



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eduardo Luna, City Auditor Via City Manager George Chavez

FROM: Sandra Spagnoli, Chief of Police
Michael Hill, Acting Captain Administrative Services Division

DATE: January 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Management Response to Draft Audit Report on Police Department Patrol Vehicle Usage Review

This memorandum is intended to provide Police Management's response to the Draft Audit Report entitled "City of Beverly Hills Police Department Patrol Vehicle Usage Review" conducted by the City of Beverly Hills' Office of the City Auditor.

The Performance Audit was an assessment of the City Police Department's patrol vehicle fleet size and patrol vehicle acquisition costs.

Option 1: Delay Fleet Size Decision-Making and Develop Better Fleet Management Data

The City can opt to forgo the acquisition of additional patrol vehicles and re-examine fleet needs when reliable and verifiable data can be developed.

POLICE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Police Management does not support option 1. The delay in waiting for reliable and verifiable data would continue to put an unnecessary strain on the daily operation of the Patrol Bureau. The data already indicates there is a need for additional vehicles. Additionally, it will take a significant amount of time and resources to implement systems for tracking the data outlined in option 1. This data has not been tracked and monitored closely by the police department, as we rely on the vehicle shop to provide a well maintained fleet.

Option 2: Change Current Practices to Meet Vehicle Fleet Needs:

- A. The City could re-negotiate the agreement with LA Metro to include leasing of patrol vehicles, which can increase vehicle availability up to four patrol vehicles per Day Watch shift and up to two patrol vehicles per Night Watch shift.
- B. The Department could deploy only spare available patrol vehicles as Adam cars to accommodate motor officers during "rain" days. Patrol officers without patrol vehicles could be assigned other duties that do not require a vehicle.

- C. BHPD can restrict the use of patrol vehicles for transportation of patrol officers on overtime to court appointments, increasing vehicle availability up to two patrol vehicles per day.

POLICE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Police Management does not support option 2.

- A. The funds received from the agreement with LA Metro are currently utilized to pay for the overtime and salaries of personnel assigned to work the project. The funds received are not adequate to pay for the personnel costs as well as those associated with leasing patrol vehicles.
- B. It is not reasonable for the Patrol Bureau to change the job assignments of our Patrol Officers on rainy days in order to have them work inside. Historically, rainy days result in more traffic accidents and the need for officers in the field is paramount to providing the quality of police service this community expects and deserves.
- C. Patrol Officers respond to court while on-duty as well as on their days off. Management believes it is important that officers be able drive a police vehicle to court. There is a potential safety concern for the officers who are required to testify in a serious criminal matter should the suspect (or accomplices/confidantes) observe the officer getting out of his/her personal vehicle. Additionally, having a police vehicle allows the officer to return to Beverly Hills “code 3” (lights and sirens) in the event of an emergency, when resources are desperately needed in the city.

Option 3: Rely on Current Data and Increase BHPD’s Fleet Size by Four Patrol Vehicles

Should the Department continue with its current patrol vehicle deployment practices, up to an additional four patrol vehicles could reduce officer wait time, accommodate officers during “rain” days and court appointments, and fulfill deployment needs for special jobs as well as LA Metro support jobs.

Recommendation 2: The Police Chief should strengthen its information systems and documentation to allow for day-to-day fleet management decision-making. These information systems could include better vehicle tracking forms (daily availability by vehicle, vehicle out-of service information, vehicle assignments, check-out and check-in times) and project/job coding of time spent by patrol officers assigned to patrol vehicles.

POLICE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Police Management fully supports option 3. This option provides the best solution for our current shortage of police patrol vehicles. The Patrol Bureau will research and implement a better tracking system that will provide more reliable and verifiable data on the availability of patrol vehicles in the future. Should this data determine that an adjustment to the vehicle fleet size is necessary, then corrections can be made through vehicle attrition.

Management also agrees with the recommendation to utilize a better tracking mechanism for fleet management from the Police Department’s perspective. A cost effective and efficient solution might be for the Police Department to supplement the system utilized by Public Works with additional data that can be stored in one vehicle information database.