



TOWN OF BARRINGTON

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Barrington Police Department Deploys Electric Vehicle

Town is the First Municipality in Rhode Island to Add an EV to the Police Fleet

BARRINGTON, RI – The Barrington Police Department has added a new vehicle to its fleet that will make the Town more sustainable and reduce the impact of rising gas prices on the municipal budget: a Mustang Mach-E all-wheel drive electric vehicle.

The Police Department is the first in Rhode Island to acquire an electric vehicle (EV) for use in police operations. The Mach-E, which has a range of approximately 230 miles on a full charge, will be used as a supervisor's car. The experience will help the Department determine if the vehicle could work as a patrol car, or if other EVs expected to become available in the next year should be considered.

"The purchase of a Ford Mustang Mach-E, an all-electric vehicle, demonstrates our commitment to climate resiliency without sacrificing performance," Police Chief Mike Correia said.

The Town is one of a growing number of communities across the country moving toward greening their fleets. Studies have concluded that switching to an EV, where the "fuel" comes from the electricity grid rather than the pump, significantly cuts emissions compared to gas vehicles.

"This shows the Town of Barrington is serious about reducing our carbon footprint and reducing our dependence on increasingly expensive fossil fuels," Council President Mike Carroll said. "The Mach-E also ensures that our Police Department has the equipment needed to continue to protect this community with the excellence and professionalism we have come to expect from them."

This is just the first step toward a greener fleet for Barrington, which is working with National Grid to complete a fleet study that will identify vehicles that should be replaced with an EV going forward as part of the Town's vehicle replacement schedule. The Town's Resilience and Energy Committee has advocated for the switch to EVs, after researching options and experiences of other communities that are going electric.

"Inventory has been very difficult to find, but we will continue to look for opportunities to acquire more electric vehicles for the Police Department, as well as Public Works and the Building Office," Town Manager Philip Hervey said. The Senior Center van also could be a candidate for switching to electric.

The Police Department will charge the Mach-E using one of the Town's two public Level 3 "fast chargers" at Town Hall, which can charge up to 80 percent of an EV within 30 to 60 minutes. The public also has access to Level 2 chargers at the Police Cove Park commuter lot, which take several hours to

reach full charge. The Town is working with NGRID to add EV fleet charging stations at the Public Safety Building and Public Works, so the infrastructure is in place for the acquisition of additional EVs in the future.

The Barrington Town Council on April 7th approved the purchase of the vehicle from Tasca Automotive of Seekonk, MA, in the amount of \$50,294. The Town is using \$10,000 in Federal American Rescue Plan funds to offset a portion of the cost, with the remainder coming from a Town capital reserve account.

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