

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

August 9, 2023

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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: BOLAWRAP 150 PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION REQUEST

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the extension of the BolaWrap 150 pilot program.

DISCUSSION

The Department is approaching the 12-month mark of the BolaWrap 150 pilot program that was initially approved on August 16, 2022, and authorized for one calendar year. The pilot program is being conducted in Hollywood and Central Areas. In both Areas, the Bola Wrap 150 devices are issued to trained and certified uniformed personnel for deployment during their shift. To date, there have been 14 incidents, seven in Hollywood Area and seven in Central Area, during which officers deployed the BolaWrap 150. During one of the incidents in Hollywood Area, the officers deployed the BolaWrap 150 twice during the same incident, for a total of 15 separate activations.

With the BolaWrap 150 pilot program, it was the intent of the Department to provide uniformed field personnel with a method of resolving potentially volatile public encounters by using the BolaWrap technology to apprehend individuals who would otherwise potentially require the use of force to detain. The Department is always seeking new and innovative methods to reduce the need to use force to reduce the potential for injury to both members of the public and Department personnel. Currently, the BolaWrap 150 does not constitute a reportable use of force unless the individual on whom it is deployed sustains an injury or complains of an injury. Additionally, the threshold for deploying the BolaWrap 150 is significantly lower than for any of the force options (TASER, OC Spray, 40mm, and Beanbag Shotgun) that officers have at their disposal while deployed in the field. The Department's deployment criteria permits officers to use the BolaWrap 150 on a subject or suspect who is uncooperative or threatening violence and not voluntarily submitting to detention or arrest.

It is still the belief of the Department that the BolaWrap 150 could be a useful and effective tool that would enable officers to peacefully resolve encounters that have the potential to escalate to the need for the use of force. However, during the yearlong pilot program, the Department was not able to obtain enough data to make a conclusive determination about the effectiveness of the device due to the limited number of actual deployments.

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The Department is requesting that the Board of Police Commissioners authorize a 12-month extension of the current pilot program and expand the program to include the approximately 25 officers that are permanently assigned to Transit Services Division once they have been trained and certified in the deployment of the device. If approved, it is the intent of the Department to maintain all the previously approved guidelines for the pilot program. With this extension, it is the Department's intent to obtain the data required to make a final determination about the viability and effectiveness of the BolaWrap 150 program. During the extension of the pilot program, the Department will continually assess the program to ensure compliance with approved guidelines while continuing to educate the participating officers on the benefits of the BolaWrap 150 device as a force avoidance and de-escalation tool.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Training Bureau at (213) 486-7090.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police