

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

KAREN E. KALFAYAN  
City Clerk



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

Office of the  
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
General Information - (213) 978-1133  
Fax: (213) 978-1040

CLAUDIA M. DUNN  
Chief, Council and Public Services Division

[www.cityclerk.lacity.org](http://www.cityclerk.lacity.org)

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

07-2473

August 19, 2008

City Administrative Officer  
Los Angeles Police Department  
Board of Police Commissioners

RE: 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 AUGUST 13, 2008, the following action was taken:

|                                                                    |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Attached report adopted .....                                      | <u>          X          </u>      |
| Attached motion (-) adopted .....                                  | <u>                          </u> |
| Attached resolution adopted .....                                  | <u>                          </u> |
| FORTHWITH .....                                                    | <u>          X          </u>      |
| Mayor concurred .....                                              | <u>                          </u> |
| To the Mayor FORTHWITH .....                                       | <u>                          </u> |
| Motion adopted to approve communication recommendation(s) .....    | <u>                          </u> |
| Motion adopted to approve committee report recommendation(s) ..... | <u>                          </u> |
| Ordinance adopted .....                                            | <u>                          </u> |
| Ordinance number .....                                             | <u>                          </u> |

City Clerk  
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**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.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE the Police Department to purchase 1,250 TASERS.
2. DIRECT the Police Department to report back to the Public Safety Committee with a standard Department-wide plan for the distribution of the X-26 TASERS to field officers; said report to address the pooling of the X-26 TASERS at area stations to ensure maximum utilization of the devices for every watch.

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.

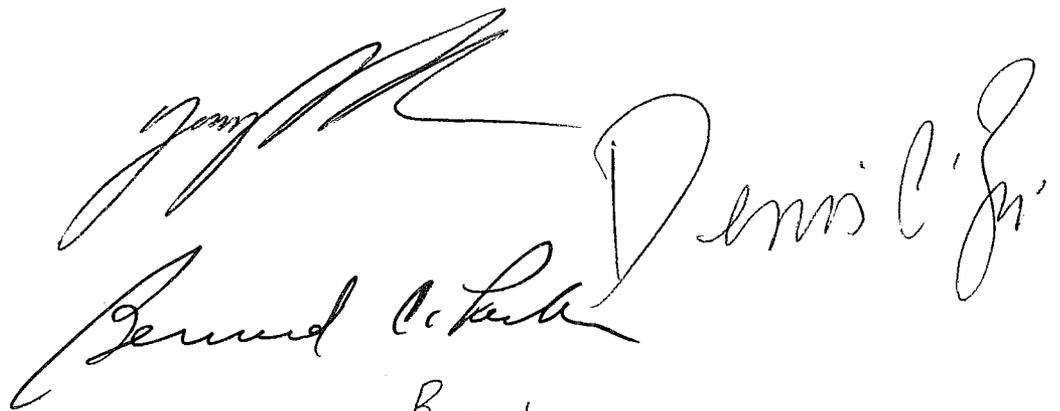
At its meeting held June 9, 2008, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the CAO and the Police Department. The CAO representative stated that the new TASERS are easier to use and small enough to be worn on an officer's belt. The new model also offers a date feature which 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.

At its meeting held June 24, 2008, Council referred this matter back to the Public Safety Committee for further consideration.

At its meeting held August 4, 2008, the Public Safety Committee discussed the distribution of the X-26 TASERS with a representative of the Police Department. The Department representative stated that it was determined that the best way to distribute the new TASERS was to assign each unit to a police car. Division Watch Commanders will assign the X-26 TASERS according to highest need. Allocation will be reviewed, and if necessary adjusted, on a quarterly basis. Committee members expressed concerns regarding the Police Department's distribution plan. Specifically, a statement was made in favor of a standard, Department-wide distribution policy. Support was also expressed for "pooling" the TASER units to ensure maximum utilization. The Committee recommended that Council authorize the Police Department to proceed with the purchase of the X-26 TASER units, and to direct the Department to report back to the Public Safety Committee with a distribution plan prior to the units being assigned to the field.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Handwritten signatures of three members of the Public Safety Committee: George M., Bernard A. [unclear], and Dennis C. Jr.

MEMBER  
WEISS:  
SMITH:  
PARKS:  
REYES:  
ZINE:

VOTE  
YES  
YES  
YES  
YES  
YES

JAW  
8/7/2008

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Report  
**ADOPTED**

AUG 13 2008

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

FORTHWITH