

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 8

Resolution No. 118-2015

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION authorizing the disposal of certain Dodge Charger vehicles owned by Howard County to the Maryland Police Training Commission.

Introduced and read first time July 16, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on July 20, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments ☐, Failed ☐, Withdrawn ☐, by the County Council on July 31, 2015.

Certified By

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 4.129 of the Howard County Code authorizes the County
2 Purchasing Agent, with the approval of the County Executive and the County Council, to
3 sell or lease surplus supplies to the State or any political subdivision or agency of the
4 State, or to the Federal Government upon such terms and conditions as the County
5 Purchasing Agent deems proper, and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Howard County, Maryland, on behalf of the Department of County
8 Administration, Office of Central Fleet, has acquired a number of Dodge Chargers for the
9 Department of Police and is transitioning from the Crown Victoria as the primary patrol
10 vehicle; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the current police patrol fleet mainly consists of Dodge Chargers;
13 and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, as part of the police patrol fleet, the Department of County
16 Administration, Office of Central Fleet owns following items (collectively, the
17 “Vehicles”):

- 18 1. 2006 Dodge Charger, 5.7 hemi engine, vin 2B3LA43H26H459913
- 19 2. 2008 Dodge Charger, 5.7 hemi engine, vin 2B3LA43HX8H149334
- 20 3. 2008 Dodge Charger, 5.7 hemi engine, vin 2B3LA43H18H149335
- 21 4. 2008 Dodge Charger, 3.5 V6 engine, vin 2B3LA43G88H141272
- 22 5. 2008 Dodge Charger, 3.5 V6 engine, vin 2B3LA43GX8H141273; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with the County Administration’s Vehicle and
25 Equipment Maintenance Policy (No. 300.6B), law enforcement vehicles are
26 decommissioned and replaced when they reach 5 years of service or 100,000 miles; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the Vehicles have reached these milestones and should be disposed
29 of in accordance with the County Code; and
30

1 **WHEREAS**, the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) in Sykesville
2 Maryland is the body that oversees the certification of police officers throughout the State
3 of Maryland; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the MPTC also oversees the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course
6 (EVOC) located in Sykesville, Maryland; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Howard County Police recruits are currently instructed on the
9 operation of emergency vehicles at the EVOC; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, veteran Howard County Police officers also attend the EVOC for
12 general driver training or remedial training; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the only vehicle currently used at the Operations Course is the Ford
15 Crown Victoria; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, there are significant differences between the Ford Crown Victoria
18 and the Dodge Charger in terms of handling and performance; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, accordingly, the Dodge Charger is the preferred vehicle for use
21 during driver training for the Police Department; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, rather than surplus and auction the Vehicles through the normal
24 process, the MPTC has requested the County to dispose of the Vehicles for use during
25 EVOC driver training; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Department of County Administration, Office of Central Fleet,
28 agrees with this request and believes that it is in the public interest because, to maximize
29 the benefits of the EVOC course, the attendees should train with the same vehicle that
30 they will ultimately be operating while on-duty; and
31

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has approved the disposal of the Vehicles to
2 the MPTC upon such terms and conditions as the County Purchasing Agent deems
3 proper.
4

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Council of Howard
6 County, Maryland this 31st day of July, 2015 that it approves the disposal
7 of the above referenced Vehicles that are no longer needed by the County for public
8 purposes to Maryland Police Training Commission in Sykesville Maryland upon such
9 terms and conditions as the County Purchasing Agent deems proper.

ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive



GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Although there are still Ford Crown Victorias in the current Howard County fleet, their numbers are diminishing since the transition to the Dodge Charger. There are significant differences between the two vehicles in terms of handling and performance. For that reason the Dodge Charger is the preferred vehicle for use during driver's training.

The FY 15 fleet has been delivered to the Police Department and a number of aging Dodge Chargers have met the criteria for replacement. Rather than surplus and auction through the normal process, I'm proposing that five surplus Chargers be sold to MPTC for a total of \$10,000 to be utilized for EVOC training. MPTC will permit any jurisdiction to utilize those vehicles for EVOC.

