

**From:** Trevor Readdick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** Robert Jones <[rjones@kingslandga.gov](mailto:rjones@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Subject:** GA Driver's License

Chief Jones,

Good afternoon. I hope everything is going well for you.

I'm writing to inquire about an employee, Manuel Najera, who was cited this morning for having a broken tail light on a company vehicle. Manuel was taken to the Woodbine jail by Officer Brown for not having a Georgia driver's license. A similar scenario occurred a few years ago with Manuel but the charges were dropped when he presented his passport, Mexico driver's license, and International driver's license as documents in Court. I realize that International driver's licenses can be a gray area and not recognized by all jurisdictions. However, I was present when Judge Sweatt told Manuel that he would be clear to drive as long as he kept his passport and some other form of a driver's license with him.

It appears that Officer Brown confiscated Manuel's International driver's license thinking it was fraudulent. Manuel said that he received it from an official office in Jacksonville that was recommended to him while renewing his passport at the Consulate of Mexico's office in Orlando. I'm not questioning the integrity of Officer Brown but I wouldn't have reason to doubt the legitimacy of either documents. I'm not asking for any special favors but maybe special consideration being that Manuel and I have dealt with a very similar situation in the past and thought that we were doing the right thing.

Thank you for your time in this matter, your leadership to our community, and your passion to serve.

**Best regards,**

**Trevor W. Readdick, CEO**  
**Readdick Construction**

----- Original message -----

From: Trevor Readdick <[trevor@readdickconstruction.com](mailto:trevor@readdickconstruction.com)>

Date: 1/26/21 1:27 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Robert Jones <[rjones@kingslandga.gov](mailto:rjones@kingslandga.gov)>

Subject: RE: GA Driver's License

Good afternoon, Chief.

I was just checking in to see if you received my email below. I hope everything is going well for you. Thanks.

Best regards,

**Trevor W. Readdick**  
Readdick Construction, CEO

HBAG, VP Treasurer/Secretary

PO Box 2077

Kingsland, GA 31548  
(912)729-5555

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

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**From:** Robert Jones <[rjones@kingslandga.gov](mailto:rjones@kingslandga.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:43 PM

**To:** 'Brian Aligood' <[baligood@kingslandga.gov](mailto:baligood@kingslandga.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: RE: GA Driver's License

Please follow-up on this today.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** Brian Aligood <[baligood@kingslandga.gov](mailto:baligood@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Trevor Readdick <[trevor@readdickconstruction.com](mailto:trevor@readdickconstruction.com)>  
**Cc:** Robert Jones <[rjones@kingslandga.gov](mailto:rjones@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: GA Driver's License

Mr. Reddick,

I have reviewed the video and done some additional research and found that OCGA 40-5-21 which is the code section that covers exemptions for nonresidents was changed January 2017. Prior to this change OCGA 40-5-21 stated:

A nonresident who has in his or her immediate possession a valid driver's license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country; provided, however, that such person would otherwise satisfy all requirements to receive a Georgia driver's license and, if such nonresident driver's license is in a language other than English, the nonresident also has in his or her immediate possession a valid international driving permit which conforms to and has been issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Road Traffic, 3 U.S.T. 3008, TIAS 2487, or any similar such treaty, international agreement, or reciprocal agreement between the United States and a foreign nation concerning driving privileges of nonresidents

The amended OCGA 40-5-21, eliminated the need for an International Driving Permit entirely and reads:

A nonresident who has in his or her immediate possession a valid driver's license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country; provided, however, that such person would otherwise satisfy all requirements to receive a Georgia driver's license; and provided, further, that in the case of a driver's license issued by the driver's licensing authority of a foreign country, a law enforcement officer may consult such person's passport or visa to verify the validity of such license, if available.

By reviewing the video Mr. Najera provided officers with his International Driver's License and passport but did not provide his driver's license issued by his driver's licensing authority of his foreign country. Based on my understanding of code section 40-5-21 Mr. Najera would be good to drive in that state of Georgia if he has on his person his Mexico issued driver's license along with his passport.

