



MEDIA RELEASE

Leaf to Help Drive City Toward Green Goals

FREDERICK, MD – Dec. 20, 2017: The City's hip and historic qualities really meet in the electric Nissan Leaf that has arrived for duty in the Building Department.

The diminutive automobile adds to the City's growing environmentally friendly fleet of vehicles. The Leaf runs on an 80 kW AC synchronous electric motor, and produces zero tailpipe emissions. The fleet increasingly reflects the City's commitment to cut back on fossil fuel consumption, set an example and reach higher for greener goals, said Sustainability Manager Jenny Willoughby.

Along those lines, over the past decade, four hybrid Priuses have been added to the Department of Public Works' fleet, one assigned to the mayor; and the Police Department has two. The Leaf, the first all-electric model in the fleet, is destined to transport the soon-to-be hired historic preservation/architectural inspector.

Public Works Director Zack Kershner is delighted to announce the addition of the greener vehicle alternative, and Willoughby is naturally enthusiastic too.

"We'll be able to utilize the charging station installed in the Municipal Annex previously," Kershner said.

Willoughby added, "We received two charging stations in the Annex garage basement for free from Electric Vehicle Institute."

"They were installed in anticipation of getting electric vehicles for the City fleet, and here we are," Willoughby said. She added that the new inspector will be a perfect match for the vehicle, as the job requires short trips around the City, no long-distance commutes.

Mayor Michael O'Connor and Alderman Kelly Russell regarded the Leaf's arrival as a long-awaited achievement. As aldermen, both have advocated for a changes to environmentally sensitive alternatives in every possible area of City government.

"Adding electric vehicles to the City's fleet has been a long-time goal for which I've advocated over many years, so naturally I am thrilled we have taken this first step. I anticipate growth of the EV fleet moving forward," Russell said.

"It's an example of another step toward important sustainability goals," O'Connor said. "One of what we hope will be many."

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