

Subject: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

To All Members:

Fairfield PD is looking for any research supporting an agency's converting their patrol fleets from all white to the traditional black and white police vehicles. If your agency has done that or has researched it, please contact me. Thanks.

Kenton Rainey, Chief
Fairfield Police Department

From: Dan Ruden

Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 6:21 PM

To: KRAINEY

Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief,

We just initiated the transition from white to B&W patrol cars. I have attached the staff report we brought before our Council in May and a couple other documents I scrounged up while researching.

We are going to transition the paint through attrition because of budget constraints. That should take 3 to 4 years. Our preference would have been to retrofit the entire fleet (sworn cars only). Since we started the transition we have had a couple of cars that needed body work, so we converted those to B&W while they were in for repairs. Maaco Body Shop did the paint and it looks good. We are using Seale Signs in Roseville for the graphics. They use black 3M material with a reflective drop shadow.

Ordering B&W cars represents no additional cost. There is a savings on decals because the new style only applies to the doors, not the whole side of the car.

For the new design we assembled a group of interested patrol officers. They did all the research, etc, and settled on 4-white doors like LAPD instead of 2 white doors like CHP. One of the primary arguments for black & white cars was their visibility vs. the all-white cars. A recent community survey indicated that residents want to see more patrols in their neighborhoods and we took advantage of that sentiment. We also cited a "force multiplier" effect because our surrounding jurisdictions are all using black & white police cars.

Another issue was the fact that our sworn police cars and non-sworn (CSO, Volunteer, Etc.) vehicles had the same markings. Some were even "runout" police cars. The new clear LED lightbars we use now made it nearly impossible to tell the difference.

All in all, we're pretty happy with the final result. I've attached some pictures. I also included an agenda report from Costa Mesa that has a lot of information in it.

Best of luck. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Dan Ruden, Captain
Rocklin Police Department

From: Phillip D. Green
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 3:37 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: Re: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hi Chief Rainey:

We did not do any research, but went to black and white from all white a couple of years ago. It seems that many people were not aware of police presence and at times thought we were driving a taxi cab. When we returned to the traditional black and white we received a lot of positive comments from our citizens.

Sincerely,

Phil Green
Police Chief

-----Original Message-----

From: Hood, Steve
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 3:49 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: Re: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Kenton:

We did it here in Petaluma back in 2000. No research though, we decided we wanted to and went. Great decision, got everyone in the PD involved in the process and ended up with a good car design. Lots of worry about what the community would say, but it was completely uneventful.

Hope that helps.

Steve Hood
Petaluma PD

From: Rich Cinfio
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 3:54 PM
To: KRAINEY
Cc: Greg Rothaus
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief,

I headed up that project in San Carlos.

There was no political issues associated with it, and the staff was strongly in favor of it.

Justification for the change took the form of staff desire, morale, in-line with existing agencies, standardization and a more recognizable patrol vehicle.

We wanted to do the transition quickly. Our agency is smaller - 17 vehicles - so we came up with the idea of having the local ROP do the painting of existing vehicles at \$200 per unit, which was very inexpensive.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Rich Cinfio

From: Richard Doscher
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:02 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hi Chief:

We have four agencies in close proximity and each had a slightly different version of an all white patrol vehicle. It created havoc with citizen complaints. About 8 years ago, I changed all of ours to the traditional LAPD style (4 white doors) black and white scheme. The community identifies more with the B/Ws and we received no negative comments.

Richard

Richard J. Doscher - Chief of Police
Yuba City Police Department
1545 Poole Blvd.
Yuba City, CA 95993

www.ycpd.org
"Together We Protect"

We did this about three years ago. We really didn't do much research, but have found the black and whites are much more visible in the community. The all white cars blended in to easily. We've had comments about increased patrol when we have actually had to reduce staff. I attribute that to the black and whites.

Lynne Johnson
Police Chief
Palo Alto Police Department
275 Forest Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: Daniel Watson
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:14 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

I believe Livermore PD made this change within the last two years.