I apologize for the delay in responding but if you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me,

*Capt. Brian Aligood*  
*Patrol Commander*  
*Kingsland Police Dept.*  
*PO Box 1658*  
*Kingsland GA 31548*

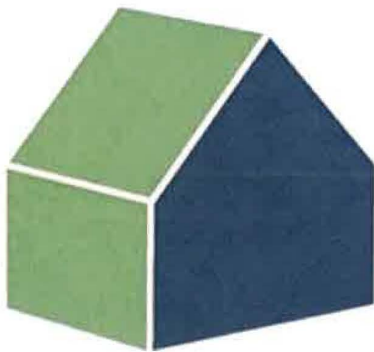
**From:** Trevor Readdick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** 'Brian Aligood' <[baligood@kingslandga.gov](mailto:baligood@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Cc:** Robert Jones <[rjones@kingslandga.gov](mailto:rjones@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: GA Driver's License

Captain Aligood,

I appreciate your thorough investigation into this matter. Manuel told me that he presented his passport, Mexico driver's license (photos attached), and International driver's license to Officer Brown. But I'm unsure as to why she felt the need to confiscate his International driver's license. Even if International permits and licenses aren't recognized by the State anymore, there are still many rental car and insurance companies that require them. Hopefully, these photos are enough evidence to clear Manuel on the charge of OCGA 40-5-20(a). As for the charge of OCGA 40-3-26, we were guilty so I have no issues facing the consequences. However, it would be much appreciated if I could simply pay a fine in lieu of going to Court. Being that Manuel was in a company truck, I feel responsible for this charge. I take the safety of our employees as well as other motorists that we encounter very serious. We have since replaced the blown fuse and the trailer lights are now functioning properly.

Best regards,

Trevor W. Readdick  
Readdick Construction, CEO  
HBAG, VP Treasurer/Secretary  
PO Box 2077  
Kingsland, GA 31548  
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**READDICK**  
CONSTRUCTION

**From:** Trevor Readdick <[trevor@readdickconstruction.com](mailto:trevor@readdickconstruction.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** Brian Aligood <[baligood@kingslandga.gov](mailto:baligood@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: GA Driver's License

Good morning,

I just wanted to verify if you were in receipt of my previous email. Thank you.

Best regards,

Trevor W. Readdick  
Readdick Construction, CEO  
HBAG, VP Treasurer/Secretary  
PO Box 2077  
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(912)729-5555  
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**From:** Brian Aligood <[baligood@kingslandga.gov](mailto:baligood@kingslandga.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Trevor Readdick <[trevor@readdickconstruction.com](mailto:trevor@readdickconstruction.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: GA Driver's License

Mr. Reddick,

I did receive your previous email and would suggest that if Manuel believe that his arrest and citation was done in error by the officer and department, that he attend his court date and explain that to Judge Sweat. I have consulted with both Captain Lochridge and Chief Jones as well as the Camden County District Attorney's Office and due the documents provided by Manuel at the time of his stop and statements that he made that he had been illegally here in the United States for 20 years it is our stance that he did violate OCGA 40-5-20 (a) when he drove a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state and by his own statements had been a resident of this state for 30 days and had not obtained a Georgia driver's license before operating a motor vehicle in this state. Further OCGA 40-5-20 (c) (2) states that any noncitizen who is eligible for issuance of a driver's license pursuant to the requirements of this chapter may be issued a driver's license without surrendering any driver's license previously issued to him or her by any foreign jurisdiction.

As stated above he Manuel feels that he was charged incorrectly he is awarded his right to present his evidence to Judge Sweat however based on my understanding of code sections 40-5-20 and 40-5-21 as well as others consulted it is our stance that Manuel did violate OCGA 40-5-20. As to his International driver's license I will speak with our evidence custodian and have him pull it from our evidence so it can be returned to Manuel if he can come by to pick it up here at the police department in downtown Kingsland.

**From:** Trevor Readdick <trevor@readdickconstruction.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Brian Aligood; Robert Jones; Lee Spell  
**Cc:** gday@kingslandgeorgia.com; ablount@kingslandgeorgia.com;  
mmcclain@kingslandgeorgia.com; jgalloway@kingslandgeorgia.com  
**Subject:** RE: GA Driver's License

Captain Aligood,

I must say that I'm appalled at how this situation has been handled by your department. Not only concerning the incident, but the aftermath of trying to discuss it. The chain of communication below is self-explanatory and shows that I've had to make numerous attempts in order to get a response.

While I agree that laws and ordinances should be enforced unilaterally, sometimes special consideration is required. The basis of the consideration that I'm asking for is thoroughly explained below. In addition to what has already been mentioned, as a business owner, it seems excessive to have an employee taken to jail for what started as a faulty brake light on a company vehicle. Not only are we a good neighbor to the welcome center and your police station, but my company makes significant direct impacts to the City each year. I realize that it's not the largest source of revenue, but nearly \$50,000.00 paid towards building permits and capital recovery last year is nothing to sneeze at. It may not make a difference to you but I'm taking my relationship with all departments of the City into consideration when planning future business endeavors.

Finally, as an elected official myself, I would like to be informed about situations like this within my departments. As a courtesy to my fellow elected officials, I'm copying them to this email so that they may be informed. I appreciate your time in this matter and hope that you have a blessed day.

Best regards,

Trevor W. Readdick  
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