



**Department of Building Inspections &  
Neighborhood Services**

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June 11, 2015

Common Council  
Administration and Finance Committee  
West Allis, WI

RE: City Provided Vehicles for BINS Inspection Staff

Dear Council Members:

The Department of Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services is constantly looking for ways to improve customer service, improve our professionalism and image and save the City money. BINS staff has developed a proposal that may accomplish all of these goals.

BINS proposes to repurpose former Police Department squad cars to be utilized as inspector vehicles for daily inspections.

Providing inspectors with City issued vehicles does have a benefit to the customers of the Department, such as citizens, building owners and business owners. It provides our customers with a sense of security when someone arrives at their house in a vehicle that has a City logo and municipal license plates. It also portrays a more professional image of the inspectors. In the future, it may provide additional resources such as mobile printers to speed up services to these customers.

In the past, inspectors had often expressed their interest in having the City provide them with vehicles for their daily inspections. They do not like the additional mileage and wear on their personal vehicles. I have also been approached by Mayor Devine and Council Members asking why we don't provide City vehicles for inspections. However, purchasing 9-10 new vehicles was not a viable option due to the high costs and maintenance required.

In January of this year, I started to investigate what alternative options may be available. Working with Robert Barwick from the Finance Department and Chris Bosch from the Police Department, an option was brought up to repurpose former squad cars as vehicles for the inspectors. These vehicles are already purchased and a part of the City's fleet, which means we can use them essentially for free.

What I am proposing to do is use 4 former Police Department squad cars as vehicles for my inspectors for a 6 month trial period. If everything works out, eventually have all of my inspectors using former squad cars. Attached to this letter is a breakdown of costs and procedures associated with this

proposal. I feel that this would be a great repurposing of existing City resources, providing a higher level of professionalism and service to our customers, and increase morale among my staff.

If you have any questions after reading over the attached document, I am more than willing to answer them or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



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