

Ed Martin

Sunset Advisory Commission, Public Testimony, provided, Wednesday, May 23, 2018

C. E. "Ed" Martin, Director of Safety & Emission Inspection, Take 5 Oil Change LLC

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following input regarding the Sunset review of the Dept. of Public Safety.

I have worked in and around the automotive service industry since the late 1970's. I have trained technicians, contributed to various stakeholder groups & contributed to several research studies in; the Marine, the Aviation and Automotive transportation areas.

I began to become familiar with the Texas vehicle safety inspection program in 1988.

I strongly support the Sunset Advisory Commission Recommendations; specifically numbers 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, as related to the various TX Vehicle Safety programs DPS is charged with operating.

I also support the measured approach, as recommended by Sunset Commission Staff regarding changes in the vehicle safety programs. It is very important that we not lose a ½ century of vehicle safety inspection institutional history that has and continues to save & protect lives, on the roadways here in Texas.

The vehicle safety inspection program has been with us here in Texas since the 1950's. The safety program has been adjusted and updated from time to time and is in need of significant updating, no question. People change slowly, if at all, Cars and the included technologies change more quickly, this has been especially true in our digital world of the last couple decades. To know where we need to go, we must know where we have been.

Toward that effort, the vehicle emission testing, which is performed with the safety inspection, in the 17 TX counties that require emission testing, should be viewed as an important resource, then used to provide data and program design features, that can be applied to the rest of our state's safety inspection program. We do in fact know where we are Auto emission wise here in Texas & we also have independent confirmation, that we are getting it done, direct from the air quality monitors, positioned all around this state.

Better data collection and better training for inspectors and administrators can build on what DPS has carried thru to today.

Everywhere, around the world, more cars and trucks in private hands tells us better vehicle safety programs are important and likely to remain so for a good while going forward.

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Texas motorists deserve more efficient & effective results from our Texas vehicle safety inspection. In this age of IT and big data, lessons learned during the last decade plus need to be added in to our vehicle safety inspection program processes. Texas seldom gets credit outside Texas, but 1000 people a day are voting their approval, by continuing moving in.

I would be happy to answer questions, Thank you again.