

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2004 JAN 29 PM 6:42

**TO:** Office of the City Manager  
**ATTN:** Deborah Edgerly  
**FROM:** Oakland Police Department  
**DATE:** February 3, 2004

**RE:** Supplemental Information Report Regarding the Oakland Police Department's Current Policy, Procedures, and Precautions Used for Vehicle Pursuits in the City of Oakland

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### SUMMARY

The report responds to queries from the Committee on vehicle pursuits that result in accidents and the approximate costs to increase the size of vehicle numbers on police cars.

### FISCAL IMPACT

This is a supplemental information report. Potential fiscal impacts are noted in the "Key Issues and Impacts" section of the report. The prices and costs are approximations.

### BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2003, the Police Department presented a report on its vehicle pursuit policy and procedures (OPD General Order J-4). The Committee directed staff to return on January 13, 2004 with a follow-up report comparing Oakland's vehicle pursuit policies and procedures to those of other cities. At the January meeting, the Committee asked staff to provide supplemental information on the number of vehicle pursuits that resulted in accidents and, in response to a suggestion made by a public speaker at the September meeting, the costs involved to increase the size of the vehicle numbers on marked police cars.

### KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

#### *Vehicle pursuits*

Compared to 2002, the number of pursuits conducted by the Oakland Police Department in 2003 declined by 38%. In 2003, a majority of the pursuits (78%) resulted in the arrest of the suspect. Thirty-four percent of the pursuits resulted in a vehicular collision; however, only 4 % of the collisions resulted in injury.

Item: **10.10 CC**  
City Council  
February 3, 2004

<b>Vehicle Pursuits</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Pursuits	159	182	113
Arrest	109	138	89
Vehicle Collisions	37	32	39
Suspect Fled	39	77	28
Officer/Supervisor Terminated	9	19	14
Other	24	10	4
Damage to Police Vehicle	19	14	6
Damage to Suspect Vehicle	76	88	61
Injuries	24	4	5

### ***Police Vehicle Identification Numbers***

The Oakland Police Department has approximately 230 marked patrol vehicles. Each vehicle has identification decals applied to the trunk, both front side doors, and the roof. These decals are 1.5-inches, 4-inches, and 12-inches in height, respectively. The photographs in Attachment A show that replacing the identification numbers in their current locations would only permit a size increase of approximately two inches. The decals on the doors are made of a reflective material.

A second option would be to affix new, larger numbers on the left and right rear quarter panels of marked police vehicles.

The approximate cost for various sized, non-reflective and reflective, numeric decals are:

<b>Letter Height</b>	<b>Price per Non-reflect</b>	<b>Price per Reflective</b>
2.5 "	\$ .89	\$ 1.49
3 "	.99	1.59
4 "	1.29	2.49
6 "	1.79	3.59
7 "	2.39	4.49
8 "	2.99	5.49

Since every marked police car has its own 4-digit identification number, replacing the trunk numbers would cost approximately  $\$1.29 \times 4 = \$5.16 \times 230 = \$1,186.80$ . The cost to replace the numbers on the left and right side doors would be \$ 3,293.60 ( $\$1.79 \times 8 = \$14.32 \times 230$ ) for non-reflective decals or \$6,605.60 ( $\$3.59 \times 8 = \$28.72 \times 230$ ) for reflective numbers. Affixing new, large format, 8-inch numbers on the left and right quarter panels would cost approximately \$5,501.60 ( $\$2.99 \times 8 = \$23.92 \times 230$ ) for non-reflective materials or \$10,101.60 ( $\$5.49 \times 8 = \$43.92 \times 230$ ) for reflective decals.

The Public Works Agency (PWA) employs one (1) Automotive Equipment Painter, who would be tasked with removing and replacing, or preparing and affixing, the new identification

numbers. The hourly cost for the Automotive Equipment Painter is \$39.83 [BRASS Step 5 (\$29.49), plus fringe and retirement (35.08%)].

The PWA Corporation Yard supervisor estimates it would take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to remove and replace the decals on the side doors and the lip of the trunk, a cost a total of approximately \$18,321.80 ( $\$39.83 \times 2 = \$79.66 \times 230$ ) for labor. To affix new decals to the rear quarter panels would take approximately .5 to .75 hours and cost a total of approximately \$6,870.68 ( $\$39.83 \times .75 = \$29.87 \times 230$ ) for labor.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic** - The Department's pursuit policy is structured to serve as an effective management strategy to reduce or prevent the City's exposure to incidents of civil liability and litigation.

**Environmental** - There are no identified environmental opportunities contained in this report.

**Social Equity** - Vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous and are used to apprehend violators who refuse to comply with the law and pose a danger to Oakland residents. The Police Department's pursuit regulations are designed to ensure no pursuit shall continue at the expense of the safety of bystanders and responding officers.

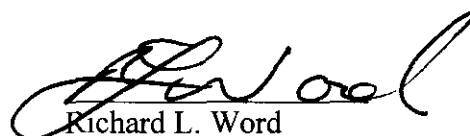
### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Police Department will continue to closely supervise and review all aspects of its vehicle pursuit policy. The Department does not believe the issue of marked police vehicle identification numbers warrants the expense to either replace or add new numbers to the existing fleet. The Police Department will work with its vendor/dealer to ensure identification numbers on future patrol vehicles will employ larger numbers. The Police Department recommends the City Council receive this information report.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Word  
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING  
TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

  
Office of the City Manager

Prepared by: William R. Uber  
Management Assistant, Admin & Tech Div.  
Bureau of Services

Item: **10.10.CC**  
City Council  
February 3, 2004



Attachment A

Item: 10.10 CC  
City Council  
February 3, 2004