



June 23, 2017

President L. Julius M. Turman
San Francisco Police Commission
c/o San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street, San Francisco, California 94158

Dear President Turman

I writing as President of the Oakland Police Officers' Association (OPOA). The OPOA represents all sworn men and women of the Oakland Police Department. On behalf of the members of the OPOA, I wish to clear up any ambiguity surrounding my members' experiences and use of the important force option commonly referred to as "Tasers."

In a San Francisco Chronicle article, dated 20 June 2017, reporter Vivian Ho reported extensively on a San Francisco Police Commission meeting that debated the deployment of "Tasers" with the San Francisco Police Department. Portions of the article suggested that Oakland Police Officers have had a less than stellar experience with "Tasers." I want to make it clear, that like the vast majority of America's Police Departments, Oakland Police Officers' experience with "Tasers" as a force option has been extremely positive. The Oakland Police Department has a robust and successful policy governing "Tasers" and this tool has saved injury, or worse, to countless citizens and Police Officers alike in our City.

The Oakland Police Department training staff are second to none, and I would encourage you or any of your colleagues on the Commission to "cross the bay" and engage with them directly on our experience with "Tasers." The OPOA stands with San Francisco Chief of Police Scott and the members of the San Francisco Police Officers' Association in endorsing the deployment of "Tasers" as an effective tool with San Francisco's finest. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to contact any of my members with queries about our experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Donelan", written over a circular stamp.

Barry Donelan
President
Oakland Police Officers Association.

Cc: Anne Kirkpatrick, Oakland Chief of Police

RECEIVED
7/11/17

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
July 7, 2017

RE: Tasers Are a Bad Idea — Parts A and B

Dear Commissioner Melara:

Some people think you're either for the police or against them, but it's, ^{not} so simple. Hardly anyone is against the police, apart from a few extremists. We love it when they do good, and we are shocked when one of them is killed or injured, because the police are a symbol of civility and social order. But we pay out millions every year to settle cases of police misconduct. Families on both sides of a fatal shooting or Tasing suffer long-term tragedies. We have a right to expect our police to do better than that.

Tasers Are a Bad Idea — Part A:

The public and my friends who are retired police officers don't have much understanding of the dangers of the Taser. It delivers 50,000 volts; and while it doesn't always kill, one shock is enough to take someone's life. Some subjects have a delayed reaction to being shot by a Taser. It is not non-lethal, it is very lethal, and it is often misused. Sometimes people are Tasered numerous times (as many as 18); sometimes while they are handcuffed; sometimes a number of police officers will pile on top of a subject who's been shot by a Taser; sometimes the Taser will be used to punish someone for running away or for expressing verbal noncompliance; its shocks have been used to punctuate commands like "Get up" and "Keep moving." All of this is against the guidelines of the manufacturer and groups like the Police Executive Forum.

We have had some bad stories about excessive force by certain members of our police. Certainly the Taser should not be issued to officers like the two who assaulted and shot Sean Moore on January 6, 2017. They were there to serve a Temporary Restraining Order, but they didn't know you can't force someone to take those papers. As the SF Superior Court says on its Proof of Service (CH-200-INFO), "If the person won't take the papers, just leave them near him or her. It doesn't matter if the person tears them up. Service is still complete."

How can you enforce the law if you don't know the law? Apparently the superior who sent them on the job didn't know it, either. In just over eight minutes, they charged the victim, pepper-sprayed him, clubbed him twice (one officer suffered a bloody nose in retaliation for that act of violence), and shot him twice in center mass. Then he was left without medical attention for quite a while.

It is hard to know the exact extent of police killings since most departments don't keep such figures, and the FBI has only required voluntary compliance with

their request for the numbers and the facts. *The Guardian (U.S.)* has published online a two-year project called The Counted, in which every person killed at the hands of the police across the United States in 2015 and 2016 is named, usually shown with a facial photograph, their age and ethnicity, the location, a description of the incident, and links to two news stories about it. Of course most of these deaths were obviously justified.

While *The Washington Post* found 991 people killed by the police in 2015, 963 in 2016, and 289 from Jan. 1 to April 13, 2017, and *Time* magazine said last Dec. 29 that 1,058 people had been killed in 2016, *The Guardian* itemizes 1,092 killed in 2016, 31 of them by Taser, or 2.83%. In 2015 there were 1,146 police killings, 50 of them by Taser, or 4.36%. They also found that black males between age 15 and 34 are 2% of the U.S. population, but 15% of deaths at the hands of the police, which is five times the rate of white males in that age group.

