



# Recommendation Submission/Response Form

Referenced CASA area (A,B,C,D,E): \_\_\_\_\_

This response is in reference to recommendation #21-13: Police Vehicle Selection, Appearance, and Equipment / Foothills Area Command

Responsible SME: Chief of Police, Harold J. Medina

Date received: 07/15/21

Date returned: 07/16/21

## RECOMMENDATION (Recommendation/Reasoning):

The present appearance of APD vehicles is a mishmash of vehicle designs and appearance. No one at APD that we've spoken with seems to know the underlying concept. It's most likely that there is no real policy or goal. The present situation seems to be just something that sort of developed. We have white cars with red and blue. We have black and white cars harking back to the 50s in design. Now we even have some sort-of blue-ish things with very faint silvery decals. We've asked who is in charge and no one knows. No one knows the purpose of the various colors. It isn't even clear whether there's a purchasing authority that makes department-wide decisions (some states have state-level purchasing to ensure "best price" and equipment uniformity). We recommend that all our APD vehicles present the same appearance and have the same basic system of lights and identifying symbols (except for undercover vehicles) and that these systems remain constant for an extended period (not months, but maybe more like a decade).

## Reason for Recommendation

Residents and visitors to the Burque need to be able to identify, with certainty, whether a vehicle is an authorized police vehicle. If a driver sees flashing lights behind them at night, a uniform system of lighting will give them confidence that that it is an official vehicle. Though rare, there have been cases of impostors mimicking police lighting and vehicle appearance to prey on unsuspecting drivers. Uniform color, identifying symbols, and lights will provide folks with quick assurance concerning which vehicles are "official" emergency responders.

Special Vehicles for Special Needs:

This is not to deny that various needs of police personnel should be accommodated by special vehicles. PSA's may require compact pickups. Others may need to be equipped with sedans, SUV-type vehicles, or even full-size pickups. The goal should be a uniformity of appearance so that even the least informed member of the public can readily identify official police vehicles.

**APD RESPONSE/REASONING:**

I agree, all FSB (Field Services Bureau) cars while I am Chief, will be blue color. It will take time (years) to phase out older cars. We will do social media post on the various cars we have.

Chief made aware of recommendation: Yes  No

Recommendation Status: Approved  Denied  Needs more time