



LUCY LANG
Inspector General

Empire State Plaza • Agency Building 2, 16th Floor • Albany, New York 12223 • (518) 474-1010 • ig.ny.gov

March 31, 2022

Mark J.F. Schroeder
Commissioner
New York State Department
of Motor Vehicles
6 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12228

Re: NYS IG 0757-014-2021

Dear Commissioner Schroeder:

On March 23, 2021, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) referred a complaint to the Offices of the New York State Inspector General alleging that Peter Depuccio Sr., the owner/operator of Pete's Auto & Body, a DMV-licensed vehicle inspection facility located in Troy, New York, was passing the inspection of vehicles that did not meet New York State standards for safe operations and emissions. DMV's investigation of this allegation resulted in Depuccio Sr. being charged in Troy City Court with several crimes related to his alleged improper issuance of inspection certificates.

On September 9, 2021, Depuccio Sr. pled guilty to one count of causing a certificate of inspection to be displayed upon a motor vehicle without an inspection being performed.¹ Pursuant to a plea offer, Depuccio Sr.'s guilty plea satisfied other charges then pending against him for similar conduct allegedly occurring on another occasion.²

As the New York State Vehicle Safety/Emissions Inspection Program helps ensure that vehicles registered in this state meet the minimum standards for safe operation, I recommend that DMV notify the owners of vehicles inspected at Depuccio Sr.'s shop during 2021 that Depuccio Sr.'s safety certifications may have been compromised and impacted people should consider having their vehicles re-inspected by another shop possessing valid certificates.

¹ A violation of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law § 306(e), an unclassified misdemeanor, occurring on April 2, 2021.

² Depuccio Sr. was also charged with violating Penal Law §§ 175.10 (Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E felony) and 170.05 (Forgery in the Third Degree, a Class A misdemeanor) for acts allegedly occurring on May 28, 2021.

If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General James R. Davis at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Timothy Lennon, Esq.
General Counsel