Here are some descriptions of wrongful Taserings: "Body camera footage shows him [Chase Sherman, Nov. 30, 2015] shocked repeatedly while handcuffed in the back of his fiancée's car. The deputies' Taser log says he was shocked at least 15 times." It was ruled justified.

We might add that other causes of death in custody include, in the words of a medical examiner, "complications of positional asphyxia . . . due to being physically restrained by law enforcement." Ruled justified. In another case, "compression of torso" was ruled a contributing factor.

Given the lazy police work in the Sean Moore case and others, one hesitates to issue Tasers to our department, even though I'm willing to believe that most of our officers would use them properly. Marty Halloran of the POA complained in a radio message that it was "not fair" for San Francisco to be one of only two major jurisdictions without Tasers.

If we never had Tasers, then we didn't need them, and we don't need them now. San Francisco is a cultural leader, not a follower.

Another reason is the total resistance by the police to alternative uses of force. When we make the point that tarps and nets and such things have been used for thousands of years to overcome knife-wielders, we get the response, "What are we supposed to do, carry nets in the cars?" They seem to show no interest in preventing unnecessary deaths.

Online I find martial arts instructors pleading with their fellow police officers to use more of these MA techniques to avoid unnecessary killing. The response to this is, We are understaffed and can't afford the time or money for training. I thought police were already trained to fight, and that many had also been trained in the military.

I watched a four-minute video of Taserings on a police website. One officer directly in front of the subject at a safe distance had his Taser drawn and pointed. Another officer had his Taser pointed from the side. The subject had a sizeable

knife, but for the most part held it pointed down. He seemed really out of it, unspeaking, unmoving. The officer in front kept mechanically repeating the same command to drop the knife. No variation, no attempt to make human contact through his words. A third officer at a greater distance was slowly coming up from behind, apparently unseen. This could have provided the perfect opportunity to use a nonviolent method of takedown. Cast a net or a tarp over the subject; or rush him from behind and knock him down using a riot shield or the equivalent to generate force and minimize risk.

Instead they shot him with a Taser, and he fell straight back like a piece of wood and lay there unmoving, temporarily paralyzed. Perhaps he was breathing, but the quality of the video wasn't sharp and it ended at that point.

Shoot 'em or electrocute 'em are not the only choices.

Tasers Are a Bad Idea — Part B

We've never had Tasers here, and there's not much need for having them now. Crime is down in recent years, and an uptick in this or that category does not change the general trend. This letter is a discussion of the idea of bringing Tasers here, as well as the general misuse of Tasers and a short history of the weapon.

Our officers are not in greater danger than before, and we are not putting them at risk by denying them Tasers. However, we have found an epidemic of excessive force by police around the country and in our own jurisdiction. Excessive force and lethal neglect—letting Tased or gunshot subjects go without medical attention for an extended period of time. We ought to get that under control before we make plans to issue Tasers, another lethal weapon, just to avoid the over-use of guns, which most officers never use anyway. It would a good idea to know whether we have changed the overall culture of the department, where some officers and their representatives approve of every past use of force and encourage more of it, as well as more getting on the case of darker people and homeless people, poor people, and bums more than others. As things stand, more bad stories will come out if we issue Tasers here; then there will be more stereotyping of cops, more precious millions paid out by the city to settle cases, more anti-authority sentiment with plenty of acting out, and more encouragement of the outlaw culture (which is also encouraged by the banking system and the scoff-law corporations who don't pay their taxes).

The frequent use of Tasers and the incidents of multiple Tasings violate common sense and decency as well as the guidelines of the manufacturer and groups like the Police Executive Research Forum. Tasers may prevent some killings that a gun would have produced, but their misuse is common around the country, and it

seems too easy for a law enforcement person to get away with it. I'm afraid that they will often be used for the wrong reasons, when somebody's life or safety is not threatened.

A number of the dead victims of questionable use of force by police were killed simply because they disobeyed orders, not because they put anyone in danger. They probably didn't realize they were prisoners of war. Are the police officially militarized? Should we address our complaints and praise to James Mattis?

We shouldn't hand out dangerous Tasers when we have not yet achieved the reform that official and grassroots San Francisco showed renewed interest in after the Mario Woods killing and the surfacing of biased electronic messaging between some officers.

Marty Halloran of the POA apparently still defends the indefensible attack on Sean Moore on January 6. Some say that's his job; I doubt it. I was a shop steward for the Teamsters Union here and we never made a strong defense for people who did bad work. The SEIU steward training also tells you not to go to grievance for a bad, undependable worker because it sends the wrong message to the other workers.