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Steckler
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:16 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: Re: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Kenton:

We used to drive all white vehicles with a blue stripe (Ugh!). When I became the chief in 1992 we went to Black and Whites and had a committee design the door shield. Didn't do any research but also had no complaints come in from the community.

Craig

From: Cattolico, Loren
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:23 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Kenton, we just did the same this year and I had received information that indicated black and white cars were more visible and gave the appearance of more units in the community. I am not sure exactly where I got the information but I sounded logical. Loren Cattolico, Chief of Police, City of Galt

From: Gregg Giusiana
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:30 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Kenton

Gilroy PD converted from white to black and white at the request of the officers. We had them come up with the design of the car for my approval. We converted as we purchased new vehicles. Our fleet is mainly fords and there is no extra charge for the black and white paint. For a few years we had both white units and black and whites in the fleet. Now the only white units are the CSO vehicles.

The only extra cost we encountered was in purchasing Tahoes. Chevy charges an extra \$1400 for the black and white paint.

Hope this helps

Thanks

Gregg Giusiana
Chief

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Nichelini
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:31 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: Re: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

I did it at Oakland PD many years ago if that's of any value.

Bob Nichelini

From: Steve Bird
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:35 PM
To: 'KRAINEY'
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief Rainey,

Our department did this about 9-10 years ago in response to a desire expressed by our POA to have traditional black & white patrol vehicles as opposed to plain white ones with a decal. It was a very positive move for morale and paid some big dividends, since it was the officers desire to do so and it was basically a low cost item for us at the time. In simple terms, we got a lot of bang for our buck by doing this in more ways than one. No major research was performed, other than locating a body shop (we ended up using one from Vallejo) that could paint our existing fleet which was only about 5 or more units at the time. It cost us approximatley \$100 per vehicle to have this done. All orders for new vehicles were then made for B & W's. I am sure that a larger fleet and current costs will impact you now more than it did us; however, a longer term change over plan may be well worth it if this is the desire of you & your staff.

Have a great Christmas!

Capt. Steven Bird

From: Orcutt, John
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:34 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: [SPAM] CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

[Manteca PD just did it...feel free to give one of us a call:](#)

Chief Rainey

We are considering the same action with our patrol fleet. I have done some research, finding a survey conducted by Costa Mesa PD regarding the issue. The results of this survey are located on the CPCA website under the research issues tab, and inside the miscellaneous file. I hope this helps. IF you come up with some other research, could you please share it with me?

Have a great day!

[Tom Downing, Captain](#)
[Susanville Police Department](#)
[Susanville, CA 96130](#)

From: Cassie McSorley
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:40 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White[Scanned]

[Chief-](#)

[We switched over in 1992 \(about\). We originally painted some of the newest cars to start, but left the majority of the fleet white. We then only ordered black and white and dealt with the conversion through attrition. When we made the decision to change we were concerned about spending a large sum of money to paint the whole fleet for purely asthetic reasons when we had not budgeted for that specifically. The change was well received by the officers and the public.](#)

[Cassie McSorley](#)
[Deputy Police Chief](#)
[Salinas Police Department](#)

From: Richard Janicki
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:41 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hello Chief, we just converted to black and white patrol vehicles after thirty some odd years with white. I am forwarding the City Council staff report and resolution we presented to them and which they ultimately approved. I also included our staff report & resolution with which we gained approval to employ new vehicle graphics. Hope this helps. If you have any questions please call.

Happy holidays.

Richard J. Janicki, Administrative Lieutenant
Marina Police Department
211 Hillcrest Avenue, Marina, CA. 93933

From: Mark Ruppenthal
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:41 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief,

The Moraga Police Department transitioned from solid white vehicles to the Black and White vehicles in the last year. We transitioned to the 4D white and white roof scheme. I provided my research to a Sgt. of mine, whose husband works for your agency. It was my understanding the information was passed on. If not, I can provide it again. When researching the change, I found numerous articles in support of the change and the Contra Costa Times did an article on it. I can provide my staff report to you if need it also.

Mark Ruppenthal
Chief of Police
Moraga Police Department

From: Drummond, Dan
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:48 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief Rainey; Check with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. They are in the process of doing just that. The new Sheriff is John McGinness. It was his idea.

