 15 that he's above the law. MS. BARON: 16 17 Yes. 18 MR. WISENOR: 19 I wondered if he told Monroe --Investigator Allmond that at some point. We 20 are still pursuing complaints. 21 2.2 MR. WATTS: 23 He is selling cars out there. They 24 are not in his name, with no license plates and 25 he is advertising them.

1 MR. WISENOR: 2 Yes, sir. As a matter of fact, while 3 I was here in town, this week we were 4 working --5 MS. MORRIS: You don't want to discuss the case 6 7 that might come before the Commission. 8 MR. WATTS: 9 Okay. 10 MR. WISENOR: 11 There are a lot of other moving parts 12 of what we are doing. 13 MR. WATTS: 14 We will skip through that. My point is do we oversee these websites? I know when I 15 16 was -- had a lot, we ran a three-line ad and I 17 had to put an agent behind their name if you 18 were a dealer. And there are a lot of dealers 19 out there that don't try to do that on these 20 websites. They are pretending to be 21 individuals. 22 So I don't know if you can go to 23 these administrators on these websites and let 24 them know, hey, they are a dealer. I don't 25 know how can we police that.

1	MR. BRITT:
2	I don't think that you can on those
3	marketplaces.
4	MR. WATTS:
5	And they were advertised. I don't
6	know if we can or not.
7	MS. BARON:
8	I get complaints every once in a
9	while saying that they bought a car and they
10	thought it was from an individual, but when it
11	boiled down to it, they were a dealer. And
12	they were not real happy about that because
13	they thought they were buying from an
14	individual.
15	MR. BRITT:
16	I texted Montie one the other day
17	that I just kept seeing on marketplace. It
18	looked like he was selling out of his house and
19	I thought the name sounded familiar. And I
20	texted Monty to see if they knew if they had a
21	license. He got back and they stayed they did
22	and they moved their location. But I still
23	say
24	MR. WISENOR:
25	He has been in business for a long

time. 1 2 MR. BRITT: 3 But I still think they are doing it 4 out of their house. But you see that all of 5 the time. 6 MR. WISENOR: 7 You see phantom dealers or the vehicles don't even exist and they will post 8 9 people submitting a deposit on it. And then 10 they will try to get that post removed, but 11 then it will pop up again. There was one up in 12 Shreveport that was just constant. The dealer 13 had never -- had not been in that location for 14 5 years, but it kept popping up and people were 15 submitting or, like, sending deposits for vehicles that never existed. 16 17 MR. BRITT: 18 They will show a slick-looking car or 19 a truck and it will be \$1500. 20 MR. WISENOR: 21 We need to educate the general public 22 on not doing that. They want us to fix the 23 problem for them. 24 MR. WATTS: 25 I just got an email -- I guess it

come to the office here -- a guy in Miller,
Oklahoma, bought one online from a dealer here
and sent him one. Hadn't got his title yet.
He was likely to get you his title. I said you
are real lucky.

MR. WISENOR:

7 I worked a case out of California. It was filed against one of our dealers in 8 9 Bossier City and the dealer didn't sell that 10 type of Mercedes. This individual wired 11 \$30,000 to this -- wherever he advised him to 12 send it. But he had taken this dealer's 13 identity and created a bogus website and listed 14 high-end cars. And he said all of the 15 paperwork looked legitimate, you know, whenever 16 they were going back and forth. He wired 17 \$30,000 and it was gone. They kept asking us 18 what we could do about it, but I couldn't -- if 19 I couldn't tell that it originated out of 20 Louisiana, period. I told him to contact the 21 Attorney General's office in their state and 22 see if they might be able to track the money. 23 But I figured that money was just gone.

MR. POTEET:

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I got a case right now that is a

1 McLaren that went from a construction company 2 in Calgary, Canada, to a dealer in Houston, to 3 a retail customer in Atlanta, to a dealer in Atlanta, to a dealer in Louisiana, and it's 4 never had the right VIN on the title, ever. 5 6 And it turns out, the VIN that's on the McLaren 7 is actually for a Chevy truck that was manufactured in Mexico. 8

9 So we got the FBI involved, we got 10 the state police involved, we got the Canadian 11 FBI involved, we have the city police in 12 Calgary involved, we have got the Houston 13 police department involved, and that car is now 14 sitting somewhere.

MS. BARON:

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16Do you know where the car is?17MR. POTEET:

18 Yes, we know where it is.

MR. WISENOR:

20Do they know where it came from? Who21it was originally stolen from?

