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NTTA taking toll violators to court

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After trying to shame scofflaws in the court of public opinion, the North Texas Tollway Authority is moving to the civil courts to collect unpaid tolls.

Lawyers representing the NTTA had filed about 75 lawsuits against toll violators by the end of February, spokesman Michael Rey said Thursday. And that's only the beginning.

"We expect that to ramp up pretty significantly," Rey said. "We really are just starting to get going on this stage of our toll enforcement remedies."

The NTTA previously handed out the names of 6,000 randomly chosen scofflaws to six select law firms — 1,000 cases for each — about Labor Day.

Paul K. Stafford of the Carter Stafford Arnett Hamada & Mockler law firm filed 20 cases in Collin County courts against toll violators in early December.

Stafford said the firm picked a cross-section of people, rather than just choosing those who owed the most, and he said he expects to file more cases.

"When you have 1,000 names, there's a lot to choose from," he said. "Any 20 or 30 would be a starting point."

The NTTA began releasing lists of its top scofflaws last year. Melissa S. Martinez of Sachse, who owes \$153,046.47, ranks as the NTTA's most wanted violator, but she was not among the people referred to law firms.

NTTA officials hope the Texas Legislature will take the next enforcement step on their behalf.

State Sen. Ken Paxton, R-McKinney, recently filed a bill that would give regional toll authorities more ways to collect unpaid tolls, including allowing counties to block violators' annual vehicle registrations.

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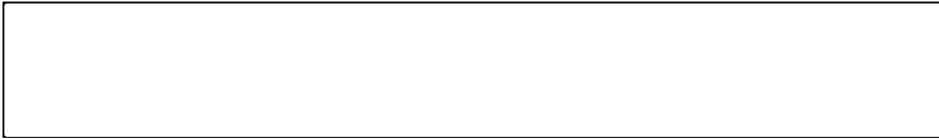


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- rick** 17 hours ago

In other news...NTTA send bogus bills to customers who ALREADY have a toll tag.....these guys are idiots.

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- Kevin Smith** 2 days ago

wife got a bill said -\$1.89? she has no toll tags

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- Estupid Esfart** 3 days ago

I received a violation notice in the mail for a car I sold. Called then and told them I sold it. 2 minutes on hold and they tell me no problem , we have proof of the title transfer(I filed on line about 5 minutes after the buyer left). Called the buyer to give him a heads up on the bill. To my surprise he tells me he already paid it. THREE WEEKS EARLIER. Double billing for extra money? EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE YOU NTTA

[Reply](#) 1 1
- Chris P** 3 days ago

I have tolltags and I STILL get violation notices. Their system is so stupid. nothing more then politics at work. Hey fellow Texans you are all rubes. Like your taxes low yet paytwice as much thur this agency to drive around? I would rather pay more for gas and then not pay tollroads and save about \$100/month. These politicians laugh their a\$\$es off at how easy it is to fool people.

[Reply](#) 1 1
- donald** 3 days ago

as
i have said before it seems that we have an uncontrolled "State" agency running ramped around here. It is time for someone to pull the reins in on them. It seems they are not controlled and are allowed to do as they please and take what they want, aand get what they want. And the big shots blow how much a year on bogis trips and stuff?

[Reply](#) 1 1
- Open-minded** 3 days ago

I think they should send out the invoices in a timely manner. They sometimes wait six months to send out an invoice. Invoice should be sent out in a timely manner.

[Reply](#) 1 1
- Jason Harris** 3 days ago

Of all the scofflaws, I wonder what percentage of what they owe is the actual toll and what percentage is the outrageous Administration/Late Fees? If they owe on a toll, fine pay up, but the late fees are literally highway robbery. I thought all these toll roads were suppose to non longer be toll once they were paid for anyway?

[Reply](#) [3 replies](#) 1 2
- Tracey Edwards** 3 days ago

Well there would be no high admin fees if they had actually paid them. As I said earlier at one time and maybe still currently all admin fees were waived if a toll tag was purchased and the tolls applied.

[Reply](#) [2 replies](#) 1 0
- Jason Harris** 3 days ago

What's the true cost of those admin fees? Certainly not what they charge. Considering your political position, I'm quite shocked you're defending a bloated quasi-government agency that seems to be strictly in the business of justifying its existence.

[Reply](#) 1 1
- donald** 3 days ago

Not everybody wastes their money getting those tags. Most of us do not use them enough to justify getting them. The so called "Admin fees" are out and out "legal robbery" period. There is no way they can justify them. I mean how much does prison labor cost anyway? Less then a dollar an hour.

[Reply](#) 0 1



James Johanning 3 days ago

Folks, put toll tags on the windshields of ALL your vehicles. You get a discount, no headache and your toll tag will work in Austin, Houston and Laredo.

NTTA is now working on a deal with OTA, so your toll tag should work on the Oklahoma turnpike system in the near future.

Reply

1 1



Tracey Edwards 3 days ago

Sorry folks but no sympathy for those the willfully and knowingly keep running up tolls without paying for them. These are NOT the ones that have one toll because they accidentally got on the tollway which I have always found clearly marked. These are people that have hundreds or thousands of unpaid tolls. I don't know if they still do today but for a long time nobody had to pay any administration fee if they purchased a toll tag. Now that said, they really DO need to improve their process a lot. I have a toll tag and was billed anyway and it was a royal paid to get something easy fixed. I would have like for them to take me to court over that one!

Reply

5 0



John Spurlock 3 days ago

NTTA is the one that should be dragged into court. Prosecuted, convicted and shut down, to be replaced with an HONEST agency, not staffed by THIEVES as the present agency is...

Reply

1 5



Yahoo Pete 3 days ago

It's nice to know the NTTA has nothing better to do with all those toll fees they collect. Hey maybe after they lose their court battles the accused will be locked up and the NTTA can exploit them too like they do other Texas inmates via cheap labor. God forbid this corporation hire someone looking for work when they can pay a convict \$.22 cents a day.

Reply

2 4

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