Dan Drummond

Chief:

Two years ago South Lake Tahoe PD converted our fleet from all white to traditional black and white vehicles. We attempted to research the issue, but found data either lacking or conflicting. The push for converting really came from the “troops” they desired a sense of traditionalism in the black and white. In addition, we are a tourist community and we justified the black and white as readily recognized as a police vehicle over the white vehicles. Initially, I thought City Council would be concerned with the appearance of the “LAPD look” of the police vehicles and perceive it as anti Community Policing. That was not the case, in fact, they had little input on the decision and there was zero comment from the Community. Your Officers will like the black and whites and the Community probably doesn’t have an opinion. Good luck. Terry

Terry Daniels
Chief of Police
South Lake Tahoe Police Department

From: Bricker, Dave
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 4:58 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: [SPAM] CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief,
The Manteca Police Department has had white patrol cars with a blue stripe on the side (Hill Street Blues pattern) for almost 20 years. For the past several years the Police Officer's Association has been lobbying the Chief to change to the traditional black and white pattern. This year they were successful in getting the Chief's approval. The Chief received the approval of the City Council to change the look of the units since it was a very visible branding change for the Department and the City. We ordered six newly purchased vehicles, 3 Tahoes and 3 Chargers, all black and have painted only the doors white. We have changed the graphics on the new vehicles also. The officers held a competition to design the new look. We will be converting the entire fleet over to the new color scheme through attrition. The cars look great, the officers love them, and all of the comments from the public have been very positive.

Captain Dave Bricker
Services Division Commander
Manteca Police Department

Chief Rainey,

I will be sending you a copy of the proposal I did for converting to the black & white patrol cars, which have been overwhelmingly accepted by the citizen's of Livermore.

Dave Bart
Background Investigator
Professional Standards Unit
Livermore Police Department

From: Lisa Solomon
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 5:22 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

I suggest you contact Susan Jones, Police Chief at Healdsburg PD (she has been involved in transitioning at 2 agencies) and Deb Linden, at San Luis Obispo PD. The attached paper was largely written by Deb Linden and she gave it to me to use in my argument to switch...we were successful...use it, if it helps.

Lisa Solomon
Chief of Police
Paso Robles Police Department

From: Mark Puthuff
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 5:40 PM
To: KRAINEY
Cc: Lee, Brandon
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Chief,

I just converted our entire fleet from bland/dated white vehicles to new graphics and all black and whites. My Sergeant (Brandon Lee) coordinated this logistical victory. We will be happy to assist you with any advice, costs, and vendor info.

Sgt. Lee will be here for any assistance.

Happy Holidays and good luck.

Chief Mark Puthuff
Fort Bragg PD

From: John Jody H
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 5:46 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: Re: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Check with Costa Mesa PD. When I was there as Chief in 2003, we converted from white to black & white. There is a report somewhere in the building. (it maybe obtained thru Capt Ron Smith

Good luck....

JDH

From: Jacqueline Seabrooks
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 6:15 PM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hi Kenton Rainey!!!

Hope all is well with you there in Fairfield! While IPD has had Black and Whites for eons, Santa Monica PD converted to B&W's last year. For information, contact Eric Uller at 310.458.8779. And yes, things are wonderful here in Inglewood!!!

Take care and Happy Holidays to you and your family!!!

Jacqueline Seabrooks, Chief
Inglewood Police Department

Chief Rainey:

The Santa Monica Police Department recently converted from all white vehicles to black and white vehicles. The modification was approved by our City Council on March 14, 2007. A link to the staff report which includes a brief discussion and justification along with photos of the old and new style vehicles is below:

<http://www.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/agendas/2006/20060314/s2006031408-A.htm>

The project was cost neutral as vehicles are being replaced through our normal vehicle replacement schedule.

