



Police FAQ's. – by Interim Police Chief Chris Gaddis

Why did we go with the chargers? In 2008, Ford announced they were going to be discontinuing the Ford Crown Victoria. In order to get ahead of the curve, the police department decided to switch models and go with the Dodge Charger. This was the only other full-size model available at that time. The Chevy Caprice would not be available for three more years. Currently the Dodge Chargers are four-thousand dollars cheaper than the Ford and two-thousand cheaper than the Chevy. There are also a number of safety and performance features that make the Dodge a more appealing purchase for the police department.

Are we going to be full staff soon? The Police Department is currently two positions under full staff. We are missing an Assistant Chief of Police and a Police Officer. There are plans to replace the Police Officer position if the Levy Lid Lift passes. The Assistant Chief of Police position may remain vacant for a number of years. The City Manager, the City Council and the Chief of Police are looking into long term financial fixes that would help bring the Police Department back up to full staff.

How many cars do we have in the fleet? The Normandy Park Police Department utilizes a fleet of seven cars. We have three Dodge Chargers, a Chief's Tahoe, a Supervisor's Tahoe, a K9 Tahoe and a CSO Van. The spare vehicles you may have seen around the police department are going to be surplus in the near future. Right now the K9 Tahoe is being swapped over with the Chief's Tahoe to extend the life of that vehicle. This also keeps a four wheel drive vehicle in the fleet. The other spare vehicles are going to be used as credit with our vehicle upfitter to extend the life of our current fleet.

How many reserve officers do we have? By City Policy we are allowed to have a staff of eleven reserve officers, which includes the Community Service Officer. Currently we have a staff of four volunteer Reserve Officers and one Community Service Officer. We have limited the number of Reserve Police Officers right now to assist in keeping costs to the City down as much as possible. Our Reserve Police Officers play a vital role in protecting our citizens, but we also have to balance that with our fiscal responsibilities.

Why do we have grey patrol cars? The previous Chief decided when we made the switch to Dodge Chargers, to change the color of the Department fleet to dark grey. The officers have been very happy with the color choice and we have received a lot of positive feedback from citizens about the look of our marked police cars. There are currently no plans to change from the purchase of dark grey vehicles in the future.

Does the Normandy Park Police department investigate identity theft? The Normandy Park Police Department aggressively investigates identity theft for our citizens. We have conducted numerous investigations that have led us outside of our

borders and in many cases uncovered several other crimes that we were able to make arrests for.

Can the Normandy Park Police Department enforce the laws outside of the city limits? All fully commissioned officers with the City of Normandy Park are commissioned in the State of Washington. This means that even if they observed a violation in Spokane they would be able to effect an arrest or even write a citation. Now, practically speaking we don't want our officers making arrests in the City of Spokane, but if they see a violation in a city closer to home they can certainly take police action.

What type of training have the Normandy park officers undergone in regards to mental illness? The Normandy Park Police Department is on the forefront of training dealing with the mentally ill. We are one of the only departments in King County that has had all their patrol staff members attend the 40 hour Crisis Intervention Team training put on by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center. We are also the first department to be fully trained on the brand new Crisis Diversion Facility in downtown Seattle.

Does the Normandy Park Police Department still do vacation house checks? The Normandy Park Police still do vacation house checks. Even in these tough economic times when we are down staff positions, it is still a priority to check on the houses of the people who are on vacation. This is just one of the many crime prevention functions we perform on a daily basis.

If you would like more information on the topics discussed in this FAQ list you may contact Interim Chief Chris Gaddis at 206-248-8254 or email him at chrisg@ci.normandy-park.wa.us.