MR. POTEET:

23 You can imagine, look at that, and it 24 is the cloning of VINs, and that is going to be 25 a big, big problem for a while. It can be
1 fixed with technology, but nobody wants to. Ι 2 just mentioned to you two states and three 3 countries that are involved in one vehicle. 4 MR. BRITT: 5 There is no telling how many are out 6 there like that. 7 MR. POTEET: I think the only reason why this one 8 9 qot a lot of publicity here was the last person 10 that got hung with it, it is McLaren. It is a 11 \$280,000 car. All of these people involved are 12 people of means and they are all mad at each 13 other. 14 MR. WATTS: 15 All right. Derek, executive 16 director's report. 17 MR. PARNELL: 18 As we talked about this at our last 19 commission meeting in January, we have our 20 Legislative auditor, an audit that is currently 21 still going on. We have to submit the final 22 product by March 31. After speaking with the 23 auditor, he should be finished at that point. 24 He is kind of winding up, closing it out right 25 And so with that said, he should be here now.

1 next to present the findings to you-all about 2 It is a pretty extensive audit that audit. 3 this year. This newer -- this CPA company that 4 we have gone with, man, they are really going a 5 lot deeper than we were accustomed to, but I 6 didn't have any concern that we would have any 7 problems that they will find. He did make mention he really isn't finding very much to be 8 9 concerned about. A lot of what he is finding 10 is immaterial so it is not going to cause any 11 real issues, which is great. So, hopefully, I 12 should get some closure to that within this 13 week, the beginning of next week, so we can 14 present it to you guys and submit it to the 15 Legislative auditor.

16 The second audit that we had going on 17 with our compliance review of our purchase 18 cards, our credit cards, that audit concluded 19 at the end of January. The review did find 20 that we had one item which was not in 21 compliance. It was about a training session 22 that should have been signed off and taken 23 place at the end of last fiscal year that 24 wasn't done. And so that was what they found 25 as an issue with our process.

1 Nothing about the process of the 2 cards and how we are handling the card 3 situation. They found that to be better than 4 most of the other agencies and how they are 5 handling their situation. Because the way it 6 happens for us, we have four cards, four 7 cardholders, and those persons each and every 8 time that they want to make a purchase on 9 something that's business related, they have to 10 submit or request to me and I have to submit to 11 them what we call the LC number, which is the 12 card number. They must do that prior to any 13 purchase that they make. Anything that's annual, anything that comes out of those cards, 14 15 they have to have that request to me and 16 approved prior to that purchase.

17 So in speaking with E-card, that's 18 something that doesn't happen with any other 19 state agency to that degree. I say it works 20 for us because we are so small and we have four 21 cards. We don't have 200 cards so it is not 22 like a large state agency. So that has 23 concluded.

24All right. So I am also really25looking at all of our processes. Our

accounting department, I am still really
looking to get the right fit what I am doing in
that department. I did bring Ms. Rhonda on.
She is a great, great person. She works really
well with us, but I am in the process of
restructuring the accounting department right
now.

When I spoke to Civil Service, I 8 9 really got kind of frustrated with them because 10 they kind of pigeonhole us in kind of treating 11 us like a large agency, which we are not. We 12 can't get those job titles. We can't get some 13 of those, like, perks, but the job titles that 14 large agencies have. But those titles actually 15 fit what we are actually calling it. We pretty 16 much operate as a small business, not 17 necessarily a large state agency that's getting 18 money from the State.

19 So I really expressed it and I really 20 need a CFO to actually -- someone in the role 21 of chief financial officer and kind of focus on 22 what positions that are out there that can give 23 me that type of level of accounting experience, 24 and so they did come back with me and they kind 25 of gave me some options. So I am going through

1 the process right now, as I said, restructuring 2 that department as well as going in and 3 re-creating the job descriptions to fit within 4 everyone's skill set of where we are. 5 So I just wanted to give you guys an 6 update on that. We also have been in talks 7 with Barrett-Jackson. They are wanting in 8 September to come to the New Orleans Convention 9 Center to hold the auction there. So we kind 10 are working with them throughout the process. 11 I think this morning they went in their license 12 applications. And so we should be holding --13 they will be holding one in September, so 14 looking forward to that hopefully. 15 MR. WATTS: 16 What kind of license do they need? 17 MS. MORRIS: 18 Trade show. MR. HINES: 19 20 Auction license. 21 MS. BARON: 2.2 They are going to hold an auction. 23 MR. WATTS: 24 So it is an auction license.

