

Thomas County Sheriff's Office warning residents about alleged driveway paving scam in the region

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

THOMAS COUNTY, Georgia – Specifically, Acker Blacktop Paving is the subject of a warning by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO). The TCSO has indicated that the paving company maybe misrepresenting their prices and quality of work. Law enforcement has made the warning and encouraged area residents to "think twice". Residents are cautioned that if an offer seems "too good", it may or may not be true without some thorough checking.

The TCSO has responded to a string of reports that out-of-state contractor Acker Blacktop Paving may be misrepresenting prices. According to TCSO Captain Tim Watkins, its office has received nine reports in which citizens believe the business has misrepresented itself and quested that the company has misconducted itself.

When a citizen has been contacted by the company and discussed a project and the citizens questions the "too good to be true" price, a wide variety of reasons have been given by the company's representative to explain the much lower than average estimated price. An example was that a company representative said that it would use "leftover asphalt from a previous job to do the project work at a discounted rate."

Another example TCSO gave is that the paving company failed to give a total project price until after a job was completed. While a representative may do something

official like produce a contract, TCSO has learned that the contract falls short on the "total price" prior to the beginning of the project work.

While the TCSO has indicated they are researching the business's ethics under Georgia Law, they're not clear that the company has broken a law.

"We can't find under Georgia law where it's illegal what they've done," he said.

Customers of the company and those approached by its representatives are given a business card identifying the company's offices are in Tallahassee, research indicates the address belongs to another company entirely. TCSO's research indicates the company in question is actually based in Louisiana. The sheriff's office has also been informed that the states of Arizona, California and Iowa have blocked the company from operating in their states.

The sheriff's office emphasizes that it is extremely important to get a full written estimate that includes the TOTAL PRICE! Do not make or carry out a project on an oral agreement.

The TCSO states that they would like to be contacted if anyone from not to allow any work on your property until you get a complete estimate in writing. If you come in contact with the company, TCSO asks that you report it to them immediately.

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