

# **Conducting Criminal Investigations Without Honesty, Trustworthiness & Integrity**

**Pat Johnson, Founder  
Texas Towing Compliance**

**July 7, 2014**

# APD Tow Contractors Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity

Illegal Sign since 9-1-13  
Austex Towing  
Criminal Offense



Illegal Sign since 9-1-13  
Southside Wrecker  
Criminal Offense



# False Statement to Crime Victims

**32<sup>nd</sup> & Red River 500+ vehicles**

**WEU Detectives tells victims they were legally towed when in fact they were illegally towed. Criminal offense**



**414 W MLK 500+ vehicles**

**WEU Detectives tells victims they were legally towed when in fact they were illegally towed. Criminal offense**



# Legal vs. Illegal

Legal Sign effective 9-1-13



Illegal Sign – missing statutory text  
(UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED  
AT OWNER'S OR OPERATOR'S EXPENSE)



Wrecker Enforcement Unit knowingly provided a photo of an illegal tow sign to prevent local tow companies, tow truck operators and parking facilities from being criminally charged to patrol in the event a vehicle owner or operator calls to complain.

Not one tow company, tow truck operator or parking facility owner has been arrested or written a citation for violating the City Ordinance or State Law with regards to illegal towing or unauthorized drop fees for any offense report for any of the 500+ wrecker ordinance violation reports generated by the public.

Wrecker Enforcement Unit and Vehicle Abatement Unit officers/detectives have failed to uphold the law, being a matter of Public Safety due to undue influence peddling by the owner of Southside Wrecker, Bobby New, also President of the Austin Towing Association.

Police officers continue to solicit collision rotation hauls for Southside Wrecker after being told to stop the practice. Patrol officers & motors look the other way when tow trucks are towing vehicles without “safety chains”, placing the motoring public in harms way of potentially serious bodily injury.

APD has not enforced the towing law in the past 5 years, even though it's criminal offense, towing a vehicle without probable cause, is criminally charged as Felony Theft dollar value of the vehicle is many cities across Texas.

Vehicle Abatement officers instead of tagging "all" vehicles, only tagged vehicles that bring high dollar at Southside Wrecker's auctions

APD officers working the Zone during rush hour are allowing a vehicle owner to request their own tow company instead of giving the call to a Zone Wrecker. Vehicles that are unsafe to be driven are being allowed to drive away instead of allowing a Zone Wrecker to remove the vehicle.

The Service Rotation Call fee was changed without Council approval from \$65 to \$150, influence peddling by APD Tow Contractor, Southside Wrecker

The Wrecker Enforcement page on the COA Website has yet to be updated to conform with State Law, again to deny crime victims due process.