

Grand Jury (September 2015- October 2015)

As the Grand Jury for Christian County for the months of September and October 2015, Judge Atkins asked us to investigate the possibility of making the patrol vehicles bullet resistant. As much as we would love to help make our officers safer while being on duty, we learned that the cost to retrofit the cruisers with bullet resistant [not even bullet PROOF] glass is outrageous. We learned that ONE bullet resistant windshield is priced at about \$14,795. One bullet resistant windshield can be shot at five times before it is no longer good. Honestly, it is our opinion that it is just not worth the money. In the event that the windshield got shot at, it would have to be replaced, and there goes another \$14,795. Keep in mind that this price is only for one vehicle. The weight of the bullet resistant glass would dramatically increase the weight of the cruiser, slowing it down and causing drastically more damage in the event that a collision occurs. Furthermore, the windshield is the only option we discussed, not windows on the side and back of the cruiser. Additionally, it must be taken into account that an officer may be placed in a position where shooting out of his windshield might occur, and that would be impossible or detrimental if the car was equipped with bullet resistant glass. Weighing out the pros and cons, we believe that it is cost prohibitive to equip police cruisers with the bullet resistant glass, even though it could potentially increase the safety to our police officers. It would create a substantial financial burden on city, county and state governments, and could also cause people to lose employment opportunities due to potential budget cuts and increased cost of living. It is very unfortunate that we cannot recommend this to protect those officers who work tirelessly to protect us; however, making every patrol car bullet resistant is financially not feasible.

Being on the Grand Jury has been a very interesting experience. We were shocked to learn about the crime that occurs in our community that the media does not cover. We still love where we live. However, it has opened our eyes a bit more and we have become much more cautious when going to our jobs or just going to the grocery store. Not to mention, we are now more aware about what could possibly be going on at our neighbors' house or even at a family member's house. We have enjoyed this experience and enjoyed being able to do our civic duty by serving on the Grand jury, being able to use one of our greatest gifts we will ever be given - our freedom.

Sincerely,



Foreperson

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Windshields

HPD Marked patrol units-60

Level 6 windshield-5 shots from 7.62/44mag/30-06

Cost per windshield-level 6-\$14,795.00

Weight per windshield-314.1lbs

Thickness- 1.59"

Windshields are made of either glass or polycarbonate. Windshields are affected by temperature and UV exposure, therefore reducing their effectiveness over time. Polycarbonate is less affected by UV, but is more prone to spall. Pieces of the polycarbonate become projectiles themselves. All tests were conducted from a distance of 5 meters.

HPD costs.

Windshields-60 X \$14,795.00= \$887,700.00

Est. \$1000.00 per vehicle per year. Extra weight would affect the fuel efficiency and maintenance costs.

If a windshield is struck by an object it would need to be replaced.

Considerations

Why armor only the windshield?

Doors, windows, firewall.

Why not armor the whole vehicle?

Costs.

What about damage in vehicle collisions involving armored vehicles?

Added weight, Other vehicles, pedestrians, operator.

Pros

Provides protection to the officer from frontal assault.

Cons

Provides protection from frontal assault as it pertains to the windshield.

Does not provide protection from other areas of assault, sides and back. Only provides protection from a certain number of shots fired.

Taxpayer costs.

Fully armored vehicle costs approximately \$60,000.00