MR. BRITT:

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1 Did they say how often they were 2 going to do it? 3 MR. PARNELL: 4 I think it is going to be, like, a 5 week or so, a week or two. 6 That was all that I had. If you have 7 any comments or concerns. 8 MR. WATTS: 9 Anybody have any questions for Derek? 10 Anything else? 11 Moving on to the catalytic converter. 12 Anybody have any comment on it? 13 MS. MORRIS: 14 It is still in a rough draft. We had 15 a couple of conferences and I think we have a 16 willing author. But, basically, the thing that 17 we were trying to address is that the law that 18 was adopted was for catalytic converter 19 purchasers, you know, the transaction involves 20 purchasers and sellers. So really should have 21 been for the transfer of catalytic converters. 22 So I have a draft that's very rough. 23 I can pass it out. It needs a little work. 24 But I thought the easiest thing was to make 25 them -- they were catalytic converter purchases

1 was the definition and then that would carry 2 through the law to make them catalytic 3 converter dealers because that's more parallel 4 with our other licenses.

5 There were -- I am trying to clean up 6 just terminology. In some places it talked 7 about detached converters. Other places talked 8 about used converters. So I am trying to make 9 sure it uses both terminologies throughout. 10 There was a reference to the fees and it said 11 that you paid a licensing fee in this section, 12 but it wasn't -- the licensing fee is not 13 actually in that section so I am putting the 14 reference to the statute for dealer fees.

15 And then there -- one of the concerns 16 that we have discussed is that the decanters 17 that buy the catalytic converters take them out 18 of state to process them. We didn't have a 19 decanter in the state of Louisiana at this So those purchasers don't really have a 20 time. 21 place of business here. So I did some research 2.2 and outside of our law, there is what's called 23 a transient merchant law which requires 24 transient merchants to register with the local 25 government and to keep certain records.

1 Coincidentally, some of the records 2 that they are required to keep is what we were 3 discussing because transient merchants would 4 include people that buy, sell, trade, and 5 acquire for disposal any secondhand property 6 consisting of gold, silver, copper, brass, or 7 other precious metals, jewelry, precious stones or other objects composed of metals and stones. 8

9 So that's really the catalytic 10 converters that were being purchased for the 11 precious metals. So I was thinking we might --12 it might be easier really to go into the 13 transient merchant law and to specify that if 14 the objects are detached from a vehicle or 15 catalytic converters that instead of reporting 16 to the local government, you report to this 17 commission rather than creating a whole other 18 structure, or we can just kind of lift it and 19 replicate it in our law. Those are two 20 options.

That's kind of up to the author of the bill and the drafters as to whether they think that it fits better. But I think it gives us some, you know, parallel that, you know, a transient merchant should have to

1 report somewhere and have an agent that's
2 responsible and have their records available
3 for inspection when requested.

4 In the transient merchant law, the 5 records have to be available to the chief law 6 enforcement of the area. We could simply add 7 that they be available to our investigators as So that, you know, they are tracking the 8 well. 9 sales. They have a photograph of the person 10 selling or delivering it, and they have to 11 retain that for a certain period and I think 12 address the concerns that we have.

13 There is still a lot of catalytic 14 converter theft going on, and we did look at 15 some other states. When this was adopted in 16 Louisiana, we were kind of ahead of a lot of 17 the other states. There are now 30-something 18 states that either have pending legislation or 19 active legislation. It's kind of all over the 20 board. So we did look at what California has 21 and we can borrow some language from there.

I heard on the radio this morning, one of the stories was that the cars with catalytic converters most likely to be stolen. It was on the local radio this morning. Last

1 week, I texted Derek because I was watching the 2 evening news and there was an article about 3 catalytic converter theft. 4 So it's still very prevalent, but I 5 think in Louisiana we, at least, do have some 6 sort of regulation, it is required reporting, 7 and I think it's discouraging our dealers from buying, you know, the catalytic converters from 8 9 people that are not willing to disclose the information as to where it came from. 10 11 MR. BROWN: 12 If we -- since that many people or 13 states are starting to get licensed, can we 14 require them to have a license in their home 15 state and be in good standing with their state 16 to get a license from us? 17 MS. MORRIS: 18 We could if the state issues 19 licenses, if it is a licensed trade within 20 their state. 21 MR. BROWN: 22 Rather than somebody just doing it in 23 the backyard, you know, storing stuff across 24 state line. 25 MS. MORRIS:

