

**INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

September 22, 2010

Mr. Vincent L. Leonard Jr.
2139 Palm Beach Lake Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10305287

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your client, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2006 Toyota Camry. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We regret to hear of the unintended acceleration event [REDACTED] experienced in his vehicle. The MY 2006 Toyota Camry is not included in the recent recalls initiated by Toyota. The MY 2006 Camry was not produced with a CTS accelerator pedal, which are the type of pedals involved in the unintended acceleration recalls. In addition, there has been no evidence of pedal entrapment by a floor mat in the MY 2006 Camry.

NHTSA has, however, opened a recall query (RQ10-003, summary enclosed) requesting additional information from Toyota to more fully understand and evaluate, among other things, whether the scope of the current recalls (makes, models, and model years) is sufficiently broad. NHTSA will continue to monitor the performance of these vehicles.

In addition, the agency is now undertaking a comprehensive look into the safety of electronic throttle control systems in all vehicles sold in the United States equipped with that technology. The National Academy of Sciences is examining the broad subject of unintended acceleration



and electronic vehicle controls across the entire automotive industry. Separately, NHTSA has enlisted National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists with expertise in areas such as computer controlled electronic systems, electromagnetic interference, and software integrity to examine the issue of unintended acceleration specifically in Toyota vehicles. If either study should identify a potential safety-related defect, an investigation will be opened.

We sympathize with [REDACTED] concerning the reimbursement problem he reported. Federal regulations only require a manufacturer conducting a safety recall of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment to reimburse owners who have paid to obtain a remedy prior to a recall announcement. If [REDACTED] has not done so, he may consider contacting his local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the Florida Office of the Attorney General regarding his problem. He may also ask his dealership for a meeting with a Toyota district manager regarding his problem.

In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has jurisdiction over non-safety defects, paint, fraud or deception, warranty and dealership problems, remuneration matters, and fair trade practices. There are three ways [REDACTED] can contact the FTC: by toll free telephone at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); by mail at Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC 20580; and by using the Internet complaint form at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm>.

Should you or your clients encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq> or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,



Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement