1.16.18

Attention: Senate Judiciary Committee, The Honorable Senator Kevin Bacon:

Shamrock Towing, established in 1952, has been doing private property impounding since 1969, due to a ruling to give property owners protection from unauthorized parkers in their renters paid spaces. This came about because a student of OSU was unable to park in her parking lot & was instead forced to park a few blocks away. On her way home she was jumped & raped. At that point the property owners came together & created a law to protect the students & all property owners from illegal parkers. My 15-year employee handles the process of managing the legally required notices that have to be sent to all owners and/or lien holders of each vehicle that we receive in impound. Here is her statement:

In regard to the required certified mailings, in the past 5-6 years that I’ve been doing them, it has changed from one letter to each owner/lien holder to as many as 3 to each for the private property impounds. This, in my opinion, does not increase the chances of the vehicles being picked up, it only increases the work load & cost to the towing company’s. We not only have to pay to send sometimes 3 letters to each, we have to monitor them also, which is a full time job in itself. The biggest issue in my opinion is the time constraint. The  2nd & 3rd letter time frames do not allow enough time before they’re legally required to be sent for the first letter to be delivered most times. The 2nd letter must be sent by the 30th business day after the vehicle was impounded, the 3rd by the 45th business day, regardless of if we’ve gotten the first back or if it was delivered. So we have to rely on the post office’s website to see if the 2nd & 3rd letter is needed. Most of the time, not only do the letters not make it to the recipient, they’re returned for a different reason than what is on the website, so the 2nd & 3rd letters are being sent when it’s not necessary. 90% of the vehicles that are here long enough to go through this process have long been abandoned, usually anyone who cares about their vehicle & is driving it, knows as soon as it is towed. Also,  the recent influx of title loans has also upped the cost & labor as almost every junk vehicle has a lien on it which means they need an extra letter to the lien holder & because the vehicle they gave a loan on isn’t worth the first day’s towing & storage cost, the lien holders usually don’t ever pick them up.

I’ve attached a picture of our over-flowing impound lot due to difficulties of obtaining a title of an abandoned vehicle.

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