1 Right. We could allow them to apply 2 for, you know, some -- not really reciprocal 3 license, but --4 MR. WATTS: 5 How much does a license cost? 6 MS. MORRIS: 7 \$200? 8 MR. WATTS: 9 \$200. Travis brought it up in a 10 conversation last week. If you are an 11 out-of-state hunter, like in Mississippi, it is 12 \$425 to go shoot a deer. And it seems like in 13 Louisiana, they would pay more to buy 14 converters. 15 MS. MORRIS: 16 There are two different things. 17 Interstate commerce laws for doing business in 18 our state. But, like, hunting, universities --19 I pay out-of-state tuition for my child to go 20 to Mississippi. But if is supported and 21 maintained by public funds, then the people in 22 the state are paying their taxes for the public 23 parks. Universities and all of those things, 24 you can charge a higher fee for out-of-state 25 residents. But to do commerce in the state,

1 you can't charge somebody more for retail sales 2 for a fee to engage in the retail. 3 MR. DONNELL: 4 Is State Representative Rodgers going 5 to be your author? 6 MS. MORRIS: 7 I hope so, yes. 8 MR. DONNELL: 9 You hadn't contacted him? 10 MS. MORRIS: 11 I have not yet. I wanted to get 12 you-all to approve us going forward with some 13 cleanup legislation. 14 MR. DONNELL: 15 Well, last week he was onboard but he 16 wants y'all to get that to his staff. 17 MS. MORRIS: 18 Yes. We do need to do that. But I 19 was waiting for -- to make sure I understood 20 the scope of what you-all are wanting to do. 21 MR. BROWN: 22 Did we put a description of the 23 vehicle the converter come off of? 24 MS. MORRIS: 25 I have not yet, but that was one of

1 the pieces of information --

MR. BROWN:

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3 I know we do this on the scrap side, but doing the description for buying from 4 5 individuals, we need a dealer, possibly the 6 dealer/business transaction exemption per se, 7 because salvage yards have all of these cars --8 they own the cars. They are going to pull them 9 off. They are not buying converters. That's a 10 lot of recordkeeping for a salvage yard to know 11 what every one of those converters came off the 12 cars.

Now, if he is buying them, that's one thing. Same thing with the scrape side, we have a lot to come off the cars we buy. Are we going to have to keep that record of every one we pull off? That were the questions that we had we were discussing the other day.

MS. BARON:

20 Mr. Couvillion is here and he came 21 specifically for that part of the meeting. Do 22 you have anything that you wanted to add? 23 MR. COUVILLION:

I think Travis pretty much summed it
 up about the dealer -- the dealer transaction.

1 Because, like I said, we don't actually buy 2 from the general public. All we do is 3 dealer -- you know, like business related. And 4 if you had to go back and keep records on every 5 single converter, you know, basically you would 6 be following like the secondhand dealer law, it 7 actually states like the towing yard, salvage 8 yard, and stuff like that are actually exempt 9 from that because of their recordkeeping with 10 the vehicle to begin with. 11 MR. WATTS: 12 Who are you with, Mr. Couvillion? 13 MR. COUVILLION: 14 Couvillion Converters and Recyclers. 15 MR. WATTS: 16 Okay. 17 MS. MORRIS: 18 I think that we can do that in the 19 recordkeeping for -- you know, unless you are 20 licensed a salvage yard or dismantler. 21 MR. BROWN: 2.2 Buying one from an individual is 23 completely different than buying from a salvage 24 yard. 25 MR. COUVILLION:

1 A lot of shops, you know, your 2 automotive-based shops, like you got your --3 like if you go to a mechanic shop and they change one out or swap it out for something, 4 5 there is no core charge for these guys actually 6 can legally sell them because they generate, 7 you know, the converter in their everyday 8 process. 9 MS. MORRIS: 10 But they would have the VIN number 11 and the information to supply to you on that 12 one. 13 MR. COUVILLION: 14 Yes. You see something like that in 15 a mechanic shop. 16 MR. WATTS: 17 What does a mechanic shop do after he 18 takes them off if he needs them? Does he sell 19 them? 20 MR. COUVILLION: 21 He just sells them, like, for scrap 22 or whatever. 23 MR. WATTS: 24 There is no record of it where it 25 comes from. He just goes in the junk pile.

