



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Roif Scherer  
General Manager, Engineering Services

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

February 20, 2007

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defect Investigation  
Attention: George Person, Chief Recall Analysis Division  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: 49 CFR Part 573; Recall of Mercedes-Benz SLK (170) Tail Lamps**

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), this letter contains 2 documents that were communicated to our dealers on the above subject and will be submitted in Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) regular monthly mailing for the month of February, 2007.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number  
2006080005

NHTSA Recall Number  
05V-505

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Bowne at 201-573-2719.

Sincerely,

*Roif Scherer*  
for R. Scherer

RS:sk

Enclosure



# UPDATE

**MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC**

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350, Montvale, NJ 07645-0350  
Phone (201) 573-0600  
Fax (201) 573-0117  
MBUSA.com



To: Mercedes-Benz Dealer Principals, General Managers, Sales Managers, Service Managers, Parts Managers

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From: Rolf Scherer, General Manager, Engineering Services

Date: **February 20, 2007**

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Re: Recall Campaign **2006080005 Update and Customer Notification** - Replace Tail Lamps, Model 170 Model Year 1998 - 2004

An update has been made to the Campaign Bulletin with the inclusion of Model Year **2001 - 2004** vehicles. Revision C.

A copy of the updated campaign bulletin is attached, and may also be found on **StarTekInfo**. Please provide the revised campaign bulletin to your technicians and destroy all previous Recall Campaign bulletin versions.

On September 8, 2006 you were notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC launched a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain model year 1998 - 2004 Model (170) SLK vehicles with regard to the tail lamps. In the coming days MBUSA will mail approximately 9,100 affected owners of post **facelift** MY 01 - 04 vehicles a letter requesting they contact their dealer to make an appointment to replace their tail lamps. Please do not use the interim warranty repair policy of November **17, 2006** to repair vehicles if replacement post face **lift** tail lamps are available. The interim warranty repair policy will be discontinued once sufficient post face **lift** tail lamps are available.

Dealers should contact the customers where the interim repairs were performed and install the newly available tail lamps.

Due to the volume of affected vehicles, network service capacity, and to maintain an adequate and uninterrupted parts supply, **VIN's** have been added to the campaign in two stages. Today all 36,684 affected Model 170 **VIN's** (post face **lift** MY 01 - 04 vehicles) will be flagged in VMI. All 69,302 affected vehicles subject to this Recall Campaign are now flagged in VMI.

A quantity of the required parts will be distributed automatically to dealers as soon as sufficient quantities are available. To maintain an adequate and uninterrupted parts **supply**, only 9,100 owner's letters will be mailed in the coming days in the first of **3** post face **lift** phases. Any vehicle flagged in VMI may be repaired irrespective of the customer receiving a recall notification letter. Please note that additional parts must be ordered with VIN, and are non-returnable. Parts are in limited supply and are to be ordered for vehicles already scheduled for an appointment, and not for shelf stock. Additional parts will also be distributed automatically to dealers as soon as sufficient parts **supplies** are made available in conjunction with each successive phase of customer notifications.

When scheduling customers for an appointment please ensure that you are aware of any open campaigns in VMI so that the customer is advised about the time necessary to complete **all** campaigns.

# UPDATE

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 One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350, Montvale, NJ 07645-0350  
 Phone (201) 573-0600  
 Fax (201) 573-0117  
 MBUSA.com



**Note: VMI must always be checked before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle.**

While we regret any inconvenience this causes, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC is determined to maintain a high level of vehicle quality and customer satisfaction.

**Please refer all customer inquiries to the Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).**

Issue	Models Affected	Repair Time (hours)	2006					2007								
			Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
Tail Lamp Recall Customer Letter	MY 98 - 00 170	0.5		◇		◇		◆								Approx 8,200 SLK Customer Letters Phase I and II. 16,400 Phase III
Interim Tail Lamp Recall Customer Letter	MY 01 - 04 170	0.5					◆									Approx 36,00 SLK Post facelift Customer Letters
Tail Lamp Recall Customer Letter	MY 01 - 04 170	0.5								◇						Approx 9,100 SLK post facelift Customer Letters Phase I.

