



New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, and Automotive Association (**NJGCA**)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJGCA Applauds Indictment of Three Men Who Falsified Emission Test Results

*These dishonest and unscrupulous actions harm reputation of hardworking businessmen
NJGCA condemns these fraudulent activities and adheres to Zero Tolerance Policy*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (NJGCA), released the following statement in response to the announcement by the Office of the Attorney General that three men pled guilty to fraudulently using data simulators to generate false results for motor vehicle emissions inspections:

"Before I assumed my current role as Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, Automotive Association, which represents hundreds of auto repair businesses in New Jersey, I myself was a repair shop owner for 23 years. It sickens me to hear about the blatant contempt and disregard that some businessmen have for the law. According to the Acting Attorney General's press release, these three men profited from a scheme to intentionally defraud the state by installing simulators in vehicles which had originally failed emissions inspections, in order to generate false data, thereby enabling the vehicles to pass inspection. Who knows how long this fraud had been occurring for, and how many more times it would have been carried out, had these criminals not been caught."

"I remember from my time in the business how difficult it was to deal with customers who were always wondering if I was ripping them off or being dishonest," Risalvato continued. "Fraudulent businessmen give the whole industry a bad reputation, and make consumers wary of everything that their mechanic tells them. I have dedicated my eight years at this organization to raising the bar for entrepreneurs in this industry, and it will be something

that I continue to focus on for the rest of my days here. Let it be known, these men were NOT members of NJGCA, and back in September 2014, when 20/20 did an investigation into auto repair shops in New York and New Jersey, there was only one person out of the 10 that were investigated, who was highlighted for fair and honest business practices. That one individual was NJGCA member Sam Shah of Quality Auto."

"The Acting Attorney General announced that the state will recommend that each man be sentenced to 364 days in the county jail, and a minimum of three years probation," Risalvato said. "I implore the judge to double those penalties, and I intend to make my position known to the court, the media, and my members. It is important that harsh penalties be imposed in order to set an example for those who may think it is worth the risk to be dishonest."

"NJGCA is committed to keeping our members informed, educated and honest, and we hold them to the highest standards. Our members know that, as an organization, we have a zero-tolerance policy regarding intentional wrongdoing and fraud. Our members support this strict policy because the success of their business lies in the goodwill and trust of their customers. As a small business owner, associating yourself with an organization that demands integrity and honesty from their members is one of the best investments that you can make in your business," Risalvato concluded.

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