MR. COUVILLION:

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2 Exactly, exactly. And that is why we 3 try to stay strictly in an automotive-based 4 industry to where, you know, you are less 5 likely to run across the theft if you are 6 dealing with an automotive-based business as 7 opposed to, you know, buying off the streets. And most of the stuff that's getting stolen is 8 9 being sold to these guys that are coming 10 through from out of states that keep no 11 records; they breeze through here at night and 12 they roll on out. They are not, you know, 13 employing any employees. They are not paying 14 any taxes. They are not buying any licenses. 15 They are just rolling through. And the legal 16 guys like us, we are the ones that are 17 suffering from having to jump through hoops to 18 appease everybody. But, you know, because a basic -- like I always said, a basic criminal 19 20 is not going to go out there and buy a license 21 and go out, start stealing some.

MS. MORRIS:

I guess one of the things to try to plug the holes, I guess, because automotive shops that provide service are not licensed by

1 anyone unless they are a dealer or some other 2 category, and so the people stealing them, if 3 they can't go selling them at a salvage yard because they don't want to give their identity 4 5 and information, then we are going to find 6 another avenue. And is this an automotive 7 shop, do they then go to a muffler shop and start paying the muffler shop? 8

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MR. COUVILLION:

10 Most of the guys, they are catching 11 these guys coming through. You can get on 12 marketplace and you can type it in and you can 13 have 15 different out-of-state unlicensed guys 14 sitting at your door in the morning. And there 15 is no record, all cash, no nothing, and roll 16 on. You know, like with us, you know, like 17 even guys that haul salvage cars, we make them 18 go out and get an occupational license to show 19 that they are an automotive-based business. 20 And I even write them guys checks just to 21 really cover our side of it, you know.

MR. BROWN:

Prior to the legislation, there was
not even a law against buying converters. So
that law enforcement really couldn't do

1 anything to an extent unless they caught you 2 stealing. 3 MR. COUVILLION: 4 Correct. 5 MR. BROWN: 6 That's kind of what all of this is 7 geared towards. It is trying to stop some of 8 And that's all we are doing here is them. 9 trying to beef up ours to where what we are 10 buying from the public, we have a description 11 of the vehicle, and hoping to have that back 12 in. And we are already getting licenses and 13 all of that. 14 So on top of that, our discussion today was from the out-of-state side. Just not 15 16 licensing every criminal that comes in. Just 17 making sure they got a license in their state 18 or, you know, different ideas of what we are 19 talking about. Making sure they are in good standing with their state. 20 21 We know the criminals aren't going to 2.2 buy a license. But we are narrowing it down to 23 an extent. 24 MR. COUVILITON: 25 Only thing on an out-of-state buyer

1 like that, is if he is coming through and says 2 he is licensed in this state and over here 3 doing illegal stuff, how are you going to go 4 across state lines to do anything? Don't you 5 not have jurisdiction to go out of your state? 6 MR. WISENOR: 7 We would coordinate in with their 8 state. 9 MS. MORRIS: 10 They would still need a license here 11 to do the purchase here and transport them. 12 MR. WISENOR: 13 They can pass it on -- investigators 14 will pass that on to the other state. 15 MR. COUVILLION: 16 Like I said, our biggest problem is 17 you got them rolling here with no license. 18 That's our biggest problem, you know. Because, 19 like I said, 9 times out of 10, a licensed 20 dealer is not going to go out knowing that this 21 is just some Joe off the street, can't prove 22 nothing. These cats are just breezing through, 23 and that's where our biggest issue is coming 24 through with a lot of theft in the state. 25 MR. BROWN:

1 But if you are pulled over and you 2 are asked for your license, you got a license. 3 They pull him over and he doesn't have license, 4 then that's -- they can take care of him 5 immediately. MS. BARON: 6 7 So if somebody drives up to your dealership and wants to sell you catalytic 8 converters and they don't have a license, what 9 10 do you do? Send them here to get a license 11 first? 12 MR. BROWN: No. I don't buy -- I buy from the 13 14 public. 15 MS. BARON: 16 You know, just saying if they did. 17 If an out-of-state drives up and wants to sell you a catalytic converter and he doesn't have a 18 19 license with us. 20 MR. BROWN: 21 I wasn't talking about that. I was 22 talking about the guys coming in and buying from individuals, they don't have a license. 23 24 MS. BARON: 25 Okay.