◆ = Full Launch

◇ = Partial Launch



# Recall Campaign Bulletin

# Recall Campaign Bulletin

FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER  
PARTS: GROUP 1 OF INFORMATION \_ PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign No. 2006080005, February 2007

## Revision History

Revision	Date	Purpose
C	02/16/07	Update to include model years 2001-2004
B	11/22/06	Update to reflect new Operator's Manual label part number
A	09/22/06	Correction of bulb assignment in Operator's Manual label
-	09/08/06	Initial issue

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **MODEL 170, MODEL YEAR 1998-2004**  
**REPLACE TAIL LAMPS**

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because DCAG has determined that due to the heat generated by the brake lamps of the affected vehicles (see VIN range on the following page) the base of the lamp socket can be subject to thermal deformation over time. This deformation can cause movement in the socket-to-bulb connection, which may lead to a loosening of the electrical contacts in the sockets and a failure of the bulb to illuminate. This can cause a failure of either brake light (the center brake light is not affected). A failure of the brake lamp bulbs to illuminate could lead to a rear end vehicle crash. Dealer will replace all rear lamp modules in affected vehicles with new rear lamp modules redesigned with a more heat resistant material, different bulbs, and enhanced lamp holder mountings. Dealer will also place a label in the vehicle operator's manual indicating new bulb part number assignment.

Please review the Effective Serial Number chart located on the following page.

Attached is a sample copy of a letter which owners of the affected vehicles will receive.

Prior to performing this Recall Campaign:

- Please check VMI to insure the vehicle is involved and to determine if the vehicle has been previously repaired.
- Please review the entire Recall Campaign bulletin.

Approximately 69,302 vehicles are affected.

Order No. P-RC-2006080005

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP S423QH001, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP S424HH001, Control of Quality Records.

Recall Campaign Bulletin

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**Effective Serial Number Range**

<b>Models</b>	<b>Chassis End Number</b>	
	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
170.447	F000909	F171342
170.449	F160345	F311420
170.465	F159862	F311419
170.466	F227774	F310327

**Note:**

**Every vehicle in the VIN range may not be included in the campaign. VMI must always be checked** before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle. VMI **always** overrides the bulletin in reference to a specific vehicle's inclusion in a particular campaign. Please also note that Recall and Service Campaigns **do not expire** and may also be performed on a vehicle with a vehicle status indicator.

## Procedure



### WARNING!

Risk of injury to skin and eyes from handling hot or glowing objects.

1. Open trunk lid.
2. Remove first-aid kit on left side; remove flap in wheelhouse paneling and CD changer (if applicable) on right side.
3. Remove nuts (A, Figure 1).
4. Disconnect electrical connector (B).
5. Replace tail lamps (C) on both sides of vehicle.

### Note:

Ensure to install and position seal (D) correctly when installing new tail lamp.

