

February 20, 2020

Representative Sharpe,

My name is Mickie Thibeault. My husband and I own and operate Mid Coast Truck Repair & Towing, Inc. located at 662 Newell Brook Rd, Durham.

I am on the board of directors as well as the treasurer for The Towing and Recovery Association of Maine. As a director for TRAM, I am the chairperson for our legislative committee.

We are currently addressing the lack of a towing and recovery rotation in many areas of our state.

It seems that law enforcement has their favorite tower that they always call.

If you look at the towing companies that have the newest and most equipment, you will understand that in most cases it is because they are receiving the bulk of law enforcement calls.

We are asking for your support as we work to implement a call rotation state wide that would include all towers and ensure that the calls initiated by law enforcement be handled in a professional, fair and consistent manner.

Our goal is clearing the scene and getting traffic moving as quickly and safely as possible. In establishing coverage areas and a call rotation for towers, we can ensure that towers are arriving to the scene in a reasonable amount of time, while ensuring equal treatment of all tower.

We have all made very large investments in our tow/recovery equipment with the intention to serve our communities. By eliminating favoritism at the hands of law enforcement, we will give all towers the same chance to succeed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mickie Thibeault
Mid Coast Truck Repair & Towing, Inc.
662 Newell Brook Rd
Durham, ME 04222
(207) 353-4842
midcoasttruckrepair@gmail.com

Phillips Sons Body Shop

From: Derek Leonard [info@leonardautomotive.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 2:54 PM
To: bphilips@maine.rr.com
Subject: Bangor

I was totally backwards on the meeting thing I apologize for even wasting your time on that, I was completely in the wrong month. The Bangor meeting we discussed is October the 13th correct? Also, since we are discussing bangor, really would like the associations help in what is going on up here with the state police. You talked to Erica earlier about Bouchards, literally after you got off the phone with her I got a call that Bouchards is on the highway doing a tractor trailer crash 5 miles form my shop. The crash is right in the middle of my shop and T&W garage, bouchards is 18 miles away. He has a retired state trooper on his payroll and a currently employed DOT supervisor on his payroll that both allegedly drive tow trucks for him, Yet ive never seen either in a truck. Ive seen the dot guy sweeping his floors on the weekends.... Theres something going on here and it is very unfair, I have millions invested here and this makes 9 strait, in a row, heavy truck crashes Bouchards has done on my side of town that neither myself or T&W has gotten.....

Thank you,
Derek Leonard
Leonard Automotive
7 Horseback Rd Carmel ME 04419

Phone 207 949-4319
Fax 207 605-0432
Email Info@LeonardAutomotive.com

Phillips Sons Body Shop

From: Derek Leonard [info@leonardautomotive.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 2:42 PM
To: TRAM - Carl Phillips
Subject: Towing

