



Division of Capitol Police

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe Macenka, Public Information Officer

Division of Capitol Police

Office: 804-786-2522

Cell: 804-382-7447

Email: jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov

Capitol Police get electric vehicle

RICHMOND – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police has added a new six-seat electric vehicle to its fleet.

Capitol Police this week obtained license tags for the vehicle, which was purchased from Global Electric Motorcars, a subsidiary of Medina, Minn.-based Polaris Industries.

The GEM vehicle was obtained using grant funds the U.S. Department of Justice made available to law enforcement agencies for various purposes, including event support and training.

The Capitol Police GEM, licensed for use on city streets and capable of traveling 25 mph, weighs nearly 1,700 pounds and is equipped with front-wheel-drive and power steering. It has removable doors, adjustable seats and a large rear storage area, enabling it to be used for transporting officers or supplies such as bicycles, food or water.

The agency plans to use the vehicle to support its response to large public events at Capitol Square and other state properties.

Col. Anthony S. “Steve” Pike, the Capitol Police chief, said the GEM, which has a range of 35 miles between charges, can reach all state properties the division is assigned to protect in Richmond, will be less expensive to operate than a traditional police vehicle and have less of an impact on the environment.

“Especially important is that in good weather our officers can operate the GEM without its doors,” Pike said, “bringing them closer to the public we serve.”



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