

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***  
**FORMER KING CITY POLICE OFFICER  
AND TOWING OPERATOR SENTENCED  
FOR KICKBACK SCHEME**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that former King City Sgt. Bobby Carrillo, age 46, and Brian Miller, age 51, both of King City, were sentenced by Judge Julie Culver for their involvement in a towing kickback scheme. Carrillo received a sentence of 2 years state prison with execution of sentence suspended for 3 years, was placed on probation for 3 years and received 365 days in county jail. Brian Miller was sentenced to 3 years probation on condition that he serve 150 days in county jail. Both defendants had pled guilty to felony charges. Carrillo was immediately remanded into custody to begin his sentence. Miller was allowed to report to the jail at a later date.

Despite the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department recommending that defendant Bobby Carrillo be sentenced to 2 years prison, Judge Culver decided on probation citing various crimes by other police officers who received probation.

Brian Miller confessed early on in the investigation implicating Bobby Carrillo as his crime partner and, in fact, testified against Carrillo at a preliminary hearing. In return for his cooperation and early admission of responsibility, it was agreed that he would receive a felony probation sentence.

In 2013, the District Attorney's Office became aware of numerous complaints that King City police officers were confiscating residents' cars by towing and impounding them. The District Attorney's Office investigated and discovered evidence of an illegal towing kickback scheme involving bribes headed by then Sgt. Bobby Carrillo. Additionally, evidence of other criminal offenses was also uncovered involving some other officers.

Carrillo and Brian Miller, owner of Miller's Towing, agreed that for approximately every 10 cars ordered impounded by Carrillo that went to Miller's Towing yard, Carrillo would in return receive a bribe of one car of his choosing, free of charge. Records showed that Miller's Towing received over 87% of cars seized by Carrillo, which violated the police department's rotational towing policy requiring equal distribution among four towing companies. Many persons whose cars were towed and confiscated complained that Carrillo stopped them without probable cause. Virtually all persons whose cars Carrillo towed were low-income Hispanics unable to retrieve their cars from Miller's

Towing because the towing and daily storage fees became too high. Miller's Towing sold some of the cars unlawfully before the deadline to remit fees, or their cars were transferred to Carrillo.

During the course of this scheme, Bobby Carrillo impounded over 200 motor vehicles. During the same time, the two other sergeants employed by KCPD impounded less than a dozen.

In return, Brian Miller conveyed vehicles to Bobby Carrillo. One witness who was scheduled to testify at trial said that Carrillo was so active in towing cars, that "on many nights Main Street was lit up like a Christmas tree." Bobby Carrillo committed perjury in completing DMV transfers of ownership by claiming he paid money for cars that in fact he received for free from Miller. He did this to cover up his bribery scheme with Miller.

District Attorney Dean Flippo stated "Bobby Carrillo abused his police powers for personal profit by targeting vulnerable members of the community who could not afford to regain their cars and who were unlikely to complain to authorities." Carrillo both bribed a tow operator by promising a bounty of cars he otherwise would never have towed, and received a bribe of free cars from the tow operator as payment.

On March 3, 2016, Bobby Carrillo pled guilty to two felony counts of bribery and one count of felony perjury in connection with a towing kickback scheme with co-defendant Brian Miller. Miller had earlier pled guilty to one felony count of bribery and one felony count of grand theft.

District Attorney Investigators John Ferreria and Roy Diaz led the investigation, with help from Kenneth Norton of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Carrillo and five other officers have pled to other charges, been sentenced, and were fired or resigned from the King City Police Department.

This sentencing hearing today ends a three-year-long investigation where six officers were convicted of various crimes ranging from car theft, threats, negligent storage of firearms, and a towing kickback scheme that resulted in hundreds of people losing their cars.