

## INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

February 20, 2024  
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**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** 40 MM LESS LETHAL LAUNCHER TOP FIVE AGENCY COMPARISON

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and FILE the report below.

### **DISCUSSION:**

During the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) Meeting convened on February 6, 2024, Commission President Dr. Erroll Southers requested a comparative analysis of the largest law enforcement agencies on the utilization of the 40mm Less Lethal Launcher (LL). This correspondence contains an analysis of the information requested.

Critical Incident Review Division contacted the five largest law enforcement agencies in the United States, namely the New York Police Department, Chicago Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Philadelphia Police Department, and Houston Police Department. Their aim was to ascertain the deployment protocols, frequency of usage, and efficacy of the 40mm LLL. The information below is a summation of their findings.

**NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT (33,612 sworn officers):** According to the Office of Management Analysis & Planning, the 40mm LLL impact device is not available to patrol officers. As a result, deployment and efficacy criteria were unavailable.

**CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT (11,782 sworn officers):** According to the Data Fulfillment and Analysis Section, Strategic Initiatives Division, the 40mm is not available to patrol officers. As a result, deployment and efficacy criteria were unavailable.

**LA SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (9,132 sworn officers):** According to the Professional Standards Division, Operations, the 40mm LLL is available to patrol officers as an intermediate force option; however, they do not track efficacy data.

**PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT (5,435 sworn officers):** According to the Office of Media Relations/Public Affairs, the department does not deploy the 40mm LLL.

**HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (5,187 sworn officers):** According to the Office of Planning & Data Governance, the 40mm LLL became available as an intermediate force option to patrol officers as of February 2023. A classified (sworn) officer must attend an eight-hour training class to deploy the impact device. From February 2023 through December 2023,

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Houston police officers pointed the 40mm LLL at persons during 62 incidents. Of these 62 incidents, the 40mm LLL was discharged 21 times. However, efficacy data is not tracked.

The Los Angeles Police Department stands as the largest law enforcement agency utilizing the 40mm LLL as an intermediate force option. Throughout 2023, Department personnel deployed the 40mm LLL on 133 occasions during 74 Non-Categorical Use of Force (NCUOF) incidents, resulting in an average deployment of 1.8 rounds per incident.

In 2023, of the 133 discharged 40mm LLL rounds, 49 were deemed effective, leading to the submission of the subject/suspect, yielding a success rate of 37 percent. Over the period spanning 2019 through 2023, the effectiveness rate stands at 43 percent, with 272 successful rounds out of a total of 629 discharged rounds.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE  
Chief of Police