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TO: All Law Enforcement Agencies
FROM: Carl A. Ford, Director *CAF*
Division of Motor Vehicles
SUBJECT: Use of Dealer License Plates

It has come to our attention that some motor vehicle dealerships have experienced law enforcement actions regarding the use of dealer license plates. We hope this letter can provide the clarification needed to solve the dilemma.

Section 320.13 (1) (a), Florida Statutes provides in part that any licensed motor vehicle dealer may, upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08 (12), secure one or more dealer license plates, which are valid for use on motor vehicles owned by the dealer to whom such license plates are issued while the motor vehicles are in inventory and for sale, or while being operated in connection with such dealer's business, but are not valid for use for hire. Dealer license plates may not be used on any tow truck or wrecker unless the tow truck or wrecker is being demonstrated for sale, and the dealer license plates may not be used on a vehicle used to transport another motor vehicle for the motor vehicle dealer.

The above simply means that dealers may operate vehicles on the highways of Florida at any time for personal business so long as the vehicle is in inventory and for sale or while being operated in connection with such dealer's business. Dealer license plates are not registered to any one vehicle and may be used on any vehicle in the dealer's inventory. Also, dealers are not required to take title in their name for motor vehicles held in their inventory and for sale.

Hopefully this will clear up any confusion regarding the use of dealer license plates.

CAF/kh