

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2008 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Purchase of Commuter Bus	Resolution Ordinance Motion ✓ Discussion Only	Robin A. Weaver Interim Director of Public Works

SYNOPSIS

Staff is requesting concurrence from the Village Council regarding the purchase of one (1) new 2008 Champion Challenger 16 passenger commuter bus from Nations Bus Corporation of Inglewood, California in the amount of \$67,590.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals for 2007-2012 identified *Exceptional Municipal Organization*. A supporting objective of this goal is *Top Quality Core Services Responsive to Current and Future Community and Citizen Needs*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The adopted FY08 Equipment Replacement Fund budget provides \$70,000 for this vehicle purchase.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends purchase of the new bus consistent with prior Council action.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2008, the Village Council passed a motion authorizing staff to negotiate the purchase of a used commuter bus for the Grove Commuter Shuttle in an amount not to exceed \$70,000. Staff began a nationwide search for an affordable and reliable vehicle immediately thereafter. The results of this search indicated that as with many segments of the economy, the market for new and used vehicles is changing rapidly.

Staff's search yielded a limited number of used buses that were within the budget amount. However, the condition of these vehicles would require a significant investment in refurbishment that, combined with the purchase price, would offset the cost savings of buying a used vehicle. It appears that based on changes in the economy, more agencies have been inclined to retain existing vehicles resulting in fewer quality used buses in the marketplace from which to choose.

With fewer agencies buying new buses, staff was able to locate some new vehicles on dealer lots scattered throughout the country. The proposed vehicle is within budget and offers the advantage of being a new vehicle available for immediate delivery. Although the proposed vehicle is smaller, it will work well on two of the four routes operated by the Grove Commuter Shuttle.

A picture is attached. Given our limited funding and the need to replace an old bus as soon as possible, this bus purchase makes good sense.

Public Works staff consulted fleet management staff at Pace regarding the proposed vehicle and their experience with it, if any. Pace staff indicated that this is a good quality vehicle that is close to the body they use on their smaller vehicles with the same Ford chassis. Pace indicated that Champion is a stable, financially secure sister company to Eldorado, the company that produced the Village's five new 28 passenger buses. Pace also added that parts, warranty and service should be around for a long time with Champion.

ATTACHMENTS

Picture of bus