How much will the illegal behavior of those two officers cost the city when the civil suit is concluded? It was all caused by ineptitude, overreach, and inhumane treatment; they said they were there to serve a Temporary Restraining Order, not to arrest the victim, but they didn't read the instructions on the proof of service and apparently were not told by their superior what the job consisted of. Yet the POA boss has kept hammering us about Officer Patino's bloody nose. Most of us are too clear-headed to try to slug a policeman, but in all honesty you would probably want to if a guy hit you twice with his baton. (While Kenneth Cha was a goat on Jan. 6, a big smelly one, he turned out to be a hero on May 3 when he shot the Subway stabber.)

When the POA stops blustering and comes back down to earth and acts like a public servant again instead of the public's master, and a certain stage of real reform is achieved, you might revisit the request for Tasers. But would there, even then, be a solid, coherent case for buying these expensive and dangerous weapons?

Misuse and History of the Taser

Let's look at how lethal the Taser can be and how it has been misused around the country. My last letter to you on May 9 concerning the Olga Miranda issue as well as Tasers mentioned the *Guardian* (U.S.) project The Counted, a meticulous investigation which found 1,092 Americans killed by the police in 2016 and 1,144 in 2015. Less than 5% of these were by Taser, but the abuses of the equipment were shocking in many cases, some of which I listed in that letter. It's probably likely that it would facilitate lazy police work in San Francisco. Tasers might well be used to enforce obedience to orders or to punish verbal protest or prevent any

conversation: "Oh, shut up," then zap the citizen with 50,000 volts, which maybe will disturb the timing in their heart or brain, and occasionally kill them for no real cause. The police know they can often skate when it comes to inquest or trial.

Combine that with the mania for total restraint of subjects, with heavy pressure on the abdomen, chest, or head of a completely passive subject trying to be obedient, but apparently exciting the blood lust of some of the people in charge. Think of all the police and citizen videos you've seen with the heavy foot on the back of the neck or heavy knee on the side of the head of someone lying on the floor and not struggling, already completely restrained. People are terrified of arrest because they might become involuntary subjects of precinct rituals of nonconsensual sadomasochism.

The use of force to contain violence in society's interactions is the province of the police, and there are clearly occupational hazards that go with a job like that. We all take that into consideration. We know that many cops suffer terribly from the consequences of difficult split-second decisions. Police are friends and helpful neighbors, yet often enough mistrusted, and that's also part of our democratic culture—we don't fawn with obedience or idolatry before shows of militarism or the sudden appearance of the rich and famous. But we take pride in our ability to defend ourselves and love those who help us do it. There's no question of this among those who share the public's perennial desire for reform, but there is plenty of denial and name-calling and siege mentality by those who try to quash or deflect valid reform efforts.

Time, Dec 29, 2016:

"The U.S. saw 135 police officers die in the line of duty in 2016, which is the highest number of fatalities on the job in five years, according to a new analysis. . . .

"Nearly half of those who were killed while working this year were fatally shot, including 21 police officers who died in different ambush-style attacks carried out across the country, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund said Thursday.

"The latest national figure is the highest since 2011 when 177 officers were killed, but it is still under the average annual total of 151 fatalities within the past decade. It also doesn't come close to 1930, the deadliest year on record for U.S. law enforcement when 307 officers were killed in the line of duty, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund."

News from Vice.com (Aug. 28, 2015):

“According to a study by Amnesty International, there were more than 500 Taser-related deaths in the United States between 2001 and 2012. Some states are considering higher regulatory standards for Taser devices amid growing public concern over their safety.

“Data recently compiled by VICE News showed that there were more than 49 Taser-related deaths as a result of officer-civilian interactions since August 2014. Of those 49, two victims were armed with crossbars and one with a pair of scissors. The rest were reportedly unarmed.

“Taser devices were initially classified as firearms by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives because they originally used gunpowder to discharge electrified darts at a target. Taser International asked [inventor Jack] Cover to modify the devices in 1993, and he replaced gunpowder with compressed nitrogen — an adjustment that exempted the device from firearm regulations and government oversight.”

“Between 2000 and 2011, the number of US agencies purchasing Tasers rocketed from 500 to more than 16,000.

“A search on LexisNexis using the keywords ‘wrongful death’ and ‘Taser International’ indicates that the company has been involved in at least 125 wrongful death cases over the last 10 years, among which there were only two jury trial losses.

“Taser guidelines recommend that law enforcement officers avoid using the devices on ‘pregnant females,’ ‘elderly individuals or obvious juveniles,’ ‘individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained,’ anyone who is near flammable material, and anyone who might be injured badly by falling. The guidelines instruct users to avoid firing Tasers at the subject's chest area, citing a risk of ‘potential cardiac consequences.’

“The company also warns that people who exhibit ‘extreme agitation’ or “violent irrational behavior,” among other symptoms associated with excited delirium syndrome, may be “at an increased risk of sudden death” and should be “examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable” after being shocked with a Taser.

Despite these guidelines, a study by the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) said that more than one in four Taser incidents involved shocks directly to the subject's chest area.

“The Police Executive Research Forum writes in its 2011 guidelines that Tasers ‘should not be seen as an all-purpose weapon that takes the place of de-escalation techniques and other options,’ but rather should only be used when there's a demonstrable risk of physical harm or death to another person.

“The NYCLU study showed that this justification was missing in 60 percent of incidences of Taser use. It concluded that the devices are often adopted by law enforcement departments with little consideration given to their potential risks, and that standards vary between agencies.

“A 2006 study by the *Louisville Courier* found that Tasers were often used in instances where the subject showed ‘verbal non-compliance’ and ‘when subjects showed no active resistance or aggression or were handcuffed.’”

A Short History of the Taser:

Stunned To Death By Taser International
08/10/2016 07:24 pm ET | Updated Aug 10, 2016

By Alexander Reynolds

“Marketed as a ‘non-lethal weapon,’ Tasers are anything but. People, black and white, young and old, are dying because of them. And it’s not just happening in the USA, it’s happening all over the world. . . .

“A retired NASA physicist called Jack Cover invented the first Taser in 1969; by 1977, cops all over the USA were testing them in the field; in 1993, a pair of entrepreneur brothers, Rick and Tom Smith, licensed the technology from Cover and founded TASER International. The Smith boys improved the weapon’s trigger mechanism, its accuracy, and, controversially, its stopping power. Cover’s model operated on a five-watt system that lacked the knockdown punch to stop ‘motivated people.’ To compensate, the boffins at TASER International pumped up the output of the device four times and the charge three times. It was powerful. It did the trick. But was it fit for public consumption?

“With bankruptcy looming for the Smith boys at TASER International in 1999, their product was rushed into service. It was a glorious success. The M26 Taser was hailed as the product that changed the face of law enforcement. It did so because it gave cops an option other than lethal force. No muss, no fuss, pull out the Taser. But there was never any regulation of the product, and, for some inexplicable reason, the M26, and its successor the X26, has never been inspected by any electrical standards body in the world. Moreover, all of the information and data on the product that law enforcement agencies were relying on came from the manufacturer’s team of in-house experts. Hmm, it doesn’t take a Lt. Colombo or Dixon of Dock Green to ask the logical question here: should cops be taking the company at their word and using its ‘non-lethal’ product? No, perhaps not. Cops did OK before the advent of the Taser, and Tasers are anything but risk free.

“Here’s why. Cops are trained to shoot people in the ‘center mass’ area (the chest) of the human body. And death by Taser is often caused by multiple discharges of the weapon in this specific region. This is significant. All of the field studies on Tasers rely on the findings of the effects of a single five-second charge to the human body, not multiple exposures. That said, it does not take a multiple discharge of the Taser to kill a human being. There are numerous instances of cardiac arrest from a single shot of the stun gun. One example is the case of Robert Mitchell, a sixteen year old from Michigan who was shot in the chest with one five-second zap of the Taser in 2009. He immediately collapsed and died. . . .

“Whenever the crime-fighting folks at TASER International are queried about their best-selling product, they always insist that it’s safe. It does not kill. And, when it does, it’s due to a preexisting heart condition or some other medical anomaly. Despite the growing death toll, lawsuits, inquiries and innumerable vids of Taser-happy cops on YouTube, TASER International, who generated a record \$162 million in 2015, is still doing great biz in 2016. And when it comes to scrutiny of their product, they concede nothing and rebuke everything. To do otherwise would be to lose face, to do otherwise would be bad for biz. Their best selling stun gun is legit. It saves lives and prevents terrorism. The public has nothing to fear. And so TASER International, hiding behind its phalanx of in-house experts and quibbling lawyers, remains a business in denial, and members of the public keep dying, worldwide, because of their ‘non-lethal’ product. Until modified, replaced or gotten rid of entirely, the Taser, the weapon that only kills sometimes, will remain a public health and safety issue for citizens everywhere.”

Reparations for Police Torture in Chicago:

Even the corrupt city