6. Reassemble in reverse order.

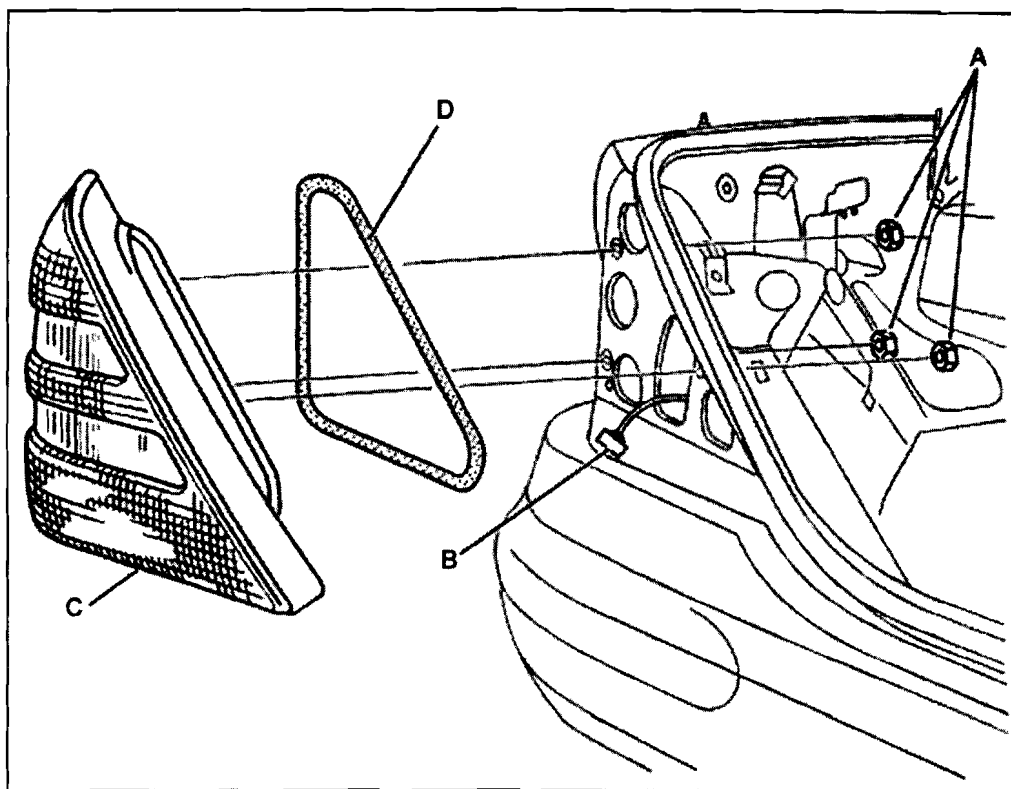


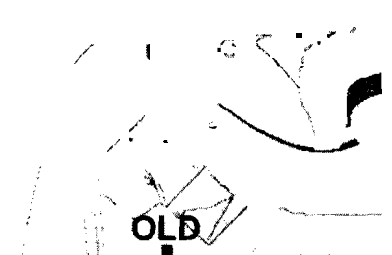
Figure 1

7. Place new sticker over previous lamp specifications in Operator's Manual as shown in Figure 2 for Model Years 1998-2002, or Figure 3 for Model Years 2003-2004.

**Instruments and controls**    **Operation**    **Driving**    **Instrument cluster display**    **Practical hints**

Exterior lamps    222

**Tail lamp assemblies**



**OLD**

1	Stop Lamp (1154 21W/32 cp bulb)
2	Turn signal lamp (1156 NA 21 W/24 cp bulb)
3	Tail, parking and standing lamp (67 5W/4 cp bulb)
4	Backup lamp (1154 21 W/32 cp bulb)
5	Driver's side Rear fog lamp (1155 21W 32 cp bulb)

**NEW**

1	Stop Lamp (P 21W)
2	Turn signal lamp (PY 21W)
3	Tail, parking and standing lamp (R 5W)
4	Backup lamp (P 21W)
5	Driver's side Rear fog lamp (P 21W)

**Practical hints**

Open trunk lid

Remove cover in right side panel, and first aid kit in left side panel

Twist bulb socket counterclockwise and pull out. Push bulb into socket, turn counterclockwise and remove.

Insert new bulb in socket, push in and twist clockwise. Reinstall bulb socket, and close cover.

Figure 2

(Operator's Manual MY1998-2002)

**Practical hints**

**Replacing bulbs**

**OLD**

Lamp	Type
⑦ Brake lamp	1154/ 32 cp
⑧ High mounted brake lamp	LED
⑨ Backup lamp	1154/ 32 cp
⑩ Turn signal lamp	1156 NA
⑪ Tail, parking, standing and side marker lamp	67 / 4 cp
⑫ License plate lamps	C 5W
⑬ Rear fog lamp, driver's side	1155 / 32 cp

