

07/15/2007

Wheeling into the future

WNY Police Department unveils new T-3 patrol vehicles

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Mayor Silverio "Sal" Vega and the West New York Police Department unveiled the town's new T3 Motion Vehicles at 60th Street and Boulevard East, last week.

The department's two new 'three-wheeled chariots' are electric mobile response units, which officers will be using to patrol the main boulevards and senior citizen homes.

"Hudson County has never seen anything like this," said Vega. "An officer on a T3 will be more accessible to people on the street than those in cruisers. Once again, West New York is staying ahead of the curve on the issue of public safety."

"These are the most cost-effective and environmentally-friendly vehicles we have in our fleet," said Commissioner Lawrence Riccardi, who is the director of public safety. "They are a great addition."

C&P Developers donated the vehicles, which are about \$19,000 per unit.

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Features of the T3

The T3 series is an easy-to-operate, battery-powered electric vehicle with zero gas emissions, which runs on less than 10 cents a day. The batteries can last for 12 hours between charges, so there will always be one vehicle available for patrol.

"It does require [some] training," said Police Director Oscar Fernandez. "No one will use it without training. We have trained several officers [in the use of the T-3] and eventually we will train all the officers, so everyone can take one out."

The vehicle is equipped with an accelerator, a hand brake, and integrated LED emergency red/blue lighting. It also has an instrument panel equipped with speedometer, siren controls and other features.

The 9-inch raised platform also gives officers enhanced visibility above crowds, and has a zero-degree turning radius to ensure swiftness and safety.

"Overall, I think it's great vehicle," said Fernandez. "It's a great way to patrol. It's environmentally friendly and good for crowd control. I think it's a great addition to the department, and depending on how it goes we might get a couple more units."

The vehicles can also attain speed of 25 mph in the event of a pursuit.

"They can run 25 miles an hour and we can sustain that speed," said Fernandez, who added that the vehicles will be locked to only reach a maximum speed of about eight miles an hour while on patrol, yet can be opened up to reach maximum speed in the event of a chase.

The vehicle weighs 300 pounds, so it cannot be simply knocked over nor can the officer be knocked off the machine.

"If you are standing on top of the machine, you can't knock the officer down," said Fernandez.

The T3 Motion vehicles are produced by California-based T3 Motion, Inc., which claims to provide the latest technological advances in the personal mobility market.



OFFICERS ON WHEELS – Last week, the West New York Police Department unveiled their new T3 Series Motion Vehicles, which will be used to patrol the town's dense areas more efficiently than just foot patrol.

Created in 2003, the T3 series is an electric three-wheel stand up vehicle that is directly targeted to the public safety and private security markets.

The design has so far been utilized in various daily professional functions from community policing to patrolling airports, as well as military bases, school campuses, malls, public event venues, and other high-density areas with large crowds.

According to their website, the T3 is an "environmentally-friendly, cost-effective professional vehicle that is designed to improve efficiency, reduce fatigue, and increase the ability to interface with others."

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