ON 12-27-2019 at 11:42 am my company received a phone call from Justin Sawyer, phone # 207-217-4950, asking if we could come to the interstate around mm 174 Carmel to pull his 2007 GMC truck from the median after sliding off, I gave Justin a 30 min ETA and immediately called the state police dispatch to inform them, that the customer had called us to that location to recover the truck and its location. I asked if any troopers would be available to provide lights, and I was told there was not any available and it will have to wait until they got caught up, I said them that was perfectly ok with us and we would just stop and pick up the customer so he was safe and proceed to the nearby rest area until they were ready for us. Upon arriving on scene to pick up the customer, a DOT truck stopped and provided some lights and very shortly after a state trooper showed up with another towing company behind him with a wrecker. The trooper approached my driver and told them he had already called another company, they were on the way and he needed to leave, my driver asked why this was OK and explained we were called by the owner, informed state police dispatch we were coming, and the owner wanted to bring the truck to our repair facility and have the damaged tires repaired so he could make his way home for the weekend, the trooper, unsure of name, licence plate #XXX told my guys he didnt care who was called he had a company on the way already and he needed to leave, he also approached the vehicle owner and told him he didn't care who he had called and that "We dont deal with Leonards" and the company he called was going to pull the truck out and tow it off. My driver radioed me to ask what I wanted him to do, and I asked him to please have to trooper call my personal cell phone to discuss the matter, his reply was "i will when i'm good and ready, now leave" I just told my driver to just leave and not cause a scene. I do not feel this is fair treatment, and this is not the first instance, this is a repeated problem continuously almost on a daily basis, our everyday contracted clients are forced to use competing companies when involved in acsedenty becuase police or police dispatch is calling a wrecker to the scenes befor anyone even arives or anyone is asked for a preference in wrecker service, by the time a phone call is made to my company and we notify police dispatch we are continously told "weve already called another company" and are unable to service our customers. I belive there is a great deal of favoritism with one company in particular bouchard towing. The very same trooper from this incedent was seen later on sitting in the crossover with Bouchard towing and traveling up and down the highway with Bouchard towing, pulling out vehicles, there have been multiple tractor trailer truck crashes involving my customers that were forced to use bouchards because the trooper called them as soon as report of the crash came over the radio, and would not give them an option when they arrived. This is becoming very financially detrimental to our company and its 13 employees with family's to feed. I do not believe that it is fair for nearly 90% of the large truck crashes on the interstate are given to one company, when we have the clientele and have made the investment to do the job just as safe and efficient as any other company if not more. From MM157 where Troop E starts all the way up north, over 100 miles of interstate, this favoritism is shown, with 90% of the truck crashes going to one company Bouchard towing. There is no possible way for this one company to possibly keep up with the normal everyday towing needs of the area, with my company alone providing over 800 regular everyday towing services, our long list of clients need to be able to depend on us if they are involved in an accident, and is financially crucial to our survival. In nearly 3 years of towing large commercial trucks the state police have not called us for a crash on their own, ever, not once, any crash we have gotten was by request of the truck driver or owner.

Untitled

Thursday Sept.13,2018

Myself & the saefty director of TRAM were called by Mr. Bouchard who was upset that he was being talked about. He called me at 7:30 in the evening to tell me what he does to guys like us. He could come over and shove his fist in my mouth and shove all my teeth down my fuckin throat. Other towers are afraid to come forward because they think the State Police will throw them off the turnpike.

Phillips Sons Body Shop

From: Scott, Brian P [Brian.P.Scott@Maine.Gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 10:03 AM
To: Phillips & Sons Body Shop
Subject: RE: Tram board meeting

Thank you Mr. Phillips. I have forwarded your email to Lt. Aaron Hayden who oversees our Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Lt. Pat Hood who oversees Troop D and Lt. Kyle Tilsley who oversees Troop B to make them aware of the complaints. Regarding the 6 T/T Units that were hauled for toll evasion; we decided to use Copp Motors due to them having the correct equipment, enough space on their lot, their proximity to the area where we needed the units hauled from and our prior positive experience with them. We also needed all the trucks in the same location after removal from the scenes for our own follow up purposes and to make things easier for the trucking company involved.

I am not aware of the circumstances in Falmouth.

Respectfully,

Brian

Major Brian P. Scott
Maine State Police
Operations Division
45 Commerce Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333
7-624-7203

Integrity* *Fairness* *Compassion* *Excellence

From: Phillips & Sons Body Shop <Bphilips@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 11:00 AM
To: Scott, Brian P <Brian.P.Scott@Maine.Gov>
Subject: Tram board meeting

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Hello Brian, Just wanted to share some issues brought to my attention at the last Tram board meeting. Copp motors was called to haul all 6 tractor trailers that were held for unpaid toll charges. Some were upset that more than one company should have been called to haul them. Another instance brought to attention was that AC Towing in Gardner was called to Falmouth by state police for a gmc truck hauling a building, state police felt a rotator was necessary which is bull. They feel AC Towing was called because they have a family member on the state police. Favoritism is being called out. Just wanted to share this with you.

Thanks, Carl Phillips
Vice President, TRAM

Mickie Thibeault
Durham

I have attached some concerns brought to the Towing & Recovery Assoc. of Maine. Several towing companies have concerns that state and county law enforcement are calling the same towers using their cell phones instead of going through the dispatch centers and/or using a rotation list. Having an accurate and transparent record of all tow calls will allow for the extraction of information necessary for determining whether or not there is a true issue concerning favoritism.