

November 2, 2017

TO: SF Police Commission

FROM: Dr. Andre Bolaffi

RE: **Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs)**

This brief memorandum is to express my support for the issuance and use of CEDs commonly known as... "Tasers" by our SFPD officers.

By way of brief background, my wife and I have lived in the Western Addition neighborhood of our city for the past 32 years. My wife was, for many years, President of WANA (Western Addition Neighborhood Association).

This is a very important "life or death" matter for both our police officers and for the citizenry they serve. I do not take this subject lightly. In my experience, I have lived in many major cities in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East and have seen many police departments in action. From my perspective we have the finest, brightest, most responsive and most responsible police officers bar none. These dedicated men and women must have your authorization to carry CEDs.

My recommended view is based on three findings:

- a. Tasers-are less lethal weapons when used to help control aggressive behavior.
- b. Tasers - have led to fewer officers' involved shootings.
- c. Tasers - are options in reducing injury to both police officers and the public.

I strongly urge you to authorize the SFPD officers to carry CEDs.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Andre Bolaffi
2331 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Julianne Lawlor <julianne.lawlor228@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 12:16 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Opposition to Tasers

Dear SFPD Commission,

My name is Julianne Nigro. I live in Noe Valley (area code 94131), and an eight-year resident of San Francisco. I understand that the SF Police Department is considering the use of tasers. As a citizen, I would like to state my opposition to them.

Tasers are extremely expensive weapons that are often presented as an alternative to guns, but in a situation that is a serious safety concern for officers, a tasers would not be standard protocol. a UCSF 2009 study showed that when tasers are used, deaths in custody increase by more than 500% and Reuters documented 1.005 incidents in the United States where people died after being stunned by a taser.

I would like to see the money being considered on tasers to instead going into training programs that teach officers to resist using force, not new alternatives to enforce deadly force.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Thank you,
Julianne Nigro

Master's in Social Work Student
San Francisco State University

Social Work Intern
San Francisco Unified School District

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Monica Woodworth <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2017 12:14 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to OPPOSE the deployment of Taser weapons on the streets of San Francisco. These weapons are deadly dangerous, and a distressing step back from SFPD's move toward a 21st-Century policing focused on de-escalating tense situations and working with community members to prevent violence before it occurs.

Tasers Kill

An investigation by Reuters has revealed that over 1,000 people have been killed by police use of Tasers. Tasers are especially dangerous because, despite their lethality, their status as an "intermediate force option," allows for officers to use them more often than guns. And so we saw, just last month, a man killed by police in Oakland after being Tased for fleeing a car crash. Should fleeing a car crash result in the death penalty?

Tasers Hurt All of Us

In his statement on Tasers, Chief Scott acknowledged that independent studies show Tasers are used disproportionately on people of color and those experiencing mental health crises. Unsurprisingly, these are the same groups that feel the brunt of all police violence. But even healthy and privileged groups are not immune. Kansas City Police Officer Matt Master's 17-year-old son was Tased by police during a routine traffic stop and suffered devastating brain damage. If white, middle-class, sons of police officers are not immune from Taser violence, no one is. Ask yourself, are you comfortable with the idea of police using an electroshock weapon on your sons and daughters?

There is No Oversight

We've heard that studying Tasers are two of the 272 recommended reforms from the collaborative DOJ reform process. But the DOJ has now abandoned that process, and thus there is no timeline or plan for achieving the other 270 reforms, no oversight in place to ensure those reforms are adequately achieved, and no plan to delay Taser weapon deployment until those reforms, some of which call for major changes to use of force policies and data collection, are complete. Why are we rushing these weapons onto our streets without systems of accountability, or even basic data collection programs, in place?

Let's Re-focus on What Works

When considering whether to spend millions on a new weapon system and the eventual lawsuits, remember that we have a shamefully low clearance rate for rape cases, and our 911 dispatch system is chronically underfunded, and the dispatchers chronically overworked. We should strive to make policing safer for both residents and police, but that safety can't be built on the brain-damaged and electrocuted bodies of our most vulnerable residents, and it shouldn't come at the expense of pressing criminal justice needs. Let's instead recommit to the de-escalation and crisis intervention training already in progress, and already showing promise.

I am a teacher in San Francisco. Tasers do not make our community safer, they are harmful weapons that are not necessary in our community. Vote NO on Tasers for SFPD.

With hope,

Monica Woodworth
94606

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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Angela R. Y. Jenkins <aryjenkins@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2017 12:33 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Davis, Sheryl (HRC); Kim, Jane (BOS); Scott, William (POL); Lazar, David (POL)
Subject: Are We Really a Guardian Police Force?

November 4, 2017

San Francisco Police Commission
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear Commissioners,

I appreciated the Commission enduring the exhaustive hours of presentations and public comments at last night's hearing. In addition, the SF Human Rights Commission Director's presentation overwhelmingly captured heartfelt appeals for a police force without tasers. I appreciated the many forum type meetings provided by SF HRC just a few months prior.

Indeed these forums did elevate a volume of voice not customarily heard and I caught really important sentiments during these forums. These sentiments questioned the urgency of implementing weapons policy ahead of the other 271 recommendations. However, if our reforms have genuinely transitioned our police force from a Warrior Cop mentality to a Guardian/Protector "Sanctity of Life" culture, at what point in use of force does the **LIFE** of the person targeted become **less valuable** than the "Guardian?" Only a warrior needs a weapon. Peacekeepers humanize, they see the person **NOT** the threat.

