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Date: 8/2/2006 5:42:42 PM
Subject: Post and Courier Inquiry re: P-tags

Charles Rowe 843-937-5528

is an editor with the P & C. He's going to be writing an editorial regarding the P tag question in Charleston.

He wanted to know the requirements to obtain a P tag....

Explained that vehicles with an empty weight >7000 and GVW >9000 lbs MUST get P tag.

I explained the difference between empty and GVW, and that we have no way of verifying the GVW.

Explained that vehicles with a self-reported GVW of 4000 lbs could get one, even if the empty wt. Was < 4000 lb.

Told him that our research indicated that no other major city uses the type of tag to determine where parking was permitted, and that the P tag issue seems to be one that's an issue in Charleston only.

Wanted to know how a Miata, for example, could get a P tag, because he's seen them. Explained that if the customer comes in and reports a GVW of 4000 lbs and reports that the vehicle is used to haul property, we would probably issue the tag.

Also explained that the P tag and property carrying requirement was not tied to a commercial enterprise, so requiring a business license, as his reporter suggested, in order to get a P tag, is not something currently defined under the law.

Explained that we're required to issue a tag that meets the requirements of the law, and there is nothing in state law that relates the type of tag to where a vehicle is permitted to park. That is an issue of local ordinance.

Charles also indicated that in speaking with the City of Charleston, there was an implication that we were lax in our requirements for issuing a P tag. I reiterated that we have to meet the requirements of the law.

He wanted to know how hard it would be to run a report to find out where the majority of vehicles that aren't trucks are registered for which the empty weight is less than 4000 lbs. I told him that we could probably run that report, but that I wasn't sure what it would show. That just because a vehicle had an empty weight of <4000 lbs, doesn't necessarily mean that it can't haul property to bring the GVW above 4000 lbs. I used the example of a newspaper delivery person who uses his personal (small) vehicle to haul and deliver papers.

That's about it!

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