

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 6, 2023

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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: TASER 10 PILOT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the TASER 10 Pilot Program.

DISCUSSION

The Department has designed a 12-month pilot program for a new Electronic Control Device (ECD), the AXON TASER 10. The TASER 10 offers greater flexibility as an intermediate force option than the model currently being utilized by the Department, the TASER 7. The TASER 10 has a maximum deployment range of 45 feet versus the maximum range of the TASER 7, which is 22 feet. This increase in range permits officers to maintain a greater distance from the suspect or subject, which will allow for enhanced time for decision-making, redeployment, and use of barriers, which enhances an officer's ability to utilize de-escalation techniques preventing the potential need for the use of higher levels of force. Additionally, the cartridge now contains 10 probes, versus the traditional two-probe cartridge used in the TASER 7, which gives the operator up to nine opportunities to achieve neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI). This should dramatically improve the effectiveness of the TASER as an intermediate force option.

Note: Two probes must make contact to complete the circuit.

Additionally, Drive Stun mode is not available on the TASER 10 due to the “point of aim, point of impact” options, which allow the user to create their own spread with the probes. The device energizes up to four probes at once, automatically finding the optimally spaced probes.

If approved, the TASER 10 Pilot Program will commence in the week of October 22, 2023. The Department reviewed all Non-Categorical Use of Force incidents, specifically those that involved the deployment of a TASER from the beginning of 2020 through June of 2023. Based on the analysis of this data, the Department has selected the following geographical Areas to pilot the TASER 10 because of their significant representation in both categories: Southeast, 77th Street, Central, and Hollywood. Approximately 200 officers per pilot Area, working in a uniformed assignment, will be equipped with the TASER 10 for this pilot program.

Note: The standard Department color for less-lethal devices is green; however, the Department is unable to obtain the TASER 10 in this color for the pilot program. The TASER 10 will be issued in yellow. Yellow is the typical standard for less-lethal devices and is the color utilized by most agencies. Department-wide training will be provided to address this issue prior to the beginning of the pilot program.

The Tactics Training Unit (TTU), Training Division, is completing an Electronic Weapons Transition (EWT) curriculum and the related documentation. This includes all necessary supporting documentation for Training Coordinators and their staff in the Areas selected for the pilot program. Any instructor who has previously completed the 16-hour EWT Train-the-Trainer Course for the TASER 7 will be required to complete a two-hour transition course prior to instructing in the use of the TASER 10. Personnel who have not previously completed the EWT instructor course will be required to complete the 16-hour course prior to instructing in the use of the TASER 10. All current TASER 7 certified personnel will need to complete a two-hour EWT student course prior to deploying the TASER 10 in the field.

Once distributed to the selected Areas, the TASER 10 devices will be assigned to individual officers in the Evidence.com database for the duration of field testing. Training Coordinators at the selected Areas will then have one month to conduct decentralized training of their assigned personnel via a transition course for the TASER 10. The field testing is slated to begin during the week of November 19, 2023. The field test will continue over the course of 12 months. The Department will provide a progress report to the Commission after six months of the Pilot Program.

Field evaluations of the TASER 10 platform will be captured utilizing a Quick Response Code (QR code) through Microsoft Forms. The code will be posted throughout the selected Areas, so officers may scan the QR code with their Department-issued phones to answer pre-designated questions or to fill in content when officers have comments or concerns regarding the new device. The information provided using this platform will be reviewed by Training Division throughout the pilot program to address any concerns or training issues. Furthermore, all deployments of the TASER 10 shall be documented and uploaded to the Evidence.com cloud service per current Department mandates with the assistance of the Training Coordinators. Training Coordinators shall provide the documentation related to the incident, along with access to footage on Evidence.com of the incident. If appropriate, the Training Coordinator should interview the involved officer(s) deploying the TASER 10 to document what, if any, concerns arose from the deployment.

During the field-testing phase, the selected Areas will remove the TASER 7 from all officers participating in the TASER 10 pilot program and store them in a locked and secured location at the Area. Access to TASER 10 devices will be restricted to those personnel who have successfully completed the transition course to prevent a mixing of platforms, which would affect the accuracy of field testing.

The deployment criteria for the TASER 10 will be the same as the Department's other intermediate force options as described in Special Order No. 14, 2023 and *Department Manual Section 1/573, et seq.*, which was approved by the Board of Police Commissioners on

August 22, 2023. The deployment criteria will be reiterated during the TASER 10 training course and published by the Department.

At the conclusion of the TASER 10 Pilot Program, the Department will conduct a thorough review and analysis of all TASER 10 deployments to evaluate the effectiveness of the device in comparison to the TASER 7. During this analysis, the Department will also attempt to evaluate if the TASER 10's improved range and accuracy prevented incidents from escalating to a need for a higher level of force or if the TASER 10 was utilized during incidents when the suspect or subject posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury preventing the need to use deadly force.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'R' followed by a loop.

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police