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Wednesday, September 17, 2025 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES columbustelegram.com

# Cruisers and cameras

Columbus City Council discusses donated fire equipment, cruisers, cameras and garage sales

**JARED BARTON**  
The Columbus Telegram

Thanks to the creative thinking of the Columbus Fire Department, the village of Zacapu, Mexico finally has firefighting equipment.

At the Sept. 15 Columbus City Council meeting, Mayor Jim Bulkley recounted the experience he, Centro Hispano and fire department officials had visiting the village last week and delivering the equipment. He emphasized this equipment cost the city nothing, as it was expired by American standards, which means it couldn’t have been given to other American agencies and had to be disposed of. No taxpayer money went into this venture.

“Our firefighter Aaron Perez started this process over two years ago with a vision of finding a use for equipment we’re mandated to dispose of and finding a way to get this equipment to his hometown of Zacapu,” Bulkley said. “I’ve never felt so welcome or appreciated. We were constantly hearing thanks as we walked through the community. At every turn it seemed as if someone turned to us to say thank you.”

After the meeting, Bulkley noted the contrast of before and after was incredible, as before this donation, Zacapu villagers would fight fires in what amounted to everyday wear, with little to no protection.



JARED BARTON, THE COLUMBUS TELEGRAM

Interim Columbus Police Chief Bret Strecker speaks to the Columbus City Council on Sept. 15 about police cruisers and computer and radio systems before the council voted to approve the purchase of said equipment.

In addition to delivering the donated equipment, Columbus officials also participated in welcoming ceremonies and a parade.

Also on Monday night’s agenda was the authorization to purchase three new patrol vehicles from Andersen Auto Group for the Columbus Police Department. The vehicles, Ford Explorer police utility hybrids, cost \$51,877 per vehicle, or \$155,631 total. The department had budgeted \$80,000 per vehicle, which leaves \$28,123 per vehicle for upfitting additional equipment.

Second Ward council member Troy Hiemer asked interim Police Chief Brett Strecker why police vehicles are needed when there are many vehicles in the police lot.

Police vehicles are worked to their limits, Strecker said.

“In order to keep our fleet current, we have to keep purchasing vehicles,” Strecker said. “What

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## NEVER FORGET

SCHUYLER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 9/11 TRIBUTE



JARED BARTON, SCHUYLER SUN

Attendees at the Schuyler Central High School volleyball games Thursday night watch in reverence as the Schuyler Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion present the colors during a 9/11 tribute to the military and emergency services between games.

## Actor Robert Redford dies at 89

**BOB THOMAS**  
Associated Press

Robert Redford, the Hollywood golden boy who became an Oscar-winning director, liberal activist and godfather for independent cinema under the name of one of his best-loved characters, died Tuesday at 89.

Redford died “at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah – the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved,” publicist Cindi Berger said in a statement. No cause of death was provided.

Redford was one of the biggest stars of the ‘70s with such films as “The Candidate,” “All the President’s Men” and “The Way We Were,” capping that decade with the best director Oscar for 1980’s best picture winner, “Ordinary People.”

His wavy blond hair and boyish grin made him the most desired of leading men, but he worked hard to transcend his looks – whether through his political advocacy, his willingness to take on unglamorous roles or his dedi-

Please see **REDFORD**, Page A3

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