**NEW**

Lamp	Type
⑦ Brake lamp	P 21W
⑧ High mounted brake lamp	LED
⑨ Backup lamp	P 21W
⑩ Turn signal lamp	PY 21W
⑪ Tail, parking, standing and side marker lamp	P 21W
⑫ License plate lamps	C 5W
⑬ Rear fog lamp, driver's side	P 21W

**Practical hints**

- Use only 12-volt bulbs of the same type and with the specified watt rating.
- Turn lights off before changing a bulb to prevent short circuits.
- Use a clean lint-free cloth when handling bulbs.
- Hands should be dry and free of oil before handling bulbs.
- If a newly installed bulb does not light, it may be defective. Contact an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.
- Do not use LEDs and bulbs for the following lamps replaced by an authorized Mercedes-Benz Center.
  - Additional turn signals in the exterior rear view mirrors
  - High mounted brake lamp
  - Xenon\* lamps
  - Front fog lamps

Figure 3

(Operator's Manual MY2003-2004)

### Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name		Part Number	Estimated Replacement Rate
1	Right tail lamp	(MY 1998-2000)	A 170 820 1464 05	100%
1	Left tail lamp	(MY 1998-2000)	A 170 820 1564 05	
1	Right tail lamp	(MY 2001-2004)	A 170 820 1864 05	
1	Left tail lamp	(MY 2001-2004)	A 170 820 1964 05	
1	Adhesive label	(MY 1998-2002)	BQ 900 0010	
		(MY 2003-2004)	BQ 900 0009	

#### Note:

- Please be aware that only the part number(s) referenced in the Campaign Bulletin is/are approved for use to repair the vehicle. Repairs performed using any other part(s) will not have been performed in accordance with the campaign. Accordingly, warranty claims submitted with reference to an improper part number(s) will be denied.
- The following allowable labor operation should be used when submitting a warranty claim for this repair:

### Warranty Information

**Operation:** Tail Lamp Units (Both), Replace (02-5323)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
82 920 36 7	02-5323	0.5 h	G1, G2, G3, G4

### NOTE REGARDING CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement to customers for repairs performed prior to this recall:

If the customer already paid to have this recall campaign condition repaired and provides adequate documentation to support their claim of a non-warranty repair of this item, they may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts, labor, fees and taxes.

Reimbursement is limited to the amount the repair of the Tail Lamps and related parts associated to the replacement would have cost if completed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer under this campaign.

Submit a warranty claim, utilizing Damage Code 82 920 36 8 as a sublet, utilizing the sublet code of "SUB." Sublet repairs require dealer text as stated in the Warranty Policies and Procedures Manual. Repair date should be the date that the customer paid for the repair.

#### Note:

Please note the claim submitted for customer reimbursement will not close the campaign (if still open). If the customer is still in possession of the vehicle with an open campaign, please arrange to close the campaign in the usual manner as described in this bulletin.

#### Note:

If the Operator's Manual is missing from the vehicle, it will not be replaced as part of this campaign.





Mercedes-Benz

**Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC**

Klaus Likann  
Vice President, Customer Services

**Safety Recall #2006080005**

September, 2006

Dear Mercedes-Benz Owner

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. WE SENT YOU THIS NOTICE BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.

DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Model Year 1998 - 2004 SLK-Class vehicles with regard to the tail lamp assemblies. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles. Our records indicate that your vehicle is included in the affected population of vehicles.

DCAG has determined that due to heat generated by the brake lamps, the base of the lamp sockets can be subject to thermal deformation over time. This deformation can cause movement in the socket-to-bulb connection, which may lead to a loosening of the electrical contacts in the sockets, and a failure of the bulb to illuminate. This condition can cause a failure of either side brake lamp bulbs to illuminate. The center brake lamp is not affected. A failure of the brake lamp bulbs to illuminate could lead to a rear end vehicle crash.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will install redesigned tail lamp assemblies using more heat resistant material and enhanced lamp holder mountings to withstand the heat generated by the brake lamps. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required to repair this condition is approximately 1 hour. As a matter of normal service process, your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will also check for other repair measures which might be applicable to your vehicle and this may increase the required working time. Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for additional information and to schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience. Please mention Recall Campaign #2006080005.

