

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

To: Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Dan Lindheim
From: Police Department
Date: April 28, 2009

2009 APR 16 AM 10:59

**Re: An Informational Report From the Oakland Police Department on
the Need, Use, Cost and Contracting Options of Rental Vehicles**

SUMMARY

As requested by the Finance and Management Committee on February 10, 2009, staff has prepared an informational report detailing the need, use, cost, and contracting options of rental vehicles used by the Oakland Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts associated with accepting this report.

The Police Department is currently under contract with Pacific Car Rental for the period of February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010, at a cost of \$250,000. This contract covers the use of 15 standard size vehicles and 4 specialty vehicles (SUV) during undercover and special operations. The Department is not currently under contract with Enterprise Rental; however, a previous contract in the amount of \$240,000, began February 1, 2008, and concluded January 31, 2009. The Department continues to use Enterprise rental vehicles under specific circumstances when specialty vehicles such as personnel transport vans or munitions vehicles are required. An example of a recent occurrence is the BART shooting demonstrations and civil disturbance incidents. On these occasions, Enterprise is contacted as a vendor and the Department is billed for direct services.

The contract total represents the capped amounts for expenditures and may be spent over multiple fiscal years. In FY 2008, actual expenditures for leased vehicles were \$195,000, of which \$120,000 was spent in the General Purpose Fund (1010), and \$65,000 was spent in the Federal Asset Forfeiture Fund (2912). Additionally, there are some special operations conducted that generate asset forfeiture revenues to the City, and are therefore partially cost-recovering.

Where feasible, the Police Department purchases vehicles; however it is not practical to purchase vehicles for these types of operations due to the expenses associated with purchasing and selling a high quantity of vehicles on an ongoing basis.

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BACKGROUND

The Oakland Police Department uses many enforcement strategies to address crime in Oakland, which includes undercover narcotics operations, prostitution stings, surveillance, and other undercover or tactical operations. These operations require officers to work in covert and undercover conditions. To effectively implement undercover and tactical operations, the Oakland Police Department must use unmarked, non-distinguishable vehicles. The most cost effective way to obtain such vehicles on a regular basis is to contract with rental car companies to provide covert vehicles.

The rental vehicles are primarily used by officers assigned to the Special Operations Division. Although the vehicles are available for use by all sworn staff, only members at the rank of sergeant or above are permitted to check out rental vehicles. All rental vehicle usage is authorized by a Special Operations Section commander prior to use.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Department's contract with Pacific Rental provides for daily access to 15 standard size vehicles and 4 SUVs. The standard vehicles are used daily for static/rolling surveillance, narcotic enforcement operations, prostitution enforcement, Alcohol Beverage Action Team (ABAT) enforcement, and other approved operations.

On April 1, 2009, members of the Special Operations Section were tipped to a significant narcotics deal scheduled to occur in Oakland. Using a number of rental vehicles, a surveillance operation was established and maintained for approximately six hours, encompassing Oakland, Hayward, and San Jose. Ultimately, officers recovered five pounds of methamphetamine destined for Oakland delivery. Without the use of covert vehicles this operation could not have occurred, the drugs would not have been seized and ultimately would have been delivered in Oakland.

The SUVs are used by the Department's canine handlers assigned to the Target Enforcement Task Force (TETF) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force.

The ability to maintain an active rotation of unmarked, undistinguishable "police" vehicles for use in undercover operations makes it less likely that these officers are recognized, which is a key element to the success of such operations, as well as for officer safety. If the Department did not have access to a variety of car models and types, undercover operations would be severely hindered as suspects would begin to identify these vehicles as undercover police cars.

The use of rental cars is the best option for undercover operations as it saves the City of Oakland in car repairs, purchases, and upkeep, while serving the Department's needs to effectively carry out law enforcement efforts throughout the City.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Conducting undercover operations enhances the Department's crime fighting efforts by providing alternative strategies to apprehending individuals who are involved in criminal activities in the City of Oakland. By removing the criminal element, public safety is enhanced and the City is more attractive to consumers and businesses alike.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Social Equity: Undercover operations are a valuable strategy used by the Department in its law enforcement efforts. Such operations offer an alternative approach to apprehending suspects who commit crime in Oakland, thereby creating a safer community.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR ACCESS

There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues identified in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends acceptance of this informational report.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard A. Jordan
Acting Chief of Police

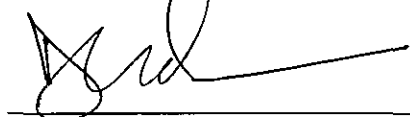
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

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