Title: "The Hidden Pitfalls of Embracing Electric Vehicles in Municipalities"

As the global push towards sustainability and greener transportation intensifies, electric vehicles (EVs) have become the poster child for a cleaner future. Municipalities across the world are joining the race to implement EV-friendly policies, but it's essential to recognize that the electrification of transport is not without its flaws. While electric vehicles might seem like a perfect solution, several crucial drawbacks warrant careful consideration before embracing them wholeheartedly in municipalities.

Exorbitant Upfront Costs: One of the most significant hurdles faced by municipalities when adopting electric vehicles is their exorbitant upfront costs. EVs come with a considerably higher price tag compared to their conventional counterparts. For cash-strapped municipalities, investing in an EV fleet might not be the most fiscally responsible decision. The funds required for such a transition could be better allocated to more pressing infrastructure and public service needs, benefiting the entire community.

Costly Transition and Maintenance: Replacing conventional municipal vehicles with EVs is an expensive endeavor. The high upfront costs of electric vehicles, coupled with the need to train staff to maintain and service these new technologies, can put undue pressure on municipal budgets. Warrington Township, in particular, may struggle to shoulder the financial burden of such a transition which no analysis has ever been given.

Limited Range and Charging Infrastructure: Range anxiety remains a significant concern for electric vehicles. While battery technology has improved, EVs still fall short of the range offered by traditional internal combustion engine vehicles, particularly for long-haul trips or ***emergency response services.*** Furthermore, building an extensive and reliable charging infrastructure is a substantial financial burden for municipalities. The lack of charging stations, especially in rural or less affluent areas, could deter potential EV users and hinder essential services. Once the infrastructure catches up with the technology making it more efficient and readily available the cost will decrease and technology will become more efficient. It’s the law of supply and demand that will meet at the means, we didn’t get the iphone because we banned hard wired telephones.

Technological Limitations: Despite advances in EV technology, electric vehicles are not a one-size-fits-all solution. Certain applications, such as heavy-duty transportation or specific emergency services, require vehicles with unique capabilities that electric alternatives cannot currently provide. Limiting a municipality's vehicle options could compromise efficiency and performance, affecting public safety and essential services.

Environmental Impact of Battery Production: While EVs themselves produce zero tailpipe emissions, their overall environmental impact is not entirely clean. The production of EV batteries relies heavily on mining resources like lithium and cobalt, which have significant ecological consequences. Mining activities can lead to habitat destruction, water pollution, and even human rights violations in some regions. Environmental impacts can include deforestation, air pollution, and water contamination. Disposing of or recycling used batteries also presents challenges, with potentially harmful chemicals seeping into the environment if not managed correctly. Moreover, if electricity generation in a region heavily relies on fossil fuels, the net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electric vehicles may be minimal.

Supply Chain Vulnerabilities: The production of electric vehicle batteries relies heavily on rare earth minerals and other critical resources, many of which are sourced from unstable regions or environmentally sensitive areas. Dependence on these scarce resources can expose municipalities to geopolitical risks, leading to price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions.

Strain on Electricity Grids: Municipalities switching to EVs en masse may face the problem of overloading local electricity grids. Charging numerous EVs simultaneously can place undue stress on existing infrastructure, leading to blackouts or system failures. Upgrading the power grid to handle the increased demand will require significant investments, further straining already tight budgets. We have seen this pay out in municipalities all over California where during summer peak hours they are experiencing rolling brown outs.

In conclusion, while electric vehicles seem like an alluring solution for municipalities eager to showcase their commitment to sustainability, it is crucial to consider the practical implications and long-term consequences before rushing into mass adoption. Investing in sustainable alternatives, such as improved public transportation systems, hybrid technologies, or promoting cycling and walking, might be more viable and less disruptive options for municipalities aiming to reduce emissions and contribute positively to their communities.

A balanced and measured approach to sustainability will ensure that municipalities make well-informed decisions, avoiding potential pitfalls while protecting their residents' best interests and economic well-being.

Warrington Township passed a climate change ordinance in 2021 that is driving the push for EV to replace expiring police and emergency services vehicles. As previous stated I take issue with sweeping ordinances that force residents to buy into something with their tax dollars that they may not align with, but that is a greater discussion for another time.

Given the economic conditions and lack of infrastructure we faced in 2022 coupled with supply chain issues the board decided to forgo EV – and recently again in 2023 this was brought before us as budgetary decisions need to be made in advance. It was agreed upon to pursue hybrid models in lieu of EV, although it appears this is a better alternative option we are still faced with increased cost and supply chain issues.

I take no issue with the hybrid models to replace the expiring police fleet cars given recent impact studies have proven they have become more efficient alternative, especially given the fact that many times police vehicles are in idle during patrol. However, I do take issue with the purchase of our recent police patrol vehicle that was placed into service and highlighted in our operations report as “barely recognizable as a police car”.

I can attest that it is truly barely recognizable – it appears to be a “hot rod” that includes retrofitted hood and stenciling. This comes on the heels of us adopting a traffic CALMING committee to promote “safety” in which we unanimously agreed police presence would be the best option – if people don’t know this supped up race car is a police vehicle how are we deterring speeders?

I understand this vehicle alternative was below budgetary constraints and due to our struggles with supply chain issues it was readily available – and given this fact, it did not come before the board for approval. We can all agree that our biggest complaint by residents is the traffic violations and lack of

police presence to enforce, which has led to the adoption of the ARLE Red program, Traffic Calming Committee and the increase of police staff. However, I am failing to see a hot rod in disguise that lacks the appearance for a police vehicle will deter traffic violations if no one can RECOGNIZE it's a police vehicle? Do we have high speed chases in Warrington? Is it not our policy where we frown upon high-speed chases in Warrington an lieu of safety concerns for our residents? I believe the chief complaint is excess traffic leading to motorists cutting through neighborhoods presenting a safety issue within these neighborhoods.

The optics of this hot rod to the residents that have been concerned and quite vocal about the safety issues within Warrington sends a very mixed message of the seriousness in which we perceive the safety concerns of our citizens.