Our Biased Policing reforms **must** proceed any other so that we, as a city, humanize the many Black and Brown bodies disproportionately enveloped in use of force.

Sincerely,

Angela R. Y. Jenkins

"My vision is a world without violence and without incarceration...I know it can be done." - Dr. Joe Marshall, Co-Founder Omega Boys Club

"As part of our public safety mission, together with our community, we must promote **Social Justice** and protect **Human Rights**." Former SFPD Chief Gascon

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Bruce Bearden <bruce.bearden@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2017 8:44 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Vote on Tasers

I fully support your vote to allow tasers to be used by the SFPD. Long overdue.

Thank you.

Bruce Bearden

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Nick DeRenzi <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 5:36 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE** the deployment of Taser weapons on the streets of San Francisco. These weapons are deadly dangerous, and a distressing step back from SFPD's move toward a 21st-Century policing focused on de-escalating tense situations and working with community members to prevent violence before it occurs.

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There is No Oversight

We've heard that studying Tasers are two of the 272 recommended reforms from the collaborative DOJ reform process. But the DOJ has now abandoned that process, and thus there is no timeline or plan for achieving the other 270 reforms, no oversight in place to ensure those reforms are adequately achieved, and no plan to delay Taser weapon deployment until those reforms, some of which call for major changes to use of force policies and data collection, are complete. Why are we rushing these weapons onto our streets without systems of accountability, or even basic data collection programs, in place?

Let's Re-focus on What Works

When considering whether to spend millions on a new weapon system and the eventual lawsuits, remember that we have a shamefully low clearance rate for rape cases, and our 911 dispatch system is chronically underfunded, and the dispatchers chronically overworked. We should strive to make policing safer for both residents and police, but that safety can't be built on the brain-damaged and electrocuted bodies of our most vulnerable residents, and it shouldn't come at the expense of pressing criminal justice needs. Let's instead recommit to the de-escalation and crisis intervention training already in progress, and already showing promise.

No more weapons for SFPD!!

With hope,

Nick DeRenzi
94112

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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Victoria Ruiz <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 5:34 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE** the deployment of Taser weapons on the streets of San Francisco. These weapons are deadly dangerous, and a distressing step back from SFPD's move toward a 21st-Century policing focused on de-escalating tense situations and working with community members to prevent violence before it occurs.

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With hope,

Victoria Ruiz
02903

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(<https://dsasf.org>)

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: cacklinglaughter@gmail.com on behalf of Katy Birnbaum <katy.birnbaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 4:42 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Cohen, Malia (BOS)
Subject: No Tasers For SFPD
Attachments: police commission letter.pdf

Dear Chief and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to allowing SFPD to use Tasers. As a non-profit worker and resident of Bayview, I regularly work with families in African American, Latino, Chinese and low-income communities. I have seen first hand how the failure to implement community policing best practices creates fear and anxiety for these children and their parents and feel the addition of Tasers to SFPD's already extensive arsenal of weapons would further strain the relationship between SFPD and minority communities.

Our police department needs to prioritize giving officers the tools of community policing best practices that allow them to respond to situations effectively without harming public trust or the members of the public themselves. These tools include training officers in crisis intervention teams, training in de-escalation and the use of time and distance when dealing with the public. Introducing a new weapon is the opposite directions.

An Electronic Controlled Weapon may seem more humane than a bullet but Tasers will not replace guns in the hands of our officers – as they are not to be used in situations that the department defines as requiring lethal force. Tasers are intermediate force weapons, and this weapon would instead replace mace and batons with a more dangerous weapon. In other cities, 90% of the 1,000 people killed by Tasers were unarmed and many were in the throes of a mental crisis. In cities around California, officer involved fatalities increased after these weapons were introduced.

SFPD has a tragic and well-documented history of unfairly policing and incarcerating African American and Latino communities and harassing homeless individuals and populations suffering from mental illness and addictive disorders. The addition of another dangerous weapon that has lead to deaths in officer-related incidents in other cities would only damage the work SFPD claims to be doing to reverse the practices, personnel and training that has lead to the gross miscarriage of justice for black and brown communities in San Francisco.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose this policy. Say no to Tasers.

Sincerely,

Katy Birnbaum

katy.birnbaum@gmail.com
707-548-6217

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Zoe Roller <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 4:21 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE** the deployment of Taser weapons on the streets of San Francisco. These weapons are deadly dangerous, and a distressing step back from SFPD's move toward a 21st-Century policing focused on de-escalating tense situations and working with community members to prevent violence before it occurs.

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With hope,

Zoe Roller

94110

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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Sacha Basar Maniar <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 3:09 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

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Sacha Basar Maniar

sacham@advancingjustice-alc.org

94111

With hope,

Sacha Basar Maniar
94111

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This e-mail was sent from a form generated by San Francisco Democratic Socialists of America
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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Iris Biblowitz, RN <justice@dsasf.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 2:39 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please vote NO on Taser Weapons! #NoTasersSF

Dear Commissioners,

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As a nurse, I learned to de-escalate. That's what SFPD has to learn to do. No tasers!

With hope,

Iris Biblowitz, RN

94110

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(<https://dsasf.org>)