

New car catches speeders off guard

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A brand new teal green 1991 Chevrolet Camaro was driving along when another car came up behind and flashed its lights for the car to move over.

The Camaro moved over. "He got behind the driver and got him for driving 98 mph," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department traffic section.

The teal green Camaro isn't your ordinary car on the road. It's a police traffic enforcement car. The new tool on the traffic section has the ability to produce 41 percent more traffic tickets than a semi-marked police car with radar.

"It means people are driving by and not seeing it. People are just not looking for a Camaro," Cranston said.

The car, put into service in early June, has served as a deterrent because the color is uncommon. There's not many Camaros that color in the area. The traffic enforcement car has been on the road enough that motorists are beginning to slow down whenever they see a car that color, Cranston said.

"WE REALIZED we had to come up with a vehicle to meet our needs to use for traffic enforcement. We needed a car that would fit in with other cars," Cranston said.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police both are using Camaros. "But

they've stayed with the basic car color," Cranston said.

The city bought the new car for about \$11,700, which is a fleet purchase price. Police agencies get together, provide necessary specifications for the cars they want to buy, and consequently get a lower price.

In fact, Cranston said, the Camaro cost the city about \$1,100 less than the typical Chevrolet Impala police car.

There's no doubt the teal green Camaro fits appropriately into traffic. "It's the color and type of car. People think, 'a green police car?'" Cranston said.

TRAFFIC OFFICERS have found that indeed the new car generates more traffic tickets. The typical eight-hour traffic enforcement shift generates about 5-7 tickets. An eight-hour shift with the new Camaro generates 9-10 tickets.

"They're writing all kinds of tickets," Cranston said. "You think it would be mostly speeding. But we've had a lot of intersection violations and driveway violations."

The Camaro still bears a police department emblem and 911 emergency numbers, as well as rear flashing lights and blue and red flashing lights on the grille.

The new car, however, cannot be used to transport prisoners nor will it be used in bad weather when road conditions are poor, Cranston said.

Besides nabbing speeding motorists in the act, the new car is considered a great public relations tool for the police department.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

This teal green Chevrolet Camaro is the new traffic enforcement car for the Farmington Hills Police Department. Because few would suspect this car is a police car, it has the ability to generate 41 percent more tickets than the average semi-marked police car.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JULY 15, 1991

Mayor Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Mayor Vagnozzi, Bates, Fox, Lichtman, Marks and Sever. Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Grant. Others Present: City Manager Costigan, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Call, Assistant to the City Manager Brock, Director of Planning and Community Development Costigan, Director of Public Services Blasek, Director of Finance Brock, Police Chief Dwyer, Fire Chief Maronetti and City Attorney Iselinger.

COUNCIL:

- Received presentation by Council member Fox on the Bill of Rights 200th Anniversary - Fourth Amendment.
- Set date of September 11, 1991, for Boards and Commissions picnic.
- Postponed consideration of participation in the Oakland County Future Visions 2010 program until July 23, 1991.
- Referred proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance, Section 24-666, Temporary Businesses, to the Planning Commission for review.
- Set date of August 19, 1991, for a public hearing for public utility easement vacation, Flemings Reservoir Park Subdivision.
- Made determination to close the gate at the drive from Bostford Hospital onto Oxford Street.
- Determined to study the issue of a recycling fee deferral policy at a future meeting.

RECEIVED REPORTS ON:

- Re-naturalization of Halted Road, between Twelve and Thirteen Mile Roads and referred issue to Staff for further review.
- Start up of the curbside recycling and composting program.
- Vendors at Heritage Park.
- Results of petitioning effort for the establishment of a S A D for watermain installation for Canfield north of Eldon and Elm Grove Avenue.
- Monthly attorney's report.

APPROVED:

- Special Assessment District for road paving improvements in the Elm Grove Valley and Supervisor's Noblebrook Farms Plat Nos. 1 and 2 Subdivisions.
- Enactment of Ordinance No. C-10-91, establishing handicapped parking regulations.
- Special event license for the Cora-Haynes Block Party on Sunday, July 28, 1991.
- Special event license for the Farmington Ridge Homeowners Association Parade/Picnic on Sunday, August 11, 1991.
- One day, temporary outdoor service permit to allow outdoor beverage service at the San Marino Golf Course on August 1, 1991.
- Bond Resolution authorizing sale of \$545,000, Road Improvement Special Assessment Bonds, Series 1991.
- Traffic control orders establishing stop and yield signs in various locations in the City.
- City council minutes of June 10, 17, 20 and 24, 1991.
- Executive session to discuss labor negotiations.

APPROVED RESOLUTION:

- Authorizing a third judge for the 47th District Court and preparation of ballot language for the Court expansion.
- Recognizing the Community Center of Farmington Hills as a non-profit organization.
- Calling for redemption on October 1, 1991, of the entire outstanding principal amount of Howard Road various improvement special assessment bonds dated October 1, 1981.

AWARDED BIDS FOR:

- Day Camp building to Hickson-Costigan in the amount of \$216,675.
- Handguns and accessories to Michigan Police Equipment in the amount of \$101,871.04 for the Police Department.

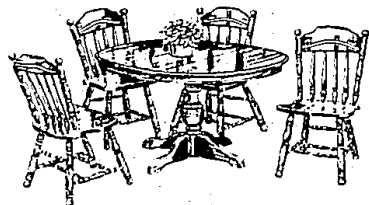
The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ALDO VAGNOZZI, Mayor
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Published July 18, 1991

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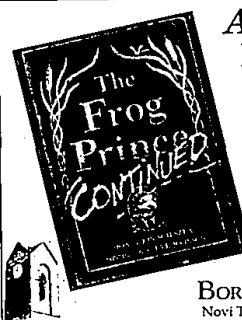
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