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Date: 5/31/2007 12:19:29 PM
Subject: Ronald Friday

Here is the narrative for Mr. Friday. We plan to issue title and registration this afternoon if he shows up. You can close this item in your tracking list.

May 31, 2006

Narrative of DMV efforts to title and register 1967 Mustang to Mr. Ronald Friday.

Mr. Friday first contacted DMV to title his vehicle, 1967 Ford Mustang VIN 7T015185573, on Friday March 9, 2007.

He had in his possession no proof of ownership, only an Alabama tag with license number 1AE 7257 with a 1990 decal. He also presented a paid tax receipt from Richland County dated March 8, 2007.

Mr. Friday stated that his vehicle has been housed with his father at 2321 E. Lynches Rd, Timmons ville, SC continuously since August 1989 until the present. Mr. Friday was on active military duty overseas and posted throughout the US since 1989, and never had the opportunity to transfer the vehicle records to South Carolina. The Department's Title and Registration Unit, Office of Constituent Services and Mr. Friday himself attempted to obtain copies of his Alabama registration records from Alabama on several different occasions. When neither was able to do so, I contacted the Alabama DMV Director. Her Deputy returned my call and verified that Alabama does not retain any registration records older than 10 years. Alabama did not begin titling vehicles until the mid-70's. Even after Alabama began titling vehicles, that state would not have issued title to any vehicles manufactured before 1976, even if application for title was made after that date.

Mr. Friday previously obtained SC title and registration to a 1955 truck that had also been registered in Alabama. In this case, however, Alabama did have a record of the registration, since the tag was a vintage tag. When efforts to obtain proof of ownership from Alabama failed, I suggested to Mr. Friday that he contact his local magistrate to determine if the magistrate would issue an order for us to title and register the vehicle to Mr. Friday. Mr. Friday did this, and was informed that he would need to follow the State's abandoned vehicle process: his father would need to initiate an abandoned vehicle request, public notice would be provided for the vehicle, that the vehicle would need to be put up for magistrate's sale to recover the garage costs, and that Mr. Friday would need to pay his father for the garage costs before the magistrate would issue a magistrate bill of sale.

Mr. Friday and I were not comfortable with his submitting a false application of abandoned vehicle.

I verified with Greenville Magistrate Ed Taylor that this would be the required process for getting a magistrate bill of sale. He verified that magistrates can issue a bill of sale only through the abandoned vehicle process. He then suggested I contact a Master-in-Equity to determine if the Master could issue an order to the Department to title the vehicle.

I contacted Judge Joe Strickland, Richland County Master-In-Equity. He informed me that Mr. Friday would need to seek a Declaratory Judgment from Circuit Court (basically file suit against the DMV). If the DMV did not contest the suit, then the Court could issue an order for DMV to title the vehicle.

I then consulted with Val Valenta and Phil Porter, legal counsel, to determine what the process needed to be, and whether we should contest the suit, were it to happen. Val stated that the Department would have no material interest in contesting the suit.

Mr. Friday in the meantime consulted an attorney who informed him that he would need to get an attorney to walk him through the court proceedings, and that it was not necessarily a quick process.

I have taken the following steps:

- Asked Mr. Friday to swear a signed and notarized affidavit relating the reasons for his inability to provide prior Alabama documentation, and to have his father swear an affidavit stating that the vehicle has been housed with him continuously since 1989.
- Asked Mr. Friday to get a letter from his insurance company indicating that the Mustang had been insured in the 80's.
- Sent a dealer agent to verify the VIN on the 1967 Ford Mustang housed at Mr. Friday's father's home. The VIN matches the VIN provided by Mr. Friday.
- Contacted Karl McClary in the Integrity and Accountability office to verify that there is no report of stolen vehicle on this vehicle. Karl also contacted SLED's Lt. Tom Darnell and explained the situation to him. Lt. Darnell had an agent contact Mr. Friday, and met him at the address where the vehicle is housed. The agent verified that the "secret" law enforcement VIN on the vehicle matches the public VIN reported by the Dealer agent.

To date, Mr. Friday has provided all required information except for the letter from the insurance company, which the insurance company cannot provide, since they no longer have the records dating back to 1980.

Given all these facts, I recommend we title and register this vehicle for the following reasons:

- We have been able to determine that he was in fact an Alabama resident in the past, since we obtained registration records for his 1955 truck.
- A JAG at Fort Jackson, Dorothy Edgerton, has verified that he has been in continuous military service.
- Our dealer agent verified that the VIN on the 1967 Mustang housed at Mr. Friday's father's house matches the VIN Mr. Friday provided to us. SLED verified that the "secret" VIN on the same vehicle matches the public VIN.
- The 1967 Mustang has not been reported stolen.
- Mr. Friday has paid his property taxes for 2007 on this vehicle
- Mr. Friday has obtained current insurance on this vehicle

Please issue SC title and registration to Mr. Ronald Friday for his 1967 Mustang VIN 7T015185573.

Lotte Devlin

Deputy Director, Vehicle Services

CC: Marcia S. Adams, Executive Director