If you are no longer the vehicle owner, or have a change of address, please complete the reverse side of this letter and return the complete letter in the enclosed envelope. If this is a leased vehicle and the lessor and registered owner receive this notice, please forward this information by first class mail to the lessee. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding this recall. If your dealer is unable to remedy your situation please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).

If an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer or Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, fails or is unable to perform this service without charge within 60 days, pursuant to law 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350, Montvale, NJ 07645 0350, Phone 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372), Fax (201) 476-6211  
[www.MBUSA.com](http://www.MBUSA.com)



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P-RC-2006080005

IMPORTANT

**IF** FOR ANY REASON YOU DO NOT NOW OWN **THIS** VEHICLE OR HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW, PLACE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, AND DROP IN ANY **MAIL** BOX. IF POSSIBLE, PROVIDE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRESENT OWNER SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT THEM.

- SCRAPPED
- STOLEN
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- SOLD \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE SOLD THE VEHICLE TO: \_\_\_\_\_
- MY NEW ADDRESS IS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

.... PLEASE DO NOT DETACH. RETURN COMPLETE LETTER ....  
DO NOT USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE FOR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already **paid** to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts, labor, fees and taxes. Reimbursement may **be** limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized **Mercedes-Benz** dealer. **The** following documentation must be presented to your dealer for reimbursement.

Original or clear copy of all receipts, invoices and/or repair orders that show:

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair.
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired.
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when it was done and who repaired it.
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed.
- Proof of payment of repair (copy of front and back of cancelled check, or copy of credit card receipt).
- Reimbursement will be made by check from your dealer. If your claim is denied you will receive a letter from MBUSA within 60 days of receipt with the **reason(s)** for the denial.

Please speak with your dealer concerning this matter.



Mercedes-Benz

**Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC**

Klaus Ulkann  
Vice President, Customer Services

**Safety Recall #2006080005**

November, 2006

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This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. WE SENT YOU THIS NOTICE BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.

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This is the first of two letters you will receive regarding this condition. This letter is being sent to let you know that if you experience a rear lamp failure your dealer will repair or provide you a replacement lamp assembly at no charge. At this time your dealer does not have the new design of lamp assembly in stock and the free initial repair will be made with the original design. Beginning in the Spring of 2007, dealers will receive replacement lamp assemblies of a new design. The redesigned tail lamp assemblies will use more heat resistant material and enhanced lamp holder mountings to better withstand the heat generated by the brake lamp. At that time, MBUSA will provide you a second notice to let you know that the new lamps are in stock, and that you should contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer to make the repair. When you receive your second letter you should immediately schedule an appointment to have the replacement lamp assembly installed even if your existing tail lamps have not failed or have been replaced with the original design. Only when the new design is installed will your equipment function as originally intended.

Until the new design lamp assembly is available, your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will replace failed assemblies at no charge with compatible lamp assemblies that are now in dealer stock. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required to repair this condition is approximately 1 hour. As a matter of normal service process, your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will also check for other repair measures which might be applicable to your vehicle and this may increase the required working time. Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for additional information and to schedule an appointment at this time only if you experience tail lamp failure. Please mention Recall Campaign #2006080005.

If you are no longer the vehicle owner, or have a change of address, please complete the reverse side of this letter and return the complete letter in the enclosed envelope. If this is a leased vehicle and the lessor and registered owner receive this notice, please forward this information by first class mail to the lessee. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding this recall. If your dealer is unable to remedy your situation please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).

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[www.MBUSA.com](http://www.MBUSA.com)



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P-RC-2006080005

## IMPORTANT

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- SCRAPPED  
 STOLEN  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 SOLD I HAVE SOLD THE VEHICLE TO:  
 MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

\*\*\*\* PLEASE DO NOT DETACH. RETURN COMPLETE **LETTER** \*\*\*\*  
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