

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Acceptance of the Donation of Vehicle to Police Department for use by City Volunteers
DEPARTMENT:	Police
PRESENTED BY:	Chief Denise Pentony

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT: Currently volunteers performing police related services for the City of Shoreline have to provide their own transportation. This creates a safety issue when volunteers are performing vacation house checks or other City sanctioned activities utilizing their private vehicles, which are not readily identifiable as City owned. Police Explorers are also required to provide their own transportation to various events that they attend. This has caused operational issues in the past when individual explorers have been unable to obtain transportation to an event.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED: The following alternatives were considered:

- Status Quo
- Acquire a vehicle for use by City Police volunteers
- Accept a Volkswagen vehicle donated by Campbell Nelson Volkswagen for use by City Police volunteers (recommended)

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Total costs for this proposal would vary with usage. There are no up front capital costs. Police logos would be designed and affixed to the sides and rear of the vehicle. The approximate one-time cost for this is estimated to be \$500. This one-time cost would be covered in 2001 by unexpended funds in the police department's operating supplies budget. The City would also be responsible for gasoline and routine maintenance such as oil changes. These costs are estimated at \$700 for 2002. Sufficient funding is available in operating supplies under the proposed 2002 budget to cover these ongoing expenses. It is also estimated that savings will be realized in this budget item by reduced or eliminated mileage reimbursement costs submitted by volunteers. Mechanical repairs would be covered under the new car warranty, and physical damage to the vehicle would be covered under the standard City insurance policy.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve the motion to accept the donated Volkswagen Beetle from Campbell Nelson VW for the period of one year, and that this vehicle be put in service for the use of City Police Volunteers and Police Explorers.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 

INTRODUCTION

This proposal involves the donation of a new Volkswagen Beetle to the City of Shoreline from Campbell Nelson VW. This vehicle will be marked with a logo identifying it as a Shoreline Police Department vehicle with additional markings that identify the occupants as Police Volunteers or Explorers.

BACKGROUND

The City of Shoreline has a very active volunteer program. The volunteers currently staff two storefronts and also provide services to the public at the main police station. In addition to all of the walk-in services and telephone services they provide, the volunteers also manage and staff programs that require them to be in the community. These programs include the volunteer house check program where residents of the City can contact a storefront when they leave on vacation, and volunteers will periodically check on the physical security of the house until they return. This provides a significant level of comfort to the residents while they are away, knowing that responsible police volunteers are checking their property.

Other programs that have been proposed and are under active discussion include handicapped parking enforcement where specially trained volunteers would patrol commercial areas and shopping districts actively looking for violators of the City's disabled parking areas. Volunteers have also proposed doing various citizen patrols in such areas as the parks, providing information and additional visible presence, while acting as extra eyes for the police department. Having a marked vehicle for their use would greatly enhance their ability to perform these duties and increase the overall visibility of the City and the City police department.

Campbell Nelson VW has approached the police department and the City to provide the use of a new VW Bug for one year. Campbell Nelson has engaged in donating vehicles to the cities of Edmonds and Lynnwood for several years. Campbell Nelson VW approached the Shoreline Police with a similar offer last year. Staff researched the opportunity. It was discovered that the King County Sheriff's Office had a policy against accepting the donated vehicle and that the Sheriff's Office full-time employees could not drive the vehicle as a regular patrol vehicle unless it was part of the County's fleet of vehicles. Therefore, the offer was not accepted. At the time, staff learned the vehicle could be donated to the City and covered under City insurance. Unfortunately, the notion of using the vehicle for the volunteer program had not been considered at the time. This year Campbell Nelson agreed that police volunteers could drive the vehicle in conjunction with our crime prevention programs.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Status Quo:

Currently the volunteers drive their own vehicles for these duties. They are paid mileage reimbursement by the City at the standard rate. Their vehicles are not marked and are not identified as City vehicles. This lack of ready identification does not allow ready recognition of them as police volunteers and reduces their visibility in the community.

Acquire a Vehicle:

The current price of a new vehicle would be in excess of \$20,000. There is no money in the current police department budget to purchase a vehicle. Ongoing costs for maintenance, fuel and insurance would remain the same as with the leased vehicle.

Accept Donated Vehicle

Currently the Cities of Lynnwood and Edmonds have accepted vehicles through this dealership and use those vehicles for police purposes. Edmonds uses their vehicle for Crime Prevention activities and Lynnwood uses their vehicle for the DARE program.

This program would directly relate to one of the Police department goals, which is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Having an additional vehicle on the city streets marked with Police Department logos would increase police visibility and reduce the fear of crime among the citizens.

As discussed earlier, costs for this program are marginal. It will cost less than 500 dollars to design and apply the graphics and logos to the vehicle, and it is anticipated that the actual cost for gasoline and maintenance will be less than the mileage costs currently paid to the volunteers.

Having a marked vehicle will contribute to the job satisfaction and pride of the volunteers and the explorers and will allow them to be more effective in their jobs, allowing the police department to enhance and expand programs throughout the City.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve the motion to accept the donated Volkswagen Beetle from Campbell Nelson VW for the period of one year, and that this vehicle be put in service for the use of City Police Volunteers and Police Explorers.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Letter from Campbell Nelson Volkswagen to Chief Pentony outlining the program.
- Attachment B: Attached sheet designating specifics of the program from Campbell Nelson to Chief Pentony.



ATTACHMENT A

24329 HIGHWAY 99 • EDMONDS, WA 98026 • PHONE (425) 778-1131 / (206) 524-6660

October 15, 2001

Denise Pentony
Shoreline Police Department
1206 N 185th
Richmond Beach, WA 98133

Dear Denise Pentony,

Thank you for your interest in Campbell Nelson VW's Crime Prevention/DARE Program. This program is designed to create a win-win situation for both your department and Campbell Nelson VW. This is achieved by providing you with a cost effective way to promote your department's programs with a fun, eye-catching vehicle. At the same time it allows Campbell Nelson VW to visibly demonstrate their ongoing commitment to being involved in the community. Currently, the program is being successfully used by both the Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace Police Departments.

Attached to this letter you will find a breakdown of how the program works and who is responsible for what expenses.

Please call me with any questions that you may have or to make an appointment to sign your department up for this program!

Thanks and God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Halle".

Jay Halle

**Campbell Nelson VW's
Crime Prevention/DARE Program**

You receive a Beetle for 1 year.

***Our expense**

You have it painted or wrapped with your colors.

***Your expense**

You add any extras you might want (i.e. lights, etc)

***Your expense**

You keep it serviced and licensed.

***Your expense**

Mileage limit: 12,000 miles for the year.

**Beetle is to be returned in the same condition
as it left the dealership.**

**We reserve the right to have the beetle present
at events of our choosing.**

**Campbell Nelson VW's logo stickers must be
displayed on both sides and back of vehicle.**