1 MR. BROWN: 2 You can go on marketplace and pull 3 one of those guys up, they will come to your 4 house and buy a converter that you stole from 5 someplace. 6 MS. BARON: 7 I see. 8 MR. BROWN: 9 But what I am saying is when law 10 enforcement pulls that quy over and has got the 11 trailer behind him and he doesn't have a 12 license, he is going to lose a lot of money. 13 If that trailer is full, \$100,000 easy. 14 MR. COUVILLION: 15 With this new license that we have 16 now -- we are just talking on the way down 17 here -- just say if you get pulled over in some 18 little parish and all you got detained there, 19 if he is giving you a hard time, will it go through his parish or will they have to go 20 21 through the State now or the used motor vehicle 2.2 commission since we are licensed through the 23 commission and not him? 24 MS. MORRIS: 25 They are licensed through the

1 commission, but the way the law was structured, 2 it gives the law enforcement authority to 3 There is a site in there. arrest them. The 4 enforcement is mostly law enforcement. 5 MR. COUVILLION: We run into some instances like that 6 7 where we, you know, gotten pulled over and, you know, and show all of our proper paperwork and 8 all of that and have all a detective that 9

doesn't really know what is going on and we get harassed so bad over that.

MR. BRITT:

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13 That's the problem and that's why we 14 are trying to clean all of this up, because our 15 ultimate end game plan is to train every law 16 enforcement agency in the state and our 17 investigators to do regional training. Then, 18 my hope is to see it implemented in every 19 police academy to where we have one of our guys 20 go to the North Delta Academy in Monroe and do 21 a two-hour program. And the next week, Rapides 22 at their academy or in Thibodaux at the 23 LaFourche Academy. And we do -- we implement 24 it in their POST training. And that's -- it is 25 going to take -- it is not going to happen

1 overnight.

2 But the main thing -- you can share 3 this with your guys, is if you get stopped, 4 just tell the guys, I am not being a smart 5 aleck, but call during business hours, call the 6 Used Car Commission, or get Montie's phone 7 number and have them call Montie. They just don't understand and they will. I field those 8 9 questions all of the time. That's our plan. 10 MR. COUVILLION: 11 We will help you anyway we can. Just 12 let us know. 13 MR. BRITT: 14 We might need you to host a training 15 deal once a month. 16 MR. WISENOR: 17 Would that fall in part of the 18 recordkeeping requirements is having the -- if 19 you buy from an individual that has more than one converter or off of one vehicle, would you 20 21 require them to produce that license -- a 22 license, period? If it stands to reason, you 23 can't be in a position of so many without 24 having a license, then that will be part of a 25 recordkeeping piece that is part of you have to

1 have their license information number or 2 whatever state they are from, either Louisiana. 3 And then would that trickle to these shops you mentioned, exhaust shops, automotive shops that 4 5 are dealing, would they have to have a license 6 even doing what they are doing with them if 7 they are even taking them off of customer vehicles and accumulating them and then 8 9 re-selling them, does that put him in that business? 10

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MR. BROWN:

12 Well, to me the salvage yard -- I 13 will speak on that behalf -- the salvage yard 14 has a license with this department. They are 15 not buying from the general public. I don't 16 see where they should get a license. As they 17 are a licensed dealer and he comes in and buys 18 from a licensed dealer and they are an 19 automotive dealer, they have a right to have 20 that car with converters on. They are already 21 licensed through us as a dealer.

Now, he can't go to a lawnmower shop because they don't have catalytic converters. If that guy has got converters, he needs to know where they are coming from. 1

2 Sheri, the changes that we are 3 looking at doing, do you foresee any pushback because we know that the law last year changed 4 5 several times before the final product came 0116 7 MS. MORRIS: I think it should be easier this time 8 9 because it was so new last time and it was a 10 bill that was originally drafted by law 11 enforcement without coordinating with the 12 Commission. So I think that then the 13 Commission -- it did not provide who was 14 supposed to issue the licenses. So we kind of 15 had to intervene to become the agency to 16 provide the licenses and define all of that 17 process. So that is all pretty well defined. 18 I think, though, you know, there are some other 19 definitions that we probably needed, you know 20 if purchasing doesn't include an auto mechanic 21 who is used once to repair a car, we would have 2.2 to carve that out so that those auto mechanics 23 don't have to be. But there were very little 24 specifics at that time. And, like I said, we 25 were kind of, you know, ahead of a lot of other

states because we kind of followed Mississippi.
Mississippi was kind of ahead and we were
following theirs. So I think now that we kind
of understand the transactions a little bit
better and the licensing structure, I think we
could -- last time we just ran out of time, I
think, to get it.

MR. BROWN:

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9 I can show you some wording that's in 10 the scrap law like for copper. You know, you 11 can't buy -- we will have to have all of this 12 information for buying copper wire. And a 13 dealer-to-dealer transaction is basically if a 14 dealer is generating that product in his -- I 15 don't know the exact wording, but it is in his 16 normal course of business, then they are exempt 17 on a dealer to dealer.

