

Dear Associate Director DeFedele,

I write with concern about what I believe to be a potential unlicensed automobile glass repair shop. Pursuant to § 5-38.5-5(b) of the Rhode Island General Laws, “no person shall engage in motor vehicle glass repair, or advertise or represent in any form or manner that he, she, or it is a motor vehicle glass repair shop, unless such person possesses a current valid license to operate or conduct a motor vehicle glass repair shop.” Furthermore, pursuant to § 5-38.5-18(a) of the Rhode Island General Laws, “any person, firm, or corporation required to be licensed under this chapter who or that conducts a motor vehicle glass repair shop business without obtaining a license...is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.”

Vargas Auto Glass is a windshield and window replacement business located at 39 Huldah St. in Providence. On Thursday, May 13, I downloaded the database of licensed entities from the website of the Department of Business Regulation, and I could not locate Vargas Auto Glass in the list of licensed auto glass facilities in the state of Rhode Island. Here is a screenshot from that database showing the list of licensed automobile glass repair shops, which does not include Vargas Auto Glass:

AAA Auto Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000057	ACTIVE	160 Royal Little Drive	Providence	RI	02904-0000	401-868-6382
Absolute Auto Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000018	ACTIVE	473 St. Paul Street	North Smithf	RI	02896-	401-766-2600
Advanced Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000003	ACTIVE	178 Welfare Avenue	Warwick	RI	02888-	401-781-1171
Affordable Glass Inc	Auto Glass	AG.0000201	ACTIVE	15 Old Greenville Rd	Johnston	RI	02919-0000	401-434-6000
Arrow Auto Glass Operating Company LLC	Auto Glass	AG.0000213	ACTIVE	220 Division Street Unit 2	Kingston	PA	18704 (570)	287-3446
Bill's Glass Company	Auto Glass	AG.0000234	ACTIVE	432 Park Ave	Woonsocket	RI	02815-0000	4014802980
Dean Auto Collision Center, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000233	ACTIVE	700 North Main Street	Providence	RI	02904-0000	401-421-4700
Joshua D Dutra	Auto Glass	AG.0000211	ACTIVE	44 Old Hickory Road	West Green	RI	02817-0000	401-610-0087
EZ Glass & Tow, LLC	Auto Glass	AG.0000230	ACTIVE	987 CRANSTON ST	Cranston	RI	02910-0000	401-275-5056
Fournier & Coleman Auto Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000009	ACTIVE	1020 Mendon Road	Cumberland	RI	02864-0000	401-333-4080
G & A Windshield Repair	Auto Glass	AG.0000041	ACTIVE	23 Rotary Drive	Johnston	RI	02919-	401-946-0064
Jack's Auto Glass	Auto Glass	AG.0000046	ACTIVE	405 Webster Avenue	Cranston	RI	02920-	401-942-0980
JN Phillips Company Inc. dba Altieri Auto Glass	Auto Glass	AG.0000023	ACTIVE	1232 Hartford Ave	Johnston	RI	02919-	401-946-8500
Joe's Auto Glass Inc	Auto Glass	AG.0000072	ACTIVE	1562 Newport Avenue	Pawtucket	RI	02861-	401-728-9987
Lori Moniz dba SOUTH COAST AUTO GLASS	Auto Glass	AG.0000206	ACTIVE	93b Arbutus Trail	Charlestown	RI	02813-0000	(401) 213-6669
Mobile Glass Works LLC	Auto Glass	AG.0000058	ACTIVE	26 D Main Street	Ashaway	RI	02804-0000	401-377-8900
Patriot Auto Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000235	ACTIVE	433 George Waterman R	Johnston	RI	02919-0000	401-231-4100
Payless Auto Glass	Auto Glass	AG.0000081	ACTIVE	12 New London Turnpike	Norwichtown	CT	06073-0000	860-296-0297
Rossi's Auto Glass, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000044	ACTIVE	207 Pettis Drive	Warwick	RI	02889-	401-743-3321
Safelite Fulfillment, Inc.	Auto Glass	AG.0000056	ACTIVE	100 Bay State Ave	Warwick	RI	02888-0000	401-737-1839
U Save Auto Glass Service	Auto Glass	AG.0000070	ACTIVE	90 Farmington Ave	Providence	RI	02909-	401-588-9885

I have compiled the following evidence that the Vargas Auto Glass business is currently in operation, engaging in the business of auto glass repair:

- There is currently an active website for the business, with no indication that the business is no longer in operation: <https://www.vargasautoglassri.com/home> Here is a screenshot I obtained from that website on Thursday, May 13:



Hello! Welcome to Vargas Auto Glass of Rhode Island! We are here to provide the best service in auto glass repair. We are a small family business located in Providence and have been servicing our people since 2010.

Call to get your best quote today!

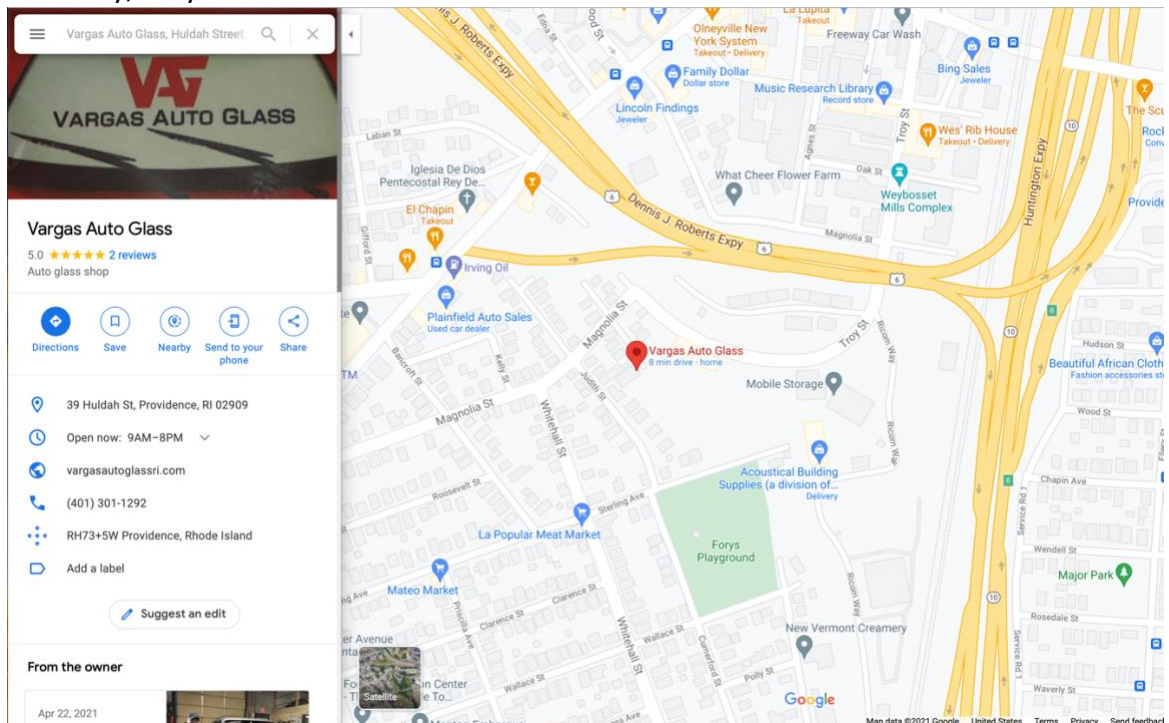
Our shop is located at:



