



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: March 23, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager

From: Joseph W. Clark, Fleet Management Director

Subject: Annual Police Vehicle Bid Follow-up Questions

At the March 19, 2015 City Council work session, questions were raised regarding the police vehicles being recommended for purchase. Councilmember Eugene Brown inquired about the make and model of vehicles being purchased and whether or not these vehicles are on a worst vehicle list from Consumer Reports and Councilmember Don Moffitt asked about the deployment strategy of V-6 and V-8 powered vehicles.

The vehicles recommended for purchase this year are the 2015 Dodge Charger Police Rated rear wheel drive (RWD) sedan, with a combination of V-6 and V-8 powertrains. Both the V-6 and V-8 Dodge Charger score well in testing conducted by the Michigan State Police (in conjunction with the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center) and the Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department. These two agencies are regarded as the gold standard concerning their testing within the Law Enforcement/Fleet industry. In addition, although Consumer Reports does not test Police models, the general consumer version of the Dodge Charger did not score as a "worst in class" vehicle.

Historically the Durham Police Department (DPD) has used V-8 powered RWD sedans as front-line/marked patrol vehicles and a combination of V-8 and V-6 powered vehicles for administrative/investigation roles. A few years ago, the decision was made to standardize on the Dodge Charger across all roles. The standardization on the same make and model vehicle creates efficiencies in the areas of inventory (stocking fewer parts), repairs (familiarity/less training needed), and operator training.

In the fall of 2013, a V-6 Dodge Charger was put in to service as a front-line/marked patrol vehicle as a test, and so far the results have been encouraging. The lone V-6 Dodge Charger front-line/marked patrol vehicle and the V-6 Dodge Charger administrative/investigation vehicles are operating at a lower cost-per-mile (CPM) than their V-8 counterparts are and have proven to be just as reliable. The advantages of the V-6 Dodge Charger over the V-8 version are a lower purchase

price, lower operating CPM, higher fuel economy, higher re-sale value, lower cost of total ownership, and a lower carbon footprint.

Currently, the Fleet Management Department (FMD) is not comfortable in recommending a move to all V-6 Dodge Chargers due to the statistically insignificant number of V-6 units in service. However, the FMD and the DPD have agreed to purchase a combination of V-6 and V-8 Dodge Chargers this year to be used as front-line/marked patrol vehicles and will reexamine the operating costs in a year. If the operating costs for the V-6 Dodge Charger continue to be lower than the V-8 Dodge Charger, a recommendation will be made to transition the police fleet to V-6 Dodge Chargers.

Number of Vehicles#	Make/Model	Vendor	Cost	General Purpose of Vehicle
5	2015 Dodge Charger V8 TACT (Unmarked)	Horace G. Ilderton LLC.	\$131,410.00	Highway Patrol
19	2015 Dodge Charger V6	Millennium Automotive Group of Durham, Inc.	\$463,068.00	General Patrol
12	2015 Dodge Charger V8	Millennium Automotive Group of Durham, Inc.	\$305,844.00	General Patrol
8	2015 Dodge Charger V6 (Unmarked)	Millennium Automotive Group of Durham, Inc.	\$194,864.00	Investigation/Administration
		Total Cost	\$1,095,186.00	