18 If a guy brings in a whole truckload 19 of wiring harnesses from a salvage yard, he 20 generated that from his normal course of 21 business. And there is some wording in it that 22 we need to look at.

MR. WATTS:

I think that as a licensing body, we
just want the fees. There is no sense to make

the laws and give our input for the scrap yards or -- we can't afford it. It seems like state police should be sitting here talking with us. Somebody with the law. We collect the fee and give them a license.

MR. BRITT:

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7 We are going to wind up investigating it and then involving local authorities or the 8 9 state police; that's exactly what was going to 10 happen. And, Sheri and Derek, last year when 11 it all evolved so guickly, I think the LSA 12 understood that this -- what we did last year 13 is not the final. That it was going to take some tweaking like this. And, you know, a year 14 15 from now, two years from now, it might be 16 tweaked a little bit more. And I see --17 because the world is evolving and I see this 18 commission evolving with what they are going to 19 be involved in.

20 And I just -- you summed it up right 21 there, Mr. Chairman, you said we just need to 22 be the licensing agency. That's not the way 23 this is going to work. We are going to be a 24 training agency. We are going to be working 25 with the enforcement more because this is a hot

1 topic and it's all -- it is on our lap. 2 MR. BROWN: 3 If we don't take a point on it, it is 4 just another bill. 5 MR. BRITT: 6 Another dead law. And just like Mr. 7 Couvillion said -- and where are you from? 8 MR. COUVILLION: 9 Pollock. 10 MR. BRITT: 11 Pollock and you are a Couvillion. 12 You are not from Vermilion Parish. But what he 13 said a while ago -- and I've seen it happen a 14 thousand times even when I was a deputy, you 15 would stop -- you would stop somebody for 16 whatever and you have got nothing. Whatever it 17 is, you have to call somebody to figure it out. 18 And it is just like those young troopers at home and the sheriff's office at 19 20 home, they know that I am on this Commission. 21 My phone will ring at 11 o'clock at night, it 22 will be a young trooper on the side of the 23 highway or a deputy saying, what are we 24 supposed to do about this? Call Montie, don't 25 call me.

1 But, you know, they are going to 2 be -- and that's why I am going to be adamant 3 about why we are here and we are involved in 4 this is we finish our job and we get the 5 training done. And once that training is done, 6 all of those guys is going to be just like them 7 writing a ticket for speeding. They are going They are looking for drugs. 8 to know. They are 9 going to know what they can do and what they can't do. And I think that should be our 10 11 ultimate goal in the end game is for us to 12 finish fine-tuning everything. Get our guys 13 trained. Get our ladies in the office to know. 14 We know how to answer the questions if we get 15 asked and then we get the training done. Then, in 24 months or 36 months, everybody in the 16 17 state will be trained. And if it's a 2-hour 18 deal or an hour-and-a-half deal, if we can 19 narrow it down, every police academy from here on out, then it is done. We have done our 20 21 jobs.

MR. WATTS:

23 It sounds like the legislature 24 pointed to us as a commission.

MR. BRITT:

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1 If we hadn't, it is no telling where 2 it would have wound up. The only other place I 3 could have seen this landing would be DPS with the standards guys. And that's now under LSP. 4 5 MR. WATTS: 6 It sounds like they should be the 7 lead, the state police. MR. BRITT: 8 9 Well, they are not. We saddled this 10 horse and we have to ride it now. 11 MR. BROWN: 12 We got a good group in this here from 13 law enforcement to scrap to auctioneers and 14 used car guys. This is our problem. It is in our realm of what we do and we know how it 15 16 I know certain parts. They know moves. 17 certain parts. So the best place for it. If 18 it goes to state police, they are going to just 19 stamp it. 20 MS. MORRIS: 21 It was really for the local 22 governments -- and that's just we have over 300 23 municipalities in 64 parishes, and so it kind 24 of was whether or not it was going to be 25 enforced. In some of those municipalities, it

1 is made up of 200 in population. They don't 2 have the resources to even sometimes go to the training or to enforce it. So I think it's 3 4 good that it's a statewide commission. And I 5 don't think we are going to get the push -- we 6 are trying to take what we have and make it 7 work for the legitimate businesses. And I don't anticipate that the people who are going 8 9 to steal them are going to show up at the 10 Capitol.

