



**COUNCILMEMBER LORIE ZAPF AND
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release
June 29, 2011

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Councilmembers Call for Changes to Take-Home Car Policy
Audit estimates potential savings at over \$700,000

San Diego, CA – Councilmember Lorie Zapf and Councilmember David Alvarez are calling for City officials to review and modify their department’s take-home car policy. Last week the City Auditor released the Performance Audit of the Take-Home Use of City Vehicles that identified over \$700,000 in potential annual savings to the City of San Diego (City) by reducing the number of San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (Fire-Rescue) take-home vehicles by at least 23%.

The majority of the City’s take-home vehicles are provided to SDPD and Fire-Rescue personnel responsible for responding to after-hours emergencies. However, the audit found that some car assignments are based more on long-standing tradition than actual emergency response data. The low number of after-hours emergencies responded to by these units, combined with the \$2.1 million dollar price tag for commuter-only miles in Fiscal Year 2010, proves that it is time for City departments to review their policies.

Councilmember’s Alvarez and Zapf believe it would be more fiscally responsible to cut vehicles from the take-home fleet and put the \$700,000 back into the public safety budgets. That money could be used more efficiently by putting police officers back on the streets or enhancing training for firefighters and lifeguards.

“This was a subject Councilmember Alvarez and I asked to be evaluated in May during the budget process,” said Councilmember Lorie Zapf. “It doesn’t make sense to cut staff levels

for police and fire so that select employees have the privilege of using a take-home car especially since it is important to put public safety first.”

The Councilmembers are urging SDPD and Fire-Rescue officials to reevaluate the policies and criteria used to assign take-home cars based on the audit’s suggestions. In addition, the Councilmembers hope SDPD and Fire-Rescue will work with the City’s Fleet Services Division to develop an effective monitoring system to track the data and costs associated with take-home vehicles and an oversight system to ensure tax dollars are being spent in the most efficient way possible.

According to the audit, the reduction in the take-home fleet will not affect the City’s ability to effectively respond to emergencies. The results of the audit will be discussed at the City’s Audit Committee meeting on Monday.

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