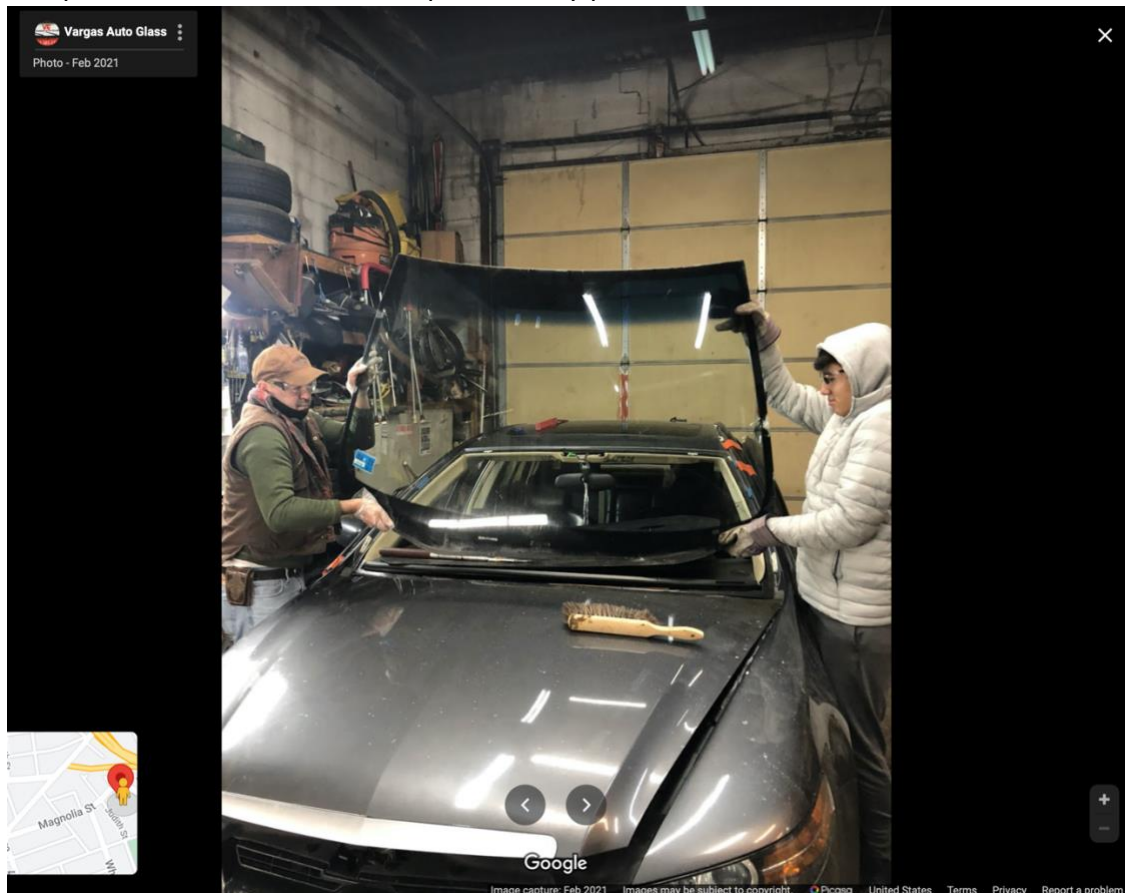
①

We'll do our best to make you happy!

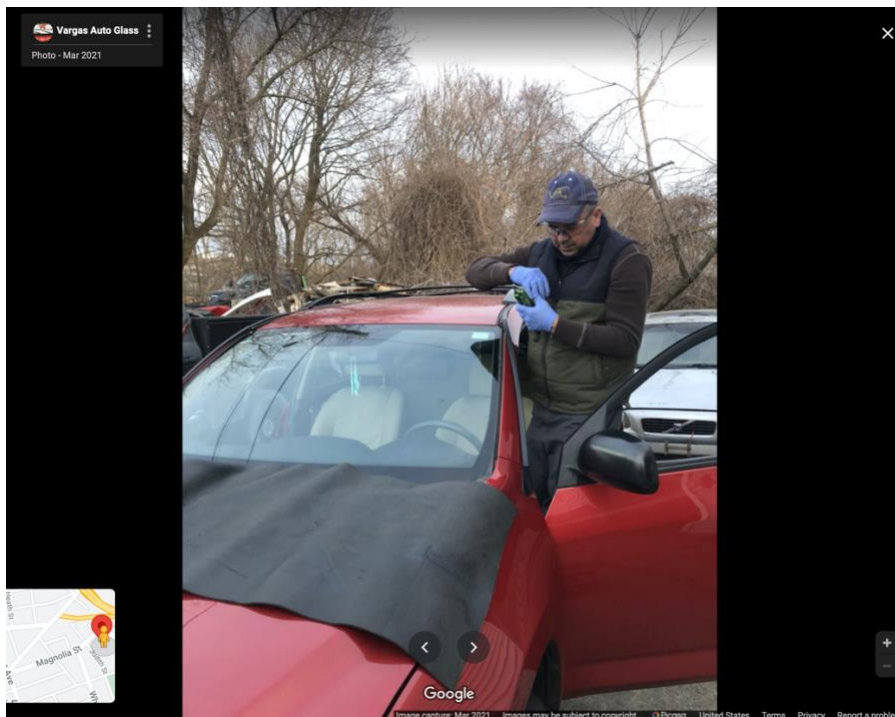
- Vargas Auto Glass is currently registered on Google Maps. See screenshot I obtained on Thursday, May 13:



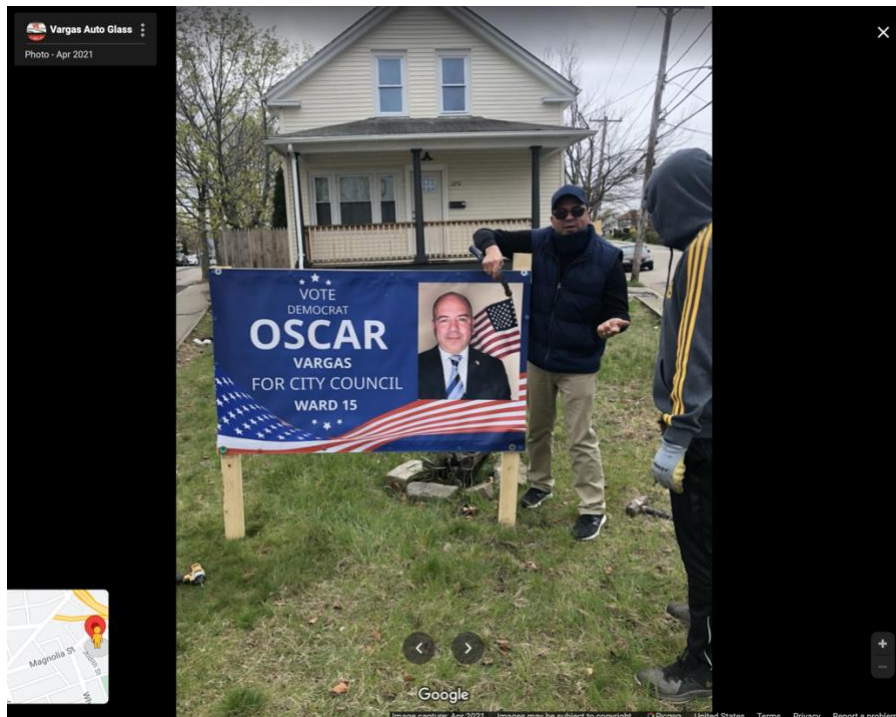
- Among the photographs provided “from the owner” on Google Maps, there is a photograph dated February, 2021 showing two individuals engaged in the act of installing a new windshield on an automobile. One individual in this photograph appears to me to be a Mr. Oscar Vargas, who is known to me. Although the individual I believe to be Mr. Vargas appears to have a mask on his chin, neither he nor the other individual is properly wearing a mask, raising additional ancillary concerns about non-compliance with COVID-19 workplace safety protocols.



From additional photographs uploaded to Google Maps “from the owner,” I have assembled the further evidence that an individual I believe to be a Mr. Oscar Vargas (registered to vote at 150 Dora St. in Providence) is a principal or key individual in the Vargas Auto Glass business. Mr. Vargas is known to me from his candidacies for the Providence City Council and his employment in the Rhode Island Senate, where I serve as the Senator for the Fifth Senatorial District. Two photographs dated to April and March of 2021 in the collection of “from the owner” photographs uploaded to the Vargas Auto Glass Google Maps page show the individual I believe to be Mr. Vargas posing with automobiles:



As further evidence that this individual is one and the same with Mr. Oscar Vargas, I am attaching a photograph uploaded “from the owner” to the Vargas Auto Glass Google Maps page. This photograph shows this individual installing a sign for Mr. Oscar Vargas’s candidacy for the Providence City Council. I believe these photographs collectively constitute strong evidence that Mr. Oscar Vargas is heavily associated with the Vargas Auto Glass business.



Cumulatively, the evidence I have assembled herein strongly indicates that Vargas Auto Glass is an unlicensed auto repair business currently operating in Providence at 39 Huldah Street. Additional evidence strongly indicates that Vargas Auto Glass is heavily associated with a Mr. Oscar Vargas of 150 Dora Street in Providence.

I request that the Department of Business Regulation investigate Vargas Auto Glass and Mr. Oscar Vargas for possible violations of our state's automobile glass repair shop licensing laws. Should violations be found, I request that the Department seek all appropriate remedies available under the law.

Respectfully,

Samuel W. Bell

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