

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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When making inquiries
relative to this matter,
please refer to the Council
File No.

07-2473

July 2, 2008

Public Safety Committee, Attn: John White
City Administrative Officer
Controller, Room 300
Accounting Division F&A
Disbursement Division
Los Angeles Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners

RE: THE PROPOSED PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF X-26 TASERS BY THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY FIELD POLICE OFFICERS

At the meeting of the Council held June 24, 2008, the attached Committee report, was REFERRED to PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE Forthwith.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Karen E. Kalfayan'.

City Clerk
srb

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

File No. 07-2473

Your **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the proposed purchase and distribution of X-26 TASERS by the Police Department for use by field police officers.

Recommendation for Council action:

AUTHORIZE the Police Department to purchase and distribute 1,250 TASERS.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The City Administrative Officer (CAO) reports that this action will not impact the General Fund. Funding for purchase of TASERS was provided in the Forfeited Assets Trust Fund of the Police Department in the 2007-08 Adopted Budget.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: None

SUMMARY

In a report to Council dated May 8, 2008 (attached to the Council file), the CAO states that the Police Department currently deploys approximately 750 M-26 TASERS for field and jail use. Because of the limited supply, the TASERS deployed in the field are kept in the kit rooms at Area stations until an immediate need for them is identified. Though this makes use of the M-26 somewhat inconvenient, there have still been more than 600 TASER incidents over the past three years.

The CAO reports that the newer X-26 TASER is 60 percent smaller than the M-26, uses a lithium energy cell rather than the eight AA batteries used by the M-26, and includes a low illumination light to facilitate use in low light. Due to the smaller size and weight, the X-26 can be worn on the standard issue belt as regular uniform equipment. This is anticipated to increase the usage of the TASER as a less-lethal weapon, rather than the firearm.

The CAO goes on to report that the Police Department has stated that deployment of the TASERS in the field will be largely up to the discretion of the Area Captains. Each area will be assigned a number of TASERS proportional to the number of officers assigned to the area. From there, the Area Captain will determine which officers under their command will be assigned the new TASERS.

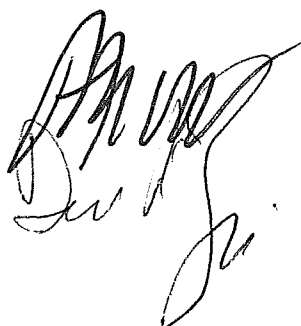
The CAO further reports that purchase of the X-26 TASER includes a standard one-year warranty. After the warranty has expired, units which need repair can be repaired by the vendor for a \$150 repair fee. While there are some additional small ongoing costs due to consumables such as the power source and the air cartridges, it is anticipated that the Department will be able to absorb these costs within their existing budgeted accounts. On July 31, 2007, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the Police Department's proposed plan to purchase and distribute for field use 1,250 X-26 TASERS. The CAO concurs with this action.

At its meeting held June 9, 2008, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the CAO and the Police Department. The CAO representative stated that the

new TASERs are easier to use and small enough to be worn on an officer's belt. The new model also offers a date feature that records when and for how long a device was used. Each Police Area will be allocated a number of TASER units in proportion to the number of its assigned officers. Police Department staff indicated that commanding officers will decide to whom the TASERs are assigned. Training will be conducted at each Area station by Department personnel. The Committee recommended that Council authorize the Department to purchase the new TASERs, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners and the CAO.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



MEMBER
WEISS:
SMITH:
PARKS:
REYES:
ZINE:

VOTE
YES
YES
ABSENT
ABSENT
YES

JUN 24 2008 REFERRED TO Public Safety

JAW
6/17/2008

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FORTHWITH