The fundamentals of emergency vehicle operation are taught at EVOC, but in order to maximize the benefits of the course the attendees should train with the same vehicle they will ultimately be operating while on-duty. The difference in operating platforms is significant. A Dodge Charger, for example, will respond differently than a Crown Victoria in certain maneuvers because of the axel design. The weight distribution, responsiveness, etc., will differ. Therefore, getting first hand experience with the Charger at EVOC will better prepare the officers for a similar situation while on patrol. This could arguably lead to fewer accidents and claims against the county. More importantly, it will likely make the officer safer since he/she will already have first hand knowledge of the vehicle attributes.

Thus far in 2015, fifteen (15) officers died behind the wheel of police vehicles across the country. In 2014, twenty-six (26) officers died in vehicle collisions, which is about the average annual loss of life for law enforcement officers. Many more officers are severely injured each year. Our goal as an agency is to ensure our officers get the appropriate training to prevent such a tragedy.

MPTC is required to provide vehicles for use to other agencies. MPTC is responsible for the care and maintenance. Agencies attending EVOC are charged \$30.00 per session for each vehicle used. Agencies are also required to pay for fuel. Some agencies utilize their own vehicles and are not charged the session fee. Typically the vehicles must have the center console removed in order to aid the EVOC instructor during practical exercises. This is an added cost to the agency and renders the vehicle unusable for patrol duties.

If you require further information concerning this matter or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

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ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive




GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement
Council Resolution No. 118 - 2015 authorizing the donation of five (5) surplus Dodge Chargers to the Maryland Police Training Commission for training purposes

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Gary L. Gardner 
Chief of Police

Date: June 9, 2015

The Department of Police has been designated as the coordinator for the preparation of testimony in regard to the donation of five (5) surplus Dodge Chargers to the Maryland Police Training Commission.

In 2008 the Department of Police acquired a number of Dodge Chargers and thus began the transition from the Crown Victoria as the primary patrol vehicle. Today, the bulk of the police patrol fleet consists of the Dodge Charger.

As our police vehicles reach a certain mileage/years of service they are decommissioned and surplus through the normal Fleet policy/practice. Currently there are five Dodge Chargers that have met these criteria.

The Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) in Sykesville, Maryland is the body that oversees the certification of police officers throughout the state of Maryland. The Training Commission also oversees the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), the site where Howard County Police recruits receive instruction on emergency vehicle operation. This is also the location where veteran Howard County Police officers go for general or remedial driver training. The only vehicle currently utilized at the Operations Course is the Ford Crown Victoria.

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Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Police and Correctional Training Commissions

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CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

J. MICHAEL ZEIGLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALBERT L. LIEBNO, JR.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

July 10, 2015

The Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty
Chair

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Sigaty,


I am writing to support the request of the Howard County Department of Police to donate 5 surplus Dodge Chargers to the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC). The addition of these vehicles will help the MPCTC meet its obligation of ensuring quality training to members of the Howard County Department of Police, as well as law enforcement officers throughout the State of Maryland.

As you may be aware, the operation of police vehicles under both routine and emergency situations poses significant risks to both the officers and to the public. In fact, over the last several years, more officers have died across this country as a result of vehicle crashes than from firearms or other types of assaults. In 2014, 50 officers were killed by firearms and 49 died as a result of traffic related incidents. This trend towards more fatalities being caused by vehicle crashes is even more pronounced in Maryland. These figures do not include the numbers of officers injured, nor the numbers of citizens killed or injured as a result of police involved collisions.

The donation of these vehicles will ensure that we are training both new recruits and veteran officers in the safe operation of their vehicles under a variety of conditions. It will also ensure that the officers are training in the types of vehicles that they will actually operate. Currently, the majority of our training fleet consists of Ford Crown Victorias. However, the vast majority of Howard County officers drive Dodge Chargers. The differences are significant and our ability to train officers in the types of cars they will ultimately be using in your community is critical.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and your continued support of public safety. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,


William J. McMahon, Director
Leadership Development Institute

cc: Chief Gary Gardner
Mr. Robbins
Mr. Liebno