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BODYGUARD Truck Accessories named as “Industry of the Year” by the Paris Economic Development Corporation in Paris, Texas

Paris, TX (October 17, 2017) – The Paris Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) has named BODYGUARD Truck Accessories as “Industry of the Year” at the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce Banquet this evening.

Located at 2675 FM 79 in Paris, Texas, BODYGUARD manufactures after-market truck accessories and is wholly owned and operated by Grant and Kelli Mallicote. BODYGUARD started as a small shop at Grant Mallicote’s family farm with their first bumper in 2000, and officially became an LLC in Tigertown in 2007. As part of the local incubator and working with the PEDC to further develop their operation in 2012, BODYGUARD has since expanded to a 37,000-square foot facility in Paris, employing 30 people.

“I knew Grant was on to something! He would get calls continuously for his bumpers. We needed help and resources to grow and bring the manufacturing process under one roof. Since 2011 we have grown 177% through the help of the incubator, community partners and the PEDC,” said Kelli Mallicote, Vice President and co-founder of BODYGUARD.

In 2012, the PEDC offered \$227,750 for infrastructure, \$75,000 for the creation and retention of 15 jobs, and \$21,500 for job training if all targets were met by 2017, which occurred. “The PEDC did its due diligence and offered funds to spur BODYGUARD to the next level. Since I have been here Kelli and Grant have proven themselves as bold entrepreneurs, creating a solid company invested in bringing more work to Paris, Texas and Lamar County,” said Michael Paris, Executive Director for the Paris EDC.

BODYGUARD has received accolades and awards from the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA). Kelli Mallicote was also listed in SEMA’s “35 under 35,” a recognition of rising industry talent, in 2016. She also serves on SEMA’s Light Truck Accessory Alliance committee which is devoted to development in the light truck and off-road market. “We’ve been showcased on covers of various magazines including Diesel World, Truckin Magazine, and LFTD LVLVD just to name a few. We now have global demand for BODYGUARD products in Canada, Australia, and the Middle East,” said Kelli Mallicote. “Our customers want to know where we are located and we are proud to tell them, Paris, Texas!”

For their success as a small business, their persistence in encouraging employment in Paris, and putting a spotlight on Paris as a city dedicated to innovation in industry, the PEDC is proud to choose BODYGUARD as this year’s recipient of their PEDC Industry of the Year Award.

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