



Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

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Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT METRO'S VEHICLE FLEET, DRIVING RECORD, AND THE FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OF OCTOBER 7TH.

We have received several questions from the Media which were not asked at this morning's press conference. Below are some facts which may assist you in writing your stories:

FLEET FACTS:

- Metro owns slightly over 2000 vehicles. That includes both marked and unmarked passenger vehicles, vans, trucks, and specialty vehicles such as those assigned to SWAT, Search and Rescue, etc.
- In FY 2008 - 2009, Metro vehicles were driven over 23 million miles.
- In FY 2008 - 2009 on a monthly basis, we averaged driving slightly under 2 million miles per month. To put that into perspective, this equals 81 trips around the world.
- In FY 2008 - 2009 we averaged driving slightly over 63 thousand miles per day. This is an increase of 11 thousand miles per day over FY 2007 - 2008.
- To put the DAILY miles driven into perspective, that is equal to 26 trips to New York - each day.

ACCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Metro's accident reporting policy creates inflated accident statistics when compared to normal reporting practices. Anytime any Metro vehicle comes into contact with any other object [including another metro vehicle], it becomes a reportable accident, even if there is absolutely no evidence of the accident on the Metro vehicle or the object. This includes such things as:
 - Backing into a trash can or landscaping rocks,
 - Hitting a curb and blowing a tire,
 - Putting a vehicle in park and having it roll forward into the bumper of the vehicle next to it, and
 - Having a citizen's vehicle roll into a Metro vehicle at stop light.
- In 2007 Metro drivers were involved in 725 accidents, or one accident for approximately every 50 thousand miles driven. In 409 of those accidents, the Metro driver was the "at fault" driver.
- In 2008 Metro drivers were involved in 718 accidents, or one accident for approximately every

- 52 thousand miles. In 431 of those accidents the Metro driver was the “at fault” driver. So far in 2009, Metro drivers have been involved in 529 accidents, or one accident for approximately every 60 thousand miles driven. In 302 of those accidents the Metro driver was the “at fault” driver.

ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE ACCIDENT:

- The vehicle which was observed by witnesses turning in front of Officer’s Beitel and Nesheiwat’s patrol car was traveling southbound on Nellis Boulevard, making a left hand turn onto Eastbound Washington Avenue.
- Both Northbound and Southbound traffic on Nellis Blvd. had a green light. The driver of the second vehicle had a “permissive” green turn light, which means the vehicle is allowed to make a left hand turn if it is clear to safely do so.
- All facts point to the Metro vehicle having the right of way.
- Both Officer Nesheiwat and Officer Beitel were current in their drivers training certifications.
- The vehicle being driven by the officers that night had been serviced every 3000 miles on a regular basis by a authorized automotive dealership. This service included maintenance on the braking and steering systems. The vehicle was last serviced on September 4th, 2009. The brake pads, rotors and drums were inspected and within manufactures specifications.