

# FINEST RADIO ACTIVE

17


New York Post, Monday, July 18, 2005

nypost.com

**Right frequency**

**Benefits of the NYPD's new Vertex radios:**

- At 12 ounces, they are half the weight of the old radios.
- They are a pocket-sized 4.3 x 2.6 inches.
- With 4,000 on order, every investigator will have one.



The bulky old radio (above) and the new Vertex.

## \$3M for new gear

## EXCLUSIVE

By MURRAY WEISS  
*Criminal Justice Editor*

The NYPD is spending \$3 million to equip every investigator with sleek new police radios for the first time, as part of a strategy to improve safety. The Post has learned.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has given the go-ahead to buy 4,000 Vertex VX 800 radios to replace the bulky handsets with their long rubber antennas that investigators say are clumsy and a giveaway that they are detectives from an NYPD squad room.

Under the new initiative, every detective will have his own smaller radio that will be more easily carried and concealed.

The purchase will eliminate the frustration of having to share radios or, worse still, having to wait for one to become available while heading out to probe a murder, rape, or other serious crime.

The concerns surrounding the radios surfaced following the murders of Brooklyn Detectives Robert Parker and Patrick Rafferty.

The two 67th Precinct cops were gunned down last September when they tried to help a woman whose son, Marlon Legere, grabbed Parker's weapon and killed them.

Although the NYPD radios did not play a direct role in the tragedy, it became obvious that detectives often left these life-saving radios be-

hind in their cars rather than risk being immediately identified or to walk around with them in their hands when they might suddenly need to take action.

"One of the key issues that came up was the fact that detectives felt [the old radios] were cumbersome, big and heavy and difficult to use with a suit and tie, and there was no place to conceal them," said Michael Paladino, president of the Detectives Endowment Association.

Kelly said that the detectives will keep their new radios 24/7 instead of swapping around the squad's battered allotment of cumbersome Motorola Sabers when they come and go to work.

"The program is designed for detectives' safety and to encourage them to carry the smaller radios, which are more convenient and easier to conceal than the bigger, heavier models," Kelly said.

Sources say the department may expand the initiative to replace every radio on the force and equip every cop with his own radio.

The new Vertex radios weighs less than a pound and are 4.3 inches tall, 2.3 inches wide and 1.1 inches thick.

By comparison, the Motorola Sabers are nearly three times the size, and far more suitable to the uniformed patrol force, officials said.

Paladino said the NYPD security review is also focusing on bullet-proof vests, their 9mm guns and holsters, as well as tactics.