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JAMAICA PLAIN

Jamaica Plain gas and automotive center seized for owing \$57K in back taxes

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 6, 2011 09:41 AM

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(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

Nikitas Metro Auto Repair, also known as JP Metro Auto Services, was seized in early March for owing more than \$55,000 state back taxes.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A Jamaica Plain gas and auto service station seized for owing over \$55,000 in back taxes has been shut down by state officials and is in danger of having its equipment auctioned off.

State revenue department officials collected the keys to Nikitas Metro Auto Repair and padlocked the door to the business, also known as JP Metro Auto Services, at the corner of Centre Street and Lochstead Avenue in early March.



The business, which has been in operation for around three decades, owes \$57,710.76 in taxes dating back to 2008. Around \$30,000 of that total is in taxes the business collected from employees but has not paid to the state; around \$27,000 is in unpaid sales tax, officials said.

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(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

Sign posted on front door.

"If we don't reach some agreement on a payment plan and a down payment of a sizeable amount of

what's owed in the next few weeks," the business equipment will be auctioned off, said Robert Bliss, spokesman for the Department of Revenue.

He added that there remains "a glimmer of hope" specific to the Nikitas Metro case: "We have a little optimism that we'll hear something in the coming days."

However, generally, "when you get to this stage in the collection process you're sort of at the end of the line," Bliss said.

He said the state seizes around 60 to 80 business annually for owed taxes and that the figure range has not changed in recent years. The spokesman called the amount the JP business owes "midrange" compared to other businesses seized for unpaid tax.

The seizure affects only business operations, because the owed taxes are all on the business end; it does not affect the property's ownership status.

The gas and auto repair center has been closed since March 2 with a large orange sign on its doorway indicating its seizure. According to the Department of Revenue, the business is operated by George Koronios. Attempts to reach him at a number listed for his Roslindale address were unsuccessful Tuesday.

City land records show Hariklia Koronios, trustee of Metro Realty Trust, owns the 8,800 square-foot property. The property owner could not be reached for comment either.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.



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