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Turlock RV dealer says DMV raid could shut him down

George Warren ■ Last updated 20 hrs ago

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TURLOCK, CA - The owner of what is said to be California's fifth-largest RV dealership claims a raid by DMV agents could shut him down by the end of this week.

Naiel Ammari, owner of Best RV Center in Turlock, sought an emergency court order Wednesday forcing the DMV to return a number of files seized as agents executed a search warrant July 13.

In a [sworn declaration](#) Ammari claimed "there is a substantial risk of irreparable harm if DMV does not return this property immediately. The seizure of this property has already crippled the business operations of Best RV Center."

Ammari's attorney, Peter Rausch, [complained in a letter](#) that five DMV agents accompanied by about ten Stanislaus County sheriff's deputies conducted a "SWAT-style" raid and held Ammari's employees "prisoner" for three hours. Rausch said Ammari was not given a chance to respond to allegations that led to the raid and that the action "virtually shut down Naiel Ammari's business."

In his declaration, Ammari said his lenders had frozen his inventory credit lines as a result of the raid and the "mischaracterization of my business practices in the press." Ammari said he would be forced to lay off all 25 of his employees as soon as this Friday.

Rausch claims Ammari, a Jordanian immigrant, has been the target of anti-Muslim bias as well as the focus of a negative whisper campaign by

his competitors.

[Following the raid](#), DMV investigations Commander Ray Brown said the agency was seeking criminal charges against Ammari because of a \$750 inspection fee that was charged to RV buyers. Brown said Best RV led buyers to believe the "California Pre-Delivery Inspection Fee" was required by the state.

Rausch said a similar inspection fee is charged by virtually all RV dealers in California and that Ammari



Best RV Center owner and dealer Naiel Ammari was questioned by DMV investigators July 13

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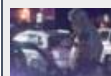
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never claimed it was state-mandated. "We have no problem taking the 'California' reference out of the paperwork to avoid confusion," Rausch said. Best RV would continue doing the inspections but would at least temporarily waive the fee, he said.

Rausch said the judge in Modesto took no formal action during Wednesday's hearing, instead urging the parties to negotiate an equitable solution on their own. Rausch said DMV agreed to return at least a dozen so-called "deal-ready document packages" seized during the raid and would allow other documents to be scanned and computer disks copied while the criminal investigation continues.

Rausch considered the agreement a breakthrough and said Best RV would now approach its lenders in an attempt to get the credit lines restored.

by George Warren, GWarren@news10.net

News10/KXTV

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In your voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY



onramp wrote:

It was his lawyer that said it was a "SWAT" style raid. Typical lawyer overstatement. DMV takes along law enforcement because many in similar positions try to keep the investigators out or start hiding or shredding papers or yelling and threatening. Labeling something that is not required with the terms "California" and "fee" makes it look like a mandated government fee rather than just an unnecessary way to gouge more bucks from hoodwinked customers.

7/21/2010 4:35 PM PDT on news10.net

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DaveInWoodland wrote:

Typical misdirected government action. Instead of just telling the business they can't say "California" fee they shut down everything.

7/21/2010 4:20 PM PDT on news10.net

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icon209 wrote:

I hate car salesman, I wish it was easier to buy a car at a dealership. They just try to hustle you.

7/21/2010 3:10 PM PDT on news10.net

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imaami wrote:

DMV has a swat team but look at all of the illegals driving around without insurance or registration on their cars...

7/21/2010 2:40 PM PDT on news10.net

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Var70 wrote:

Yeah, just bought a new car, similar fee, slightly different name. So because his wording is off they are spending our tax dollars to perform a "swat" style raid? Couldn't a couple of DMV investigators walk in the office, show credentials and get the files? He isn't the head of a drug cartel. Things have become so far off center I can barely stand it.

7/21/2010 2:27 PM PDT on news10.net

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joshsy wrote:

That's why the DMV is so slow for me - all the good guys aren't behind their desks, they are in black ninja clothes climbing down ropes upside-down from hovering helicopters in Turlock.

It all makes sense now!

By the way, IF he is guilty of that, he should be shut down.

7/21/2010 2:10 PM PDT on news10.net

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Ranterator wrote:

DMV had to have the SWAT style raid to ensure they control the market on "fees"...

7/21/2010 2:03 PM PDT on news10.net

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icon209 wrote:

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Whats with the swat style raid?

7/21/2010 1:53 PM PDT on news10.net

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CaliGuy27 wrote:

A couple things about this situation. First the "Bogus Fee" If any of you have ever bought a new vehicle you have noticed that there is a dealer prep charge, usually pricier than this amount. This fee was on my Truck from American Chevrolet, my boat from a dealer in the Bay, As well as my 5th Wheel that I bought from Best RV. If any of you have not done business with Best RV you should not even comment. You really don't know how they do business. They were great when I bought my unit. I will always go back in the future. If any of you would actually listen to what these RV dealerships have to do to the units when they come to Ca from back east you would understand. You get a lot more for your money at a RV dealer than the ridiculous car was you get with the dealer prep fee at a car dealer. Open your eyes and ears people don't just listen to the news actually find the truth..... The blind leading the blind here.... Come on....

7/21/2010 1:37 PM PDT on news10.net

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Lissabee wrote:

I do hope everyone realizes that all dealerships charge this fee of \$795.00. It just happens to be named 'destination charge/fee'.

He chose a poor name for the fee, but rest assured it's on every other dealerships invoice.

7/21/2010 1:29 PM PDT on news10.net

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