

**DCA TARGETS UNSCRUPULOUS TOW COMPANIES;
SEEKS TO REVOKE LICENSES OF THREE COMPANIES FOR
REPEAT VIOLATIONS AND OVERCHARGING CONSUMERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***DCA Seeking Maximum Fines and Consumer Restitution from
Port of NYC, Yankee Mike's Towing, & NY's Finest Towing***

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) today announced a crackdown on unscrupulous towing companies operating citywide. After a pattern of consumer complaints and violations ranging from illegal tows to overcharging customers to issuing improper receipts and more, the DCA seeks to revoke the licenses of three towing companies - Port of NYC, Inc. (Port), Yankee Mike's (YM), and New York's Finest Towing Inc. (NYF), as well as secure restitution for 65 consumers. In addition, all three companies face maximum fines for repeat violations of the City's licensing law. Hearings have been scheduled for each beginning September 14, 2004 at DCA.

"These violations are classic towing nightmares and the DCA is serious about making sure private cars and drivers are protected," said DCA Commissioner Gretchen Dykstra. "We are pursuing all legal options with these companies and be assured, we will take action to put any tower that acts unlawfully out of business and get money back for consumers. Licensing tow companies allows the DCA to vet the individuals towing private cars, and gives us the authority to take away those licenses from businesses that violate the law."

PORT OF NYC, INC. (211 Eagle St., Brooklyn)

After establishing a pattern of complaints and violations, the DCA subpoenaed records from Port requesting proof of towing agreements and receipts issued. Port failed to comply fully by producing the materials requested. Over the past two years the DCA has received more than 40 complaints from consumers allegedly scammed by Port. Typical complaints include illegal towing of cars that are legally parked, overcharging, refusing to accept credit cards, issuing improper receipts, failure to reply to complaints, failure to obtain authorization from property owners to tow from lots, failure to take towed cars to secure and licensed facility, and more.

YANKEE MIKE'S TOWING, INC. (58-15 31st Avenue, Queens)

The DCA received at least ten complaints about Yankee Mike's. Following a subpoena issued by the DCA, YM failed to produce all requested documents. YM did produce private service contracts with three establishments - none of which were those documented in consumer complaints. Typical complaints include illegally towing cars that were legally parked, charging as much as \$270 per tow (more than double the legal rate), refusing to accept credit cards, issuing improper receipts, failure to reply to complaints, failure to obtain authorization from property owners to tow from lots, and more.