



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Calaveras County Auto Body Repair Shop Owner Jailed**

*Accused of repeated and willful violations of the law*

VALLEY SPRINGS – A Valley Springs man is in custody today as the result of an investigation of consumer complaints by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), in conjunction with the Amador County and Calaveras County District Attorneys' offices.

Larry Robbins, owner of Frank's Frame and Body Shop, 127 Main Street in Valley Springs was arrested Thursday and charged with 38 felony counts including grand theft, insurance fraud, obtaining money by false pretenses and elder abuse. He is being held on \$153,750 dollars bail and is scheduled to be arraigned on August 15, 2011.

If you have had repairs done at Frank's Frame and Body Shop, then you may have paid for parts you didn't receive or labor that wasn't performed," said DCA Acting Director Brian Stiger. "We're asking anyone who believes they may be a victim to contact the Department of Consumer Affairs."

The investigation began when BAR received seven complaints from customers who thought they may have been the victims of fraud. After inspecting the customers' vehicles, BAR found evidence that Robbins had claimed to have provided more than \$16,000 in parts and labor for auto repair work that was not performed, defrauding both customers and their insurance companies.

“This should serve as a wake-up call to any shops that are cheating their customers,” says BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. “If they insist on doing business in an unlawful manner, they will be caught and prosecuted.”

The case has been referred to the Calaveras County District Attorney’s Office for prosecution. The Calaveras County District Attorney’s Office and the Amador County District Attorney’s Office often work cooperatively in cases such as this with funding provided by a grant.

BAR’s Auto Body Inspection Program enables consumers who have had collision repairs done to their vehicles to have those repairs checked free of charge by a BAR professional. To make an appointment, consumers can call toll-free (866) 799-3811.

BAR encourages consumers to remember the following tips before taking your vehicle to an automotive repair shop:

- Verify the Automotive Repair Dealer’s license is valid by checking online at [www.bar.ca.gov](http://www.bar.ca.gov) or call 1.800.952.5210.
- Ask for a written estimate for any repairs before work begins.
- Ask for the return of any parts replaced during the repair.
- Ask for a detailed final invoice up completion.

Consumers can find the status of a license, get information, or file a complaint by calling the Department of Consumer Affairs hotline at 1-800-952-5210 or by visiting on the DCA Web site at [www.dca.gov](http://www.dca.gov).

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