



**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
VERN PIERSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

C.A.O.
EL DORADO COUNTY
2009 MAY -5 AM 9:50

May 4, 2009

Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, County Administrative Officer
County of El Dorado
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667

RE: TAKE HOME VEHICLES


Dear Ms. Erbe-Hamlin:

In response to your request for justification for use of take home vehicles, enclosed please find a Summary – Take Home Vehicle Usage memorandum prepared by Supervising Investigator Robert Cosley, as well as the Take Home Vehicle Assignment Authorization Request forms for each assigned employee.

For reasons indicated and substantiated in the enclosed documents, the cost of storage over time and lost work far outweigh changing the current system. I believe it is in the best interests of the District Attorney's Office and the citizens we represent for the indicated staff, under my direction, to maintain home retention vehicles. Given available administrative staff time, we have not analyzed additional, relevant budgeting factors such as actual net county costs for vehicles purchased and supported by grants.

While we continue to have ongoing discussions on issues such as take home vehicles, there are other areas of significant budgetary importance such as management leave payoff and indigent defense total net county costs and the failure to collect public defender and indigent panel fees. For instance, Yolo County collected \$140,000.00 in Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

Please Reply To:

 515 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-6472
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1360 Johnson Blvd. Ste. 105
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151
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WEB SITE:
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Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, County Administrative Officer
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Thank you for your consideration and attention to the above-referenced concerns.

Very truly yours,

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EL DORADO COUNTY



VERN PIERSON
District Attorney

VP:nva
Enclosures



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

VERN PIERSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TO: Vern Pierson, District Attorney
FROM: Robert Cosley, Supervising Investigator
DATE: April 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Take Home Vehicle Usage

SUMMARY
TAKE HOME VEHICLE USAGE

This is a summary based on an audit conducted to study the caseload incurred by investigators over the past three months and compare the value in the usage of investigators utilizing their take home vehicles. Throughout the review it became crystal clear that the current protocol that enables investigators to maintain their county vehicles at home for on duty use only has saved the county tens of thousands of dollars in overtime, as well as enhancing work productivity and case time management.

The duties of a full time investigator include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. An immediate response to all officer-involved shootings or in custody deaths in accordance with "Officer-Involved Critical Incident Protocol", which was signed off by all the County heads, District Attorney Investigators are responsible for responding to all officer involved shootings 24 hours a day. Their response time to such incidents is critical in conducting an accurate and fair investigation.
2. Respond immediately to issues involving public safety 24 hours a day wherein their delay could result in an increase in serious injuries or fatalities.
3. Conducting criminal investigations of Cold Case Homicides, Welfare Fraud, Real Estate Fraud, Worker Compensation Insurance Fraud, Auto Insurance Fraud, Arsons, Child Abductions, Elder Abuse (Financial Fraud) and Consumer Fraud.
4. This also includes interviewing victims and witnesses to the aforementioned crimes and defendants suspected of committing those crimes and collecting evidence of the crimes.
5. Assisting all the Deputy District Attorneys in the preparation of their criminal trials, which includes interviewing victims of crimes, witnesses to the crime and defendants suspected of committing those crimes, collecting evidence of the crimes and testifying on behalf of the victims and/or witnesses during the preliminary hearings.
6. Serving subpoenas on victims and witnesses.

In just the past three months alone investigators have responded, either on their way to work, on their way home, or during non-scheduled work hours to conduct one of the aforementioned duties well over 100 times. This could conservatively translate into, at minimum, 1-2 hours overtime or additional overtime for each instance had the investigator had to pick up and drop off his county vehicle, which would calculate out to an additional \$7000 - \$10,000 in overtime costs for the county for that three month period.

The audit revealed that, on the average, during the typical day, 6-7 investigators are out in the field conducting interviews, making arrests, collecting evidence, dropping off or picking up evidence in Sacramento or other outside areas, serving subpoenas or attending meetings with other various law enforcement entities as part of task forces.

It is a known fact that most of the individuals that investigators are tasked to contact work normal Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM hours and are not available for interviews, et cetera, until before or after their work hours and/or weekends. Currently several of our attorneys are involved in very high priority cases and, as occurred on numerous occasions, the attorney made a call to one of the investigators late in the day and required a witness contacted, interviewed and transported to court.

It should also be noted that law enforcement county vehicles require they be stored in a locked and secure lot due to the type of equipment that is stored in the vehicles. Department of Transportation was contacted to determine if they have available space in any of their secured lots for (14) vehicles and they advised they had absolutely none. GNO Towing was also contacted to determine what space they had available and what they would charge. GNO Towing advised that the only secure lot available is located near the intersection of Mother Lode Dr. and Pleasant Valley Rd. which is still 6.0 miles from the District Attorney's Office. They would charge \$1000 per month for all (14) vehicles.