

# Black and White Patrol Cars

**Briefing to the Vancouver Police Board**

**July 18, 2012 – In Camera**

**Superintendent Daryl Wiebe**



# History

- Black fleet vehicles were the cheapest
  - Colour options were black or black
- In 1930's:
  - High police visibility reduced crime
  - Easily recognizable as a police car
  - Public awareness
- Evolved into a tradition
  - Some moved away from it in the 1970's and 1980's
  - Remains internationally symbolic
  - Primarily North American choice
- Iconic on Television



## What's old is new...

Today:

- Distinct among traffic
- Increased police visibility
- Elevated profile
- Public appreciation for retro look
- Strongly desired by members



*"There is also the urge to yell out, "Car 54, where are you?" or maybe "1-Adam 12, 1-Adam 12," because when it zips by you on the street, it's so cool and retro and right-out-of-pop-culture you just can't help yourself"*

*Vancouver Sun, June 24, 2009*



# Concept

- Informal research conducted in Operations Division in 2008
  - 98% support for Black and White Patrol Car
  - Members primary concern was a perception of additional cost
  - No action taken due to timing
- Migration to Black and White taking hold across North America
  - Local police departments
  - Major Canadian Departments
  - Major US Cities
- Opportune time
- Fleet refresh
- No additional cost



# Concept



# Opinion

- Membership quotes
  - “I love the retro look – everything about the black and white colour scheme says ‘this is the police!’... Bring back the black and white.”
  - “I truly like the black and white. I think it is classic and unique to policing.”
  - “Big WOW factor in my opinion; for what it’s worth, I love it”.
  - “I like the traditional black and white very much! I think they will look wonderful with our crest, the ‘Beyond the Call’, and the First Nations art.”
- Vancouver Police Union consultation
  - Surprised at how much of an issue this is for the membership
  - Overwhelmingly in favour of the switch
  - Agreement that the car is their office
  - Instils pride, better care of fleet and good will



# No Additional Costs

- **Current Crown Victoria**
  - Plain White car
  - Decaling applied to sides, trunk, rear and roof
  - Complex decal design
  - Cost \$1,200
- **New Police Patrol car (Ford or Dodge)**
  - Black car with white 'skin' applied at factory on two doors and roof
  - No additional cost for vehicle
  - Modified decal package dependent on final design
  - Ability to embed door decal into "skin"
  - Preliminary estimate for decals is \$800



# Timeline

- Evaluation of Vehicles ongoing now
  - Concludes in late summer
- RFP for Fleet Replacement
  - One vendor for multi-year deal
  - 65 Patrol vehicles at end of 2012
  - 23 patrol vehicles in 2013



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## QUESTIONS?

Superintendent Daryl Wiebe

