

COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

File No. 07-2473

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH, VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM VICE-CHAIR, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to the Police Department's purchase and distribution of X-26 TASERS.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE Board of Police Commissioners report to Council dated December 15, 2008 (attached to the Council file), relative to the Police Department's purchase and distribution of X-26 TASERS.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: None

SUMMARY

At its meeting held August 13, 2008, Council approved a Public Safety Committee report authorizing the Police Department to purchase 1,250 TASERS and directing the Department to report back with a plan for the distribution of the TASERS, and a proposal to pool the TASERS at Area stations to maximize their use.

In a report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated November 7, 2008 (attached to the Council file), the Police Department discusses the distribution of TASERS for use by police officers. Upon the procurement of the X-26 TASERS, the Department plans to distribute them as follows:

- 50 assigned to Firearms-Tactics Section, Training Division, for training purposes.
- 600 will initially remain at Training Division and be issued to recruit officers as classes graduate beginning January 2009.
- 625 will be distributed and assigned to officers in each geographic Area and specialized divisions as described in the June 14, 2007 TASER report submitted to Council.

The Department determined that the number of X-26 TASERS to be assigned to each Area, Division, or Specialized entity would be based upon the percentage of officers assigned as documented by the Field Deployment Unit, Office of Operations. The last deployment plan was prepared by Training Division in June 2007. Upon receipt of the X-26 TASER order, Training Division will update the deployment plan based on current personnel numbers.

The Police Department goes on to report that the updated distribution plan will include an estimate of the total number of officers to be assigned to the two new Geographic Areas expected to early 2009. In addition, Training Division, Metropolitan Division, All Traffic Divisions, Special Investigations Section, Archangel, and Commission Investigations Section are included in the distribution plan. This plan was designed to provide Office of Operations with equitable deployment of the new X-26 TASERS throughout the City.

The Police Department further reports that, upon distribution of the X-26 TASERS, Training Division will collect the remaining M-26 TASERS from the field and inspect the equipment. Currently it is estimated that there are approximately 750 M-26 TASERS still in good working condition. Upon completion of the inspection, the M-26 TASERS will be redistributed based upon the formula above to the Area, Divisions and Sections to be placed in the kit room and deployed daily by those officers who have not been issued an X-26 TASER. The commanding officers of each entity will be responsible for the initial distribution of X-26 TASERS to employees based on the percentage of officers assigned to the watch, and then to individuals who are identified as those primarily assigned to the field. The following will be considerations for assignment:

- Full duty personnel
- Personnel assigned to the basic cars: A, L, and X cars primarily responsible for response to radio calls
- Balanced distribution so that all deployed black and white police units can field a TASER

According to the Police Department, to offset the concern that on occasion a basic car may not have an officer who has been issued an X-26 TASER, the M-26 TASERS will be deployed daily from the kit room. Watch Commanders will be responsible to ensure all fully charged M-26 TASERS are deployed by officers who are not assigned an X-26. It will be the responsibility of the watch commanders and field supervisors to ensure that the M-26 TASERS continue to be deployed daily by officers who are not assigned an X-26 TASER. The Board approved the Department's report and proposed TASER distribution plan, forwarding the matter on to Council for its consideration.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held March 2, 2009, the Committee Vice-Chair discussed this matter with Board of Police Commissioners and Police Department staff. At that time, Department staff indicated that the distribution plan pools the TASERS. The Committee Chair recommended that Council note and file the Department's report.

Respectfully submitted,

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH, VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WEISS	ABSENT
SMITH:	YES
PARKS:	ABSENT
ZINE:	ABSENT
REYES:	ABSENT

JAW

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