40 of our vehicles are fully marked sedans used for patrol, patrol supervisors or a special assignment. Of the 40 black and white vehicles, 32 have been replaced so far. The remaining 8 will be replaced next fiscal year. We also have 16 sedans that are used by non-sworn units. These vehicles will remain all white but will bear the new graphics package depicted on the staff report. We also have some specialty vehicles (Tahoes, Suburban, Traffic Enforcement truck,

Community Relations van, etc.) that will all be black and white as the vehicles are replaced.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Eric

From: Crombach, John
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 9:40 AM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hello Kenton,

We did a survey about four years ago at the request of the POA to explore going back to a traditional paint scheme. Our officers overwhelmingly voted to maintain our current white car with the ugly black stripe down the side. I would be very interested in what you come up with in this research request. I would like to take another run at changing our cars as well.

I hope all is well for you in your new job and please give Annette our best. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From: Susan Jones
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 10:12 AM
To: KRAINEY
Subject: RE: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

Hi Kenton,

We did it about 5 years ago. The community loves it. The Council didn't care. And the cops love it.

Chief,

We just changed everything back. No research on it but this: the troops like the traditional look better and our folks in the community do to. The all white probably did better in regards to heat related chipping/cracking, but we really didn't care for them. Sorry no research done to help, but I know our community likes it.

Jeff Bell, Captain
Shafter Police Department

Hi Kenton,

Earlier this year, we received approval from my CAO and Council to convert our fleet from white to black and white. Rather than bringing this to Council as a stand alone item we folded it in with our two year budget process.

Attached is a memo I sent to Council (with CAO approval) which outlines the justification we used to convert our fleet.

I hope this helps, and please feel free to call or email me if you need additional info. I will be in meetings most of the day and then on vacation until Jan 2.

Good luck!

Deborah Linden
Chief of Police
City of San Luis Obispo

Kenton

We did it in Reno several years ago but they might still have the information (*I believe it was taken to council*). A possible contact is Commander Steve Pitts pitts@ci.reno.nv.us .

Bill Bowen

William V. Bowen
Chief of Police
City of Rio Vista
50 Poppy House Road
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Chief,

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advantage of that sentiment. We also cited a “force multiplier” effect because our surrounding jurisdictions are all using black & white police cars.

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Rocklin Police Department

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Chief of Police
Paso Robles Police Department

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Happy holidays.

Richard J. Janicki, Administrative Lieutenant
Marina Police Department
211 Hillcrest Avenue, Marina, CA. 93933

From: Eric Uller
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 9:20 AM
To: KRAINEY
Cc: Tim Jackman; Phil Sanchez
Subject: FW: CPCA: Research Request--Research on changing fleet from White to Black and White

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Uller
Lead Public Safety Systems Analyst
Santa Monica Police Department
333 Olympic Drive
Santa Monica, California 90401

Dear Chief Rainey:

In 2006 our city **finally** agreed to the transition to black and whites, a first in our history of over 75 years. The key points discussed are in the attachment report done by Captain Hunt. They focused on the issues of real visibility within the community of a "police presence" as well as the professional image of black and whites universally recognized as "police vehicles".

I have also included the council minutes synopsis of the rational for the 5-0 vote that night by our council. Please let me know if we can be of further assistance. This is definitely a battle worth fighting for your personnel and community alike. Best of luck.

Lisa Ravazza

Chief of Police
[City of Piedmont](#)
403 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2006 1:11 PM

To:

Chief:

Here is a copy of the actual council meeting minutes:

Police Cars

The Acting Police Chief requested Council authorization to purchase *black and white* police vehicles funded in the FY 05-06 department budget. She noted that while Piedmont has historically had predominately white patrol cars like other similarly sized cities in the area, there has been a growing demand from the general public over the last decade for higher visibility police patrols. Therefore, more and more police departments are using traditional *black & whites* to better differentiate themselves from private security firms and delivery fleets. The Acting Chief noted that all of the department officers support purchase of the *black & whites* to respond to resident requests for higher visibility during routine neighborhood patrols and to provide the additional deterrent of having the City's patrol vehicles be readily identified as police cars.

Resolution 66-06

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the purchase of black and white police vehicles previously funded in the FY 05-06 budget.

Moved by McEnroe, Seconded by Wieler

Ayes: Bruck, McEnroe, Barbieri, Friedman, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0785)