



NEWS from the:

Motor Dealer Council of British Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Car salesman banned from industry

BURNABY, B.C. (20 March, 2006) - A car salesman with a 13-year track record of disciplinary problems, has had his license permanently cancelled by the Registrar of Motor Dealers, Ken Smith.

Michael Manish's behaviour had earlier resulted in the imposition of a receiver to oversee the operations of 888 Auto Sales Ltd., 715 Kingsway, Vancouver, a company owned by his father, Bahman Shokohi. The Registrar had made it clear in February, upon conclusion of a thorough investigation, that the license of the dealership was in jeopardy. The Supreme Court of B.C. had appointed the Receiver in January to monitor this business until the matter was resolved.

In his judgment, Registrar Smith described Mike Manish as "the guiding mind" for this dealership, and went back 13 years in tracking previous disciplinary matters, at both 888 and with two other firms. A previous dealership he operated had been suspended for 90 days.

The current investigation outlined the failure to provide purchasers bills of sale, declarations for prior vehicle damage and the sale of vehicles not properly registered in the dealer's name. It also documented advertising violations and multiple cases of selling vehicles on consignment, despite not being licensed to do so. At the February hearing, Mr. Manish chose not to contest the evidence and surrendered his license.

The judgment read, in part: "The reason why I've gone into this much detail is that now that (he) has surrendered his license, I'm going to hereby now declare his license as cancelled. I want to make it very clear on the record that Mr. Manish is no longer allowed to sell motor vehicles in the Province of British Columbia."

In addition to satisfying the Registrar with the credentials of a new General Manager, the 888 Auto Sales Ltd paid an administrative assessment of \$10,000 and the owner was given a last chance to operate within full compliance of the Motor Dealer Act and all related regulations. When representatives of the firm pressed for further definition of what Mike Manish may be permitted to do, in terms of auto auctions, wholesale activities or even visits to the dealership, the Registrar was firm: "...if we discover that Mr. Michael Manish is in any way involved in supplying this dealership with motor vehicles or supporting this dealership in selling motor vehicles, we will institute proceedings for the cancellation of the license of 888 Auto Sales Ltd."

The Motor Dealer Council is an independent administrative authority established pursuant to the laws of British Columbia and with responsibility for administering the Motor Dealer Act and related regulations. The legislation requires that all businesses selling motor vehicles to the public in British Columbia, and all salespeople working for those businesses, be properly licensed.

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