

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PROPOSED SETTLEMENT REACHED IN CERTIFIED STATEWIDE CONSUMER
CLASS ACTION WITH HENDRICK AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**

Attorneys for the parties in an action pending in Union County Superior Court, *Reginald Mills and Misty Owens on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated v. Hendrick Automotive Group, et al.* (HAG), today announced the proposed settlement of a court case in which Plaintiffs sought monetary relief from the Defendants, alleging claims for damages related to Car Care training, marketing and sales policies and practices. The Car Care product consists of chemical coatings applied to a vehicle to protect its exterior and interior, and warranty coverage. HAG denied each of the allegations in the claims.

The Parties have requested that the Court certify a Settlement Class for purposes of the Settlement, consisting of all individuals, proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or other entities that purchased or leased any vehicle from any of the 30 North Carolina Designated Dealerships containing the exterior/interior product known as Hendrick Autoguard Car Care during the period from November 30, 2000 up to and including November 30, 2004. If the Settlement is approved, it will resolve claims of Settlement Class Members. The proposed settlement, which must be approved by Superior Court Judge John O. Craig, III provides for a payment in the amount of \$195.00 to each settlement class member. Any settlement funds designated for payment to settlement class members, which cannot be distributed due to the inability of locating such persons or failure of settlement class members to cash their checks timely shall be distributed by HAG to one or more nonprofit charitable organizations as agreed between the Parties.

“While my clients dispute the basis of the allegations for the claims and regret that even one customer would take issue with any aspect of their car-buying experience, we believe it is in the best interest of the parties and our customers to move forward with the proposed settlement,” said Charlotte attorney John S. Arrowood of James McElroy & Diehl, who represents HAG. “My clients strive daily to earn and keep the trust and loyalty of their thousands of satisfied customers, and that continues to be their No. 1 priority.”

“The settlement provides substantial benefits for Car Care consumers with most settlement class members not needing to do anything to receive benefits under the settlement,” said Wilmington attorney Gary K. Shipman of Shipman & Wright, LLP, one of the lawyers who serve as counsel for the proposed Settlement Class.

“At this juncture we will be sending notice of this proposed settlement to affected consumers so that they make an informed decision as to whether they desire to be excluded,” said Salisbury Attorney Mona Wallace of Wallace and Graham P.A., co-counsel for the proposed Settlement Class and the Class Notice Administrator. “Once that is done, we’ll be looking towards obtaining final approval of the settlement from the Court.”

A detailed notice describing the provisions and conditions of the Settlement will be sent to Settlement Class Members at the last known address of these consumers. HAG has been able to

identify, by name and address, all Settlement Class Members that may be affected by this settlement.

“The settlement process is straightforward and is designed to get money into the hands of eligible consumers as quickly as possible,” Shipman said.

Judge Craig will conduct a hearing in Union County Court on February 5, 2010 to decide whether to approve the settlement. Settlement Class Members who wish to “opt-out” of the Settlement must file a request with the Union County Clerk of Superior Court by January 15, 2010 with copies being served on counsel for the Parties. Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the settlement on the basis that it is not “fair, reasonable and adequate” and be heard at the hearing before Judge Craig will be required to file and serve written objections by January 15, 2010.

For more information about this proposed settlement, contact Class Counsel or go to www.hendrickclassaction.com where the Settlement Agreement, Notice of Settlement and additional information is available.