MR. COUVILLION:

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12 One other thing that we need to try 13 to work on, too, is the law. It states that if 14 you are buying from the general public, you are 15 allowed to buy one converter per person per day 16 with proof of ownership. The problem is that 17 95 percent of your vehicles have two to four 18 converters on it. So if a man comes every day 19 for four days with his proper paperwork and he's doing a legal deal, but then, say Montie 20 21 comes in and checks our books, and he is, like, 22 you got the same title for four different 23 converters, four different days, you know, this 24 is going to look bad on the dealer. 25

MR. BROWN:

1 We have addressed that. We are 2 trying to put wording there for one VIN number. 3 One car up to four or five converters. 4 MS. MORRIS: 5 I failed to mention that but that was discussed on our call and I think some of us 6 7 weren't aware that there is more than one converter in a vehicle. So that was something 8 9 that came up and so that's why it is good to 10 have car dealers as well. 11 MR. WATTS: 12 That's all fine with me. We are a 13 self-supporting agency. This is coming out of 14 our pockets, this agency; we are paying for all 15 of this. We don't get a check from the State 16 to pursue all of this is what I am saying, you 17 know, funds. 18 MR. BROWN: 19 We are not going to be pursuing 20 anything as far as --21 MR. WATTS: 22 We got schooling we have to give. We 23 have to get commissioners out there, all of 24 That comes out of this budget. That's that. 25 why I am making the point, so.

1	MR. BRITT:
2	That's why we license them and we are
3	going to charge them. Raise the fee.
4	MR. PARNELL:
5	Sheri, what title is the transient
6	merchant law under?
7	MS. MORRIS:
8	It is in Title 37. It starts at
9	37:19901 and it defines transient merchant.
10	And it almost fits, but it doesn't. But I
11	think it was designed for the companies that
12	come in and buy gold and silver and jewelry,
13	that kind of stuff, a lot of them are from out
14	of state. And so to keep them from buying
15	stolen goods, I think they have to hold on to
16	the merchandise for 15 days. After 15 calendar
17	days after they purchase it, they have to have,
18	you know, the person's ID. They have got to
19	document where that came from.
20	MR. BRITT:
21	Who oversees it?
22	MS. MORRIS:
23	Unfortunately, probably the local
24	governments. So I don't know how much
25	enforcement is behind it. And what happens

1 sometimes -- kind of came from local 2 government, you know, what happens is if -- I 3 am going to say Denham Springs, because it is close to here. So they will have good 4 5 enforcement. Well, they are not going to go to 6 Denham Springs, they are going to go to 7 Livingston or they are going to go to someplace that has a weaker enforcement. 8

So sometimes when it's left to the 9 10 local governments, the dealers or the people 11 that are not following the law, they just find 12 the holes in the law so they are not going to 13 qo to a place that has got a police department 14 that's knowledgeable. They are going to get 15 busted there once and then they are going to 16 take that off their map and they are going to 17 go to the next smaller town that maybe doesn't 18 have licensing.

We have a lot of enforcement cases that just avoid the places that are educated and enforcing the law and find the places that aren't. So that's why I think the statewide approach is a whole lot better when you are trying to control crime.

25 MR. BRITT:

Absolutely. I just don't know what 1 2 the merchant law fell under. 3 MS. MORRIS: 4 You are supposed to register with the parish police jury. And if there is local law 5 6 enforcement and then you are supposed to 7 register with them. 8 MR. BRITT: 9 Like fruit salesmen, you have to have 10 a permit. 11 MS. MORRIS: 12 So there are probably a lot of holes. 13 I think that it is a good framework so maybe we 14 can either amend Title 37 to put that if it is a part that came from a vehicle, then the 15 16 registration would be here or we would just 17 kind of mirror our law. Either way, it would 18 work. 19 They have to put up a bond and there 20 are penalties and violations for all of that 21 sorts of things. 22 MR. WATTS: 23 Yes. Sounds like you are on top of 24 it. 25 All right. Nothing else. Items for

next agenda. MS. BARON: I don't have anything. MR. WATTS: All right. We are adjourned. (Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.)

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, BETTY D. GLISSMAN, Certified Court
4	Reporter, Certificate No. 86150, in and for the
5	State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the
6	Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle Commission March
7	20, 2023, meeting was reported by me in the
8	stenotype reporting method, was prepared and
9	transcribed by me or under my personal
10	direction and supervision, and is a true and
11	correct transcript to the best of my ability
12	and understanding.
13	This April 3, 2023, Baton Rouge,
14	Louisiana.
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16	
17	
18	
19	
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21	
22	BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR
23	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
24	
25	

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