

Roxanne Maher

From: Fred Allyn, III
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:12 PM
To: Jessica Buhle
Cc: Roxanne Maher
Subject: RE: Town Owned Vehicles Question

Good afternoon Councilor,

A good question for clarification. The Fire Chiefs have had town owned vehicles and sometimes not- as the case with Chief Erhart now who prefers to use his own vehicle, so currently only one Fire Chief vehicle in the fleet. They do have the ability to use these vehicles for some (not all) non-emergency use, generally back and forth to the fire companies, fire house meetings, parades, public engagement, etc. The Fire Marshal also has a "take home" vehicle assigned directly to him. This pickup truck is essentially his office on wheels. It contains his fire marshal needs like cameras, lights, batteries, and whatnot that he takes in the middle of the night when disaster strikes in the form of a fire.

The Police Chief and Captain both have take home cars as well. Those are written into their employment agreements. I am also told (though never authorized) that the LT also has a take home cruiser. I'm not a fan of "mission creep" as it pertains to fleet vehicles going back and forth on a daily basis-outside of those previously authorized.

I believe the BoE also permits Wayne Donaldson to drive his truck back and forth on a daily basis too. I am not privy to the terms of that agreement. You will need to reach out to Supt. Hartling on that one, as well as if there are any others on the BoE side.

Best,

Fred B. Allyn III



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NOTICE* Effective June 11, 2018
Town Hall hours are 7:30AM-4:45PM Mon-Thurs
CLOSED FRIDAYS

From: Jessica Buhle <Jbuh@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>

Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

Subject: Town Owned Vehicles Question

Good afternoon Mayor

In reviewing feedback received from Administrator of Emergency Services Steve Holyfield regarding the proposed ethics ordinance, I have a question that I think you are best suited to answer.

Mr. Holyfield mentioned the town owned vehicles provision listed in the Conflict of Interest Provisions, and I referenced the town vehicle use policy available on the town website.

The usage described by Mr. Holyfield contradicts the policy available on the town website. The vehicle use policy states that it is applicable to Town Hall / Library / Senior Center - Parks and Recreation Employees, and Section 4.a. states "Municipal vehicles shall only be used for legitimate municipal business," which contradicts the statement of "It is important to note that the Fire Chiefs have historically been issued Town vehicles for use as Chief. Furthermore, the Chiefs have always been allowed full off-duty use of those vehicles without restriction."

I plan to modify the ordinance in order to protect our emergency responders, but are there any other town owned vehicles that are being used in a manner outside of the vehicle use policy that should be included in an exemption?

Is there an alternate vehicle use policy that applies to emergency vehicles or different departments?

Best,

Jessica Buhle
Ledyard Town Council
jessicab@ledyardct.org