



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon Launches Awareness Campaign to Lower Number of Illegally Registered Vehicles Parked on Staten Island's Streets
Informational mock "tickets" placed on windshields of vehicles registered outside of New York State to encourage car owners to properly register their vehicles

Staten Island, N.Y. -- Today, District Attorney Michael E. McMahon launched an awareness campaign to help lower the number of illegally registered vehicles parked on Staten Island's streets by placing informational "tickets" on the windshields of vehicles registered outside of New York State. The mock tickets do not carry any penalty – just a simple message: "Welcome to Staten Island! If you are just visiting us, we hope you enjoy your stay! If you live on Staten Island, you must register this vehicle in New York State". The goal of this effort is similarly simple: to remind car owners to properly register their vehicles by instructing them on how to do so and what consequences can come from illegal registration.

"As all Staten Islanders know, parking can be a precious commodity and it is frustrating to see vehicles registered outside New York State occupying parking spots for months and years on end," **said District Attorney McMahon**. "While this may appear to be the extent of the offense, illegally registered vehicles have proven an obstacle in criminal investigations. We believe that by reminding these car-owners that they are violating the law, they will do the right thing and register their car here on Staten Island."

Vehicles carrying illegal out-of-state plates have long been a vexing issue on Staten Island because it is difficult to prove that cars with out-of-state plates do in fact belong to Staten Island residents. Currently, the penalties for illegally registering your vehicle are fines and possible towing, imposed by the State Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Department of Financial Services. There have been numerous efforts in the New York State Legislature to make this act a felony criminal offense, however none have been successful.

According to a 2011 New York State Senate report, New York City and State lose hundreds of millions of dollars in uncollected revenue through unpaid sales taxes, parking tickets, and license plate, registration, and title fees each year

Additionally, District Attorney McMahon utilized this opportunity to remind Staten Islanders of the common sense steps they can take to protect themselves from so called “car-hoppers”. These thieves walk our streets, generally under the cover of darkness, and attempt to open vehicles to steal belongings inside.

“By simply locking your car doors, Staten Islanders can avoid being a car-hopper’s next victim,” **said District Attorney McMahon.**

If you need to register your vehicle with New York State, please visit:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/register-and-title-vehicle>

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