

# Ft. Pierce Police Department

## News Release

May 7, 2010

**R. Sean Baldwin**

*Chief of Police*



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### **Fort Pierce Police unveil future look for police vehicles**

Getting back to traditional black and white cars, the Fort Pierce Police Department has unveiled the future look for the police fleet in the Sunrise City. The new black and white police units look sharp, save taxpayer money and provide the community with a recognizable look that citizens can easily identify as police vehicles.

In deciding to make the transition from the blue and white color scheme to the black and whites, Police Chief R. Sean Baldwin pointed to what appears to be a nationwide trend of going back to the traditional black and whites. "We want our officers to be visible in the community and our research indicates that most people instantly recognize the black and white paint scheme as a police car. The increased visibility is a force multiplier."

Chief Baldwin states that the transition to the black and whites may take several years, and people will only see the new design through attrition in the fleet. "As we retire our older police cars we will replace them with the new black and whites over the course of several years". Police began the transition with three cars that were replaced last year and the cars are in service now.

Baldwin says that repainting the entire fleet all at once is not feasible because of costs, but changing them as we replace cars over the next several years won't cost anymore than the old plain white design. In fact the new cars are actually saving money.

The new black and white cars are Chevrolet Impalas – the first midsize cars in the department's patrol fleet. For years the department has used the Ford Crown Victoria as the standard patrol car, but the smaller Impala is more economical to buy and operate. The department's research showed that the agencies around the nation are saving money by moving to midsize cars, which are less expensive and get much better fuel mileage. The Impala's have been used successfully by both the Martin County and Polk County sheriff's offices for years.

Baldwin said "With soaring fuel prices and shrinking budgets, moving to a more efficient vehicle for patrol officers is the right thing to do for our community."

Citizens can view photographs of the new design by visiting the Fort Pierce Police Department's Facebook fan page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/FortPiercePoliceDepartment>

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