



Cruz Questions GPD's \$423K Prius Deal

(Hagåtña – December 26, 2016) At a time when the Guam Police Department (GPD) has announced cost cutting measures which may reduce the pay of our senior officers, Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz wants to know why it costs the department more to lease a Prius than it does to lease a Porsche.¹

In a Freedom of Information Act request transmitted to the department late Friday afternoon, Cruz asked GPD to explain the \$423,720 extended one-year lease agreement with Atkins Kroll Guam for ten Toyota Prius vehicles.

The Vice Speaker highlighted that, based on the agreement, each leased vehicle will end up costing taxpayers \$42,000 a year—nearly \$20,000 more than the current Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for a Prius of a similar make and model.²

"When the single year lease of a Prius costs thousands of dollars more than owning it outright, our taxpayers have been victimized by either a bad press release or a bad deal." said Cruz. *"I want to know which it is."*

As a result, to ascertain the actual cost, the Vice Speaker requested a copy of all lease agreements, amendments, exhibits, attachments, and related correspondence between the Guam Police Department and Atkins Kroll Guam from 2014 to the present.

According to Cruz, the request was prompted by a recent media report citing the high-priced agreement—a startling contrast to the original lease, which Cruz contends provided vehicles at no extra cost to Guam's taxpayers.

Given the current fiscal challenges often cited by the department, the Vice Speaker further reiterated the recklessness of such an agreement, stating, *"when senior officers within GPD have expressed grave concerns over a potential reduction in paid hours, I cannot logically explain why we would so willingly agree to a deal which, on its face, seems wasteful, impractical, and fiscally irresponsible."*

"Because I am aware of your stated commitment to our community and taxpayers," concluded Cruz in his letter to the police chief. *"I sincerely hope that the information [as reported] is in some way inaccurate or incomplete. If it is not, I am compelled to determine the rational basis for the price considered in this lease agreement, answering for myself whether or not this deal is in the best interest of the People of Guam."*

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The referenced document is appended. For more information, please call the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz at #477-2520/1.

¹ Several listings for the Porsche 911 range from \$1,500-\$2,000 per month.

<http://www.swapalease.com/lease/porsche/911/search.aspx>

² MSRP ranges from \$25,000-\$30,000. <https://www.truecar.com/prices-new/toyota/prius-pricing/2016/>

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

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December 23, 2016

Transmitted via Hand Delivery and Electronic Mail

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Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Chief Cruz:

Håfa adai! My office has received several constituent-related concerns regarding the story published yesterday in the *Pacific Daily News* (PDN). The story entitled, "Guam Police Department extends lease of 10 Toyota Prius vehicles for a Year" indicates a \$423,720 lease agreement with Atkins Kroll Guam.

To my surprise, this means that each of the ten Prius vehicles leased by the Guam Police Department (GPD) will cost \$42,000 a year. This is startling as the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for a Prius of a similar make and model ranges from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

While I understand that the lease price stated in the PDN story reflects the added cost of maintenance, and some customization for security purposes, why would the lease price for each vehicle cost \$42,000 a year when ownership is nearly \$20,000 cheaper?

Moreover, these same constituents have informed me that the lease which has been "extended" previously provided these vehicles at no cost to our taxpayers. At a time when senior officers within GPD have expressed grave concerns over a potential reduction in paid hours, I cannot logically explain why we would so willingly agree to a deal which, on its face, seems wasteful, impractical, and fiscally irresponsible.

Because I am aware of your stated commitment to our community and taxpayers, I sincerely hope that the information presented in the aforementioned article is in some way inaccurate or incomplete. If it is not, I am compelled to determine the rational basis for the price considered in this lease agreement, answering for myself whether or not this deal is in the best interest of the People of Guam.

To this end, pursuant to the authority granted by the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (5 GUAM CODE ANN. §10103), I hereby request for the following:

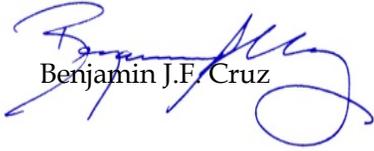
All lease agreements, amendments, exhibits, and attachments, and correspondence (electronic or otherwise) relative to the lease of vehicles between the Guam Police Department and Atkins Kroll Guam from 2014 to the date of this letter.

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Under § 10103(d) of 5 GCA, you shall comply within four (4) working days from the date of receipt of this request. These items may be submitted electronically to senator@senatorbjcruz.com or delivered to my office. Please call my office at 477-2520/1 should you require assistance or additional information.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Pås gi Tiempon Påsua yan Minagof Tinilaikan Sâkkan,


Benjamin J.F. Cruz