



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Sykes

SUBJECT: NEW POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

DATE: December 2, 2013

Approved

Date

12/2/13

INFORMATION

This memo provides information regarding the Police Department's next generation patrol vehicle including a brief history and current status of this important transition.

The primary marked patrol vehicle for law enforcement agencies, including the San José Police Department, for many years has been the Ford Crown Victoria. The City currently owns approximately 300 marked Crown Victoria vehicles. Ford discontinued production of the Crown Victoria following the 2011 production year. The City managed to purchase the last of the available Crown Victoria vehicles on the market in 2012; and, these vehicles will be put into service in the coming months, marking the beginning of the end of this patrol vehicle. The City's average service life of this vehicle is currently six years meaning that over the next six years these units will phase out of the City's police fleet.

For the last several years, Public Works has been working closely with the Police Department on the transition to the next generation patrol vehicle to avoid service impacts created by this transition. The major vehicle manufacturers have introduced new purpose built patrol vehicles to fill the gap in the market. The market has been fluid up to this point with several agencies holding off on commitments to see what works for their counterparts. Many agencies, including San José, look to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) as a leader. This is due to the extensive fleet that the CHP operates and the extensive testing they conduct prior to committing to the procurement of a vehicle type. Last year, the CHP awarded a contract of more than seven hundred Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles demonstrating their confidence in this vehicle. In comparison, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department has moved towards the new Chevrolet Caprice sedan.

After testing multiple units, San José has purchased small complements of both the Chevrolet Caprice sedan and the Ford Interceptor Utility in order to test the vehicles in service in San José. Both units have improvements over the former Crown Victoria in terms of safety, fuel economy and performance. In both cases, the vehicles were tested and supported by Police Department's vehicle driver's training unit and, through the test period, staff will continue engagement with the

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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Page 2

POA and will seek officer feedback on the overall performance of each vehicle. This is an important element as officers often weigh in such functional areas as the ergonomics of the vehicle interior, visibility, and drivability of the vehicles.

Both of the vehicle types being tested in San José are comparable in cost to each other once outfitted and slightly more expensive than the Crown Victoria. Of note is the fact that the Chevrolet Caprice is currently manufactured offshore and has extensive lead times while the Ford Interceptor Utility is a domestic product.

Recently, both the Ford Interceptor and the Chevrolet Caprice have been placed into service and both will be monitored for operating cost, reliability, performance and feedback from the field to determine the direction of future acquisitions and deployments.

/s/

DAVID SYKES

Director of Public Works

For more information, please contact Dan Sunseri, Fleet Manager, at (408) 975-7266.



2013 Interceptor Utility

2013 Chevrolet Caprice