



Aug 12 8 41 AM '98

MUR 4793

Lawrence Noble
General Counsel
Federal Elections Commission
999 E. Street NW
Suite 657
Washington, DC 20463

August 12, 1998

Dear Mr. Noble:

Enclosed is a photocopy of a fundraising notice sent by the Metropolitan NY Towing and Auto Body Association. I have also included a mailing sent by the Association's Executive Director to members. The notice includes a questionable directive for members to either make personal checks payable to the candidate's election committee or make company checks payable to the Association. Since Metropolitan is raising funds for a Congressional candidate, I would request that the FEC investigate the legality of this fundraising strategy under the FEC Act of 1971 and title 26 of the U.S. Code. It would appear that funds have been solicited through a corporate instrument that would indirectly make contributions to a Federal campaign.

I am currently the director of Citizen Action of New York City, a campaign finance and consumer watchdog organization. From 1993-94, I was Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) with substantial regulatory responsibilities over the local tow truck industry. The tone of the letter and its signaling of corporate checks comprise a communication to membership that is at best untoward and at worst illegal.

I have enclosed a notarized affidavit detailing these points. I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail. I can be reached at 212-964-3534 ext. 25.

Sincerely,

Richard Schrader

- Statewide Office: 94 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 (518) 465-4600
- 130 William Street, Suite 700, New York, NY 10038 (212) 964-3534
- 433 Franklin Street, Suite 2, Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 884-4033
- 144 Henry Street, Suite 4, Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 723-0110
- 90 Pennsylvania Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758 (516) 541-1006



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AFFIDAVIT

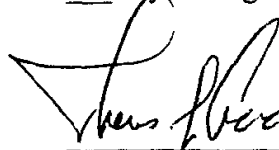
State of New York)
) ss:
County of New York)

Richard Schrader, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am currently the director of Citizen Action of New York City, a campaign finance and consumer watchdog organization. From 1993-94, I was Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) with substantial regulatory responsibilities over the local tow truck industry.
2. Enclosed is a photocopy of a fundraising notice sent by the Metropolitan NY Towing and Auto Body Association. I have also included a mailing sent by the Association's Executive Director to members.
3. The notice includes a questionable directive for members to either make personal checks payable to the candidate's election committee or make company checks payable to the Association.
4. The tone of the letter and its signaling of corporate checks comprise a communication to membership that is at best untoward and at worst illegal.
5. Since Metropolitan is raising funds for a Congressional candidate, I would request that the FEC investigate the legality of this fundraising strategy under the FEC Act of 1971 and title 26 of the U.S. Code. It would appear that funds have been solicited through a corporate instrument that would indirectly make contributions to a Federal campaign.


Richard Schrader

Sworn to before me this
12 day of August, 1998.



Notary Public

THOMAS J. GENOVA
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 60-4732709
Qualified in Westchester County
Commission Expires 7/31/2000

- 130 William Street, Suite 700, New York, NY 10038 (212) 964-3534
- 433 Franklin Street, Suite 2, Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 884-4033
- 144 Henry Street, Suite 4, Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 723-0110
- 90 Pennsylvania Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758 (516) 541-1006



Metropolitan

NY Towing & Auto Body Association

2175 - 70th Street • Brooklyn, NY 11204 • (718)236-3473 • FAX:(718)236-3476

WR 10562

October 16, 1997

Dear Towing Company Owner:

Each day I go from shop to shop. I constantly hear the same words from each owner lips: "I can't make enough." "Business is tough." "We need an increase in rates." Gentlemen:

TALK IS CHEAP, ITS ACTION THAT COUNTS.

As the issue of a "rate increase" is talked about, it amazes me that the towing industry as a whole - "**MEANING COMPLETE INDUSTRY**" "**THE TOTAL INDUSTRY**" - does not become concerned. Not just a dozen towing company owners actually working for their future, while hundreds of towing company owners just sit back waiting to see what will happen. When this lack of support and involvement occurs, the results will be "**ZERO**."

This mentality of "sit back and let the other guy do it" has been a towing industry problem for many, many years and it continues today. The real problem is your:

"LACK OF UNITY" - "LACK OF INVOLVEMENT"

"LACK OF DOING SOMETHING TO HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR INDUSTRY."

I think that owners in this business lack the "cojones" that it takes to stand up and be men. The owners in this business are a bunch of pansies who pull their draws down and simply wait for the City to rear-end them at will.

If there were men out there then I wouldn't have to feel so discouraged when attempting to get this industry a rate increase that benefits you - all the rumors to the contrary - **NORMAN AND RICHIE DO NOT OWN ONE TOW TRUCK.** The money gained by a rate increase goes into YOUR pockets, not into METROPOLITAN's. Metropolitan is not profiting by this event. You are asked to make it your business to attend, to meet Council Member Anthony Weiner. There will be food. There will be drink. There will be music.

It simply astounds me that most members and no non-members of the ASSOCIATION, each of whom received an invitation, saw fit to contribute even one penny in our effort to obtain a rate increase. Any rate increase benefits every licensed towing company - member and non-member alike.

This is the reason that your industry never gets ahead. You never gets the respect you deserve. You never make enough money to have a thriving business. It is because too many owners don't understand what they must do, or like an ostrich have their head in the ground with their rear end exposed.

A good number of suppliers to this Industry have bought tickets in an effort to support the companies that buy their products. It will be an embarrassment to the towing industry if owners fail to attend showing their lack of concern in front of the owners of the businesses that they deal with every day.

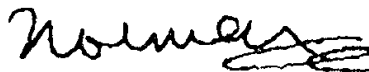
LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD ALL TOWING COMPANY OWNERS.

IF THE FUNDRAISER IS NOT A SUCCESS - AND WITHOUT EVERYONE CONTRIBUTING AND MAKING THE EFFORT TO ATTEND - THERE WILL BE NO RATE INCREASE.

THAT'S RIGHT - YOU WILL HAVE GOTTEN FUCKED ONCE AGAIN. AND THE PERSON WHO DID THE SCREWING WAS YOURSELF.

PLEASE! PLEASE! FOR YOUR OWN SAKE AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR BUSINESS MAKE THIS AFFAIR A SUCCESS, BUY A TICKET AND ATTEND.

Very truly yours,



METROPOLITAN NY TOWING & AUTO BODY ASSN.
By: Norman Teitler
Executive Director

**CALL THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE AND TELL US
YOU ARE COMING. WE WILL TELL YOU
WHERE TO DROP OFF OR SEND YOUR CHECK.**

**THE FUND RAISER WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 22, 1997**

Low Trucks

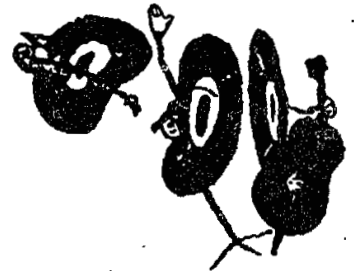
AT THE

**PALMS SHORE CLUB
3128 EMMONS AVENUE
SHEEPSHEAD BAY
BROOKLYN, N.Y.**



FROM

6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.



**SERVING UNLIMITED SELECTION OF PREMIUM LIQUORS AND
DRINKS; MUSIC BY D.J. WITH DANCING;
CONTINENTAL BUTLER SERVICE OF HOT HORS D'OEUVRES;
INTERNATIONAL SMORGASBORD TABLE OF HOT AND COLD
BUFFET; VIENNESE DESSERT TABLE,
VALET PARKING**

CONTRIBUTION - \$ 150.00

**NO CORPORATE CHECKS ARE ALLOWED TO BE
MADE PAYABLE TO THE ELECTION
COMMITTEE BY FEDERAL LAW.**

 **PERSONAL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
"FRIENDS OF WEINER"**

 **COMPANY CHECK PAYABLE TO "METROPOLITAN"**

OR CASH

5511 265 70 55

TEITLER NORMAN	METROPOLITAN NY AUTO BODY	125	4/26/94 00:00	CORP	Weiner	97
TEITLER NORMAN	METROPOLITAN NY AUTO BODY	375	4/11/95 00:00	CORP	Weiner	97
UNIVERSE TOWING INC		150	6/6/96 00:00	CORP	Weiner	97
W A B C TOWING CORP		150	6/6/96 00:00	CORP	Weiner	97
WABC TOWING CORP		150	9/4/97 00:00	CORP	Weiner	97

4100

cut of
132,673

ACCOUNT	MEMO	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	TAXES	NET TOTAL	DATE	BY
15TH STREET								
AUTO BODY		125	4/26/94 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
ADVANCED AUTO								
BODY		125	4/26/94 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
ADVANCED TOW &								
RECOVERY		250	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
BOSCANO								
COLLISION & TOWI		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
BRUCKNER BX								
COLLISION EX		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
CITYWIDE TOWING								
INC		150	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
DIGITAL TOWING								
CORP		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
DIGITAL TOWING								
CORP		250	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
FIVE JS								
AUTOMOTIVE		75	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
FLEET AUTO								
SERVICE		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
KNIGHTS TOWING								
CORP		125	4/27/94 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
KNIGHTS TOWING								
CORP		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
KNIGHTS TOWING								
CORP		75	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
LUCKY 7 AUTO								
BODY		150	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
METROPOLITAN								
NY TOWING &		300	4/12/97 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
MIKES TOWING		150	6/6/96 00:0		CORP	Weiner	97	
NARROWS AUTO								
BODY		125	4/25/94 00:		CORP	Weiner	97	
METROPOLITAN								
TOWING & AUTO		500	4/11/95 00:			Weiner	97	