



September 21, 2022

Re: Public Comment on Agenda Item 17, Police Department Fleet Electric Vehicle Lease and Southern California Edison Charge Ready Program

Dear City Council and Mayor:

Care First South Pasadena supports moving ahead with item 17, Police Department Fleet Electric Vehicle Lease & Southern California Edison Charge Ready Program with the exception of recommendation number 3.

Care First believes in social, racial, and economic justice at the foundation of the City's public safety programs and policies. We recognize that the South Pasadena Police Department needs new vehicles and at this time electric vehicles are the environmentally appropriate choice. Yet, Care First has concerns about replacing the vehicles with Teslas, primarily due to the cost compared to other vehicles and Tesla's corporate practices. The City's cost analysis and comparison are inaccurate, specifically the cost of electricity. The City should, therefore, consider less costly vehicles before making final procurement decisions.

While Care First realizes that Teslas are probably the top choice for SPPD's initial round of vehicle procurement at this time, with the expanding availability of various vehicles and models coming to market, such as the Hyundai Ioniq 6, Chevy Bolt EUV, Chevy Blazer and others, it would make sense to phase in the replacement so that these other vehicles can be integrated into the fleet as they become available. Accordingly, Care First asks that the City Council direct staff to create an electric vehicle purchase specification and procure electric vehicles as needed instead of authorizing the sole sourced replacement of all 20 vehicles at once. This would allow for both cost savings and flexibility.

Given the urgent environmental challenges that we face, we must develop a 100% vehicle electrification plan – an important step toward a more sustainable future. Care First South Pasadena commends the councils' efforts towards this goal and looks forward to the adoption of the other recommendations.

Sincerely,

Care First South Pasadena