

August 17, 2010

Mike Mohler
Code Inspections and Enforcement
County Office Building
111 W Chesapeake Ave
Towson, MD 21204

Re: Case: #80205, 12639 Belair Rd

Dear Mr. Mohler,

The subject case concerns a junkyard that was recently established at this address where there had previously been a small auto repair shop. The area is zoned BL CR.

A complaint was first filed by MDE on June 25. I followed this up with a letter on June 28 and another on July 21.

When I enquired about the status in early July, I was told that the inspector, Keith Parker, had spoken with the owner and issued a correction notice which gave them until July 13 to "cease junkyard conditions, damaged vehicles must be in screened area". Upon enquiring yesterday, I was told that he had spoken with them on July 27 and would go back August 10. There was no indication in the record of further action.

I then spoke with Mr. Parker yesterday and tried to ascertain the status of this case and what steps would be taken to ensure compliance. As you know, I have dealt with many inspectors. I have never had so much difficulty in discussing a case as I have had with Mr. Parker on this and previous occasions. During this discussion, he said "If you ask me one more question, I'm going to walk away." He seems unwilling to discuss anything or to admit that there may be things about the complex code that he needs to learn. He repeatedly said "don't push me", although this is the first time I have spoken to him about this case.

I am particularly concerned about Mr. Parker's statement that "they have cleaned up the front, but there are a few things in the back I'm still concerned about". In fact, as the attached photos show, there remains at least 10 partially dismantled vehicles in the front, in clear view of Belair Rd.

He further stated that the owner is trying to find documentation that the facility is grandfathered as an auto repair shop, as if this would somehow legitimize what is going on. There is no visible evidence that it is currently being operated as a auto repair shop. All indications are that it is simply an auto dismantling facility.

Mr. Parker argues that his way of working is to "talk to the owner" and to "establish rapport", rather than to "bring down the hammer". While I support this approach, Mr. Parker seems to drag it out to great lengths, thus avoiding actual enforcement, and spending a lot more of his time than should be needed. I'm curious what you consider his success rate, considering that he rarely brings a case to a hearing.

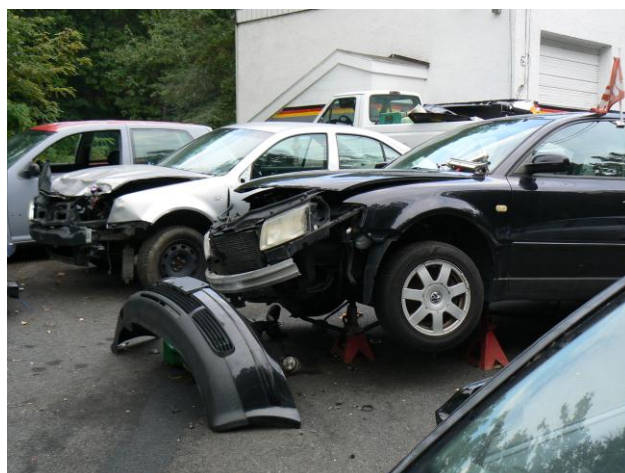
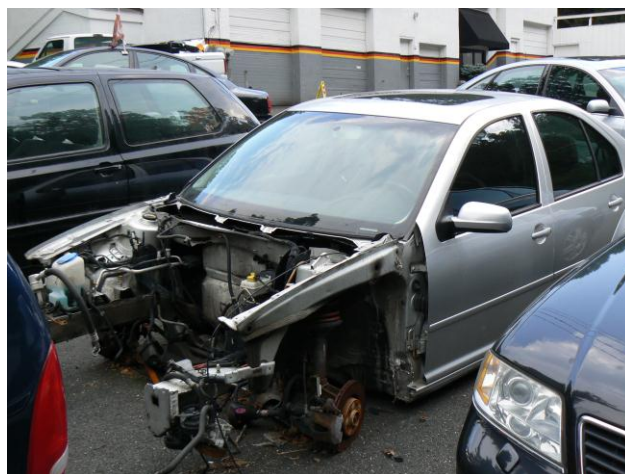
Unfortunately, I believe this is only one of a number of cases in the Kingsville area which Mr. Parker has not effectively pursued, which is resulting in a serious degradation of our community. It has come to the point that I must request that you assign a different inspector to this case and area - one who understands the code or it willing to learn, and who is willing to discuss a case with the complainant or community representatives.

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As always, I would be glad to discuss this with you at any time.

Regards,

Mike Pierce
7448 Bradshaw Rd
Kingsville, MD 21087
410 817-4795





Pile of old tires and (unlicensed) truck with dismantled parts



Inside the fence