



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311

Frank X. Custer, Communications Director

Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant

PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943

COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, *Vice Chair*

BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner*



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Montco Unveils New Electric Cars for Sheriff's Office

Norristown, PA (July 17, 2015) – Montgomery County Commissioners Josh Shapiro and Bruce L. Castor, Jr., along with Sheriff Russell Bono, today unveiled three new electric cars that will significantly reduce fuel consumption by the sheriff's fleet of vehicles.

The three cars, Ford Fusion PHEV sedans, are plug-in electric vehicles that alternate between gasoline and electric power. It is estimated that each car will save \$740 per year in fuel costs, depending on usage, while collective maintenance costs are expected to be reduced by \$4,800 per year.

The vehicles will be utilized primarily for serving civil paperwork. For instance, the sheriff's office serves approximately 9,000 warrants and 48,000 court documents each year.

The new vehicles cost \$35,759 each. Some \$18,000 of that cost entailed outfitting the cars with hybrid technology. A program of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection paid half of that cost.

The 188 horsepower vehicles are designed to get 100 miles per gallon on electric power and 43 miles per gallon on gasoline combined city/highway driving. The vehicles can drive approximately 21 miles on electric alone. A full recharge of the batteries takes seven hours. The county has charging stations on level A of the courthouse garage.

Gasoline consumption will be decreased by up to 74 percent over the vehicles that were replaced, and CO2 emissions will be cut in half. It is anticipated that the vehicles will pay for themselves in 3.7 years.