



City of Arts & Innovation

Public Safety Committee

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS **DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016**
FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT MARKED AND UNMARKED VEHICLE STATUS UPDATE

ISSUE:

The issue for Public Safety Committee is to receive information regarding the Riverside Police Department's marked and unmarked vehicles policies and statistics.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Public Safety Committee receive this report for file.

BACKGROUND:

At the June 4, 2015, Public Safety Committee meeting, Chair Soubierous requested that the Riverside Police Department provide an update and status of marked and unmarked police vehicles. The RPD provided a similar update at the Public Safety Committee meeting on September 17, 2014.

The Riverside Police Department currently has a total of 345 vehicles in its fleet. Patrol, Traffic, and other uniformed assignments utilize the 124 marked (black and white) while the 195 "unmarked" vehicles are used by extended command staff, detectives, civilians, and for other special assignments. Additional, there are 26 specialty vehicles such as trucks, motorhomes and vehicles used in undercover capacities. Out of the 345 vehicles, 36% are marked (black and white) vehicles, 56% are unmarked, and 8% are specialty vehicles.

Vehicles were purchased through a variety of funding sources:

- a. 46% General Fund
- b. 31% Asset Forfeiture
- c. 17% Grants
- d. 3% City Transfer
- e. 3% Donations

Most police scholars agree that random patrols do not reduce crime, prevent crime, or reduce the fear of crime. Hence, the painting of unmarked vehicles to marked black and white vehicles is not a crime deterrent because they would be driven in a random mode about the city. Black and white police vehicles only deter crime when they are in a given area for an extended period of time. The conversion of unmarked to marked in this manner is not a best practices approach to fighting crime and it is not employed by other law enforcement agencies.

The cost to convert the unmarked to marked police vehicles is \$13,575 per vehicle, which would result in a total cost of \$2,647,125 for the 195 units. The conversion would include painting/emblems, emergency lights and sirens, police radio and emergency electronics installation, COBAN video system and Mobile Data Computer (MDC).

Additionally, the majority of unmarked vehicles were not purchased under the upgraded “police pursuit criteria.” This includes upgraded suspension and braking capabilities. There are safety concerns for an officer to be driving a vehicle in a Code 3 (lights and sirens on) situation or a pursuit that has not been properly equipped.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police
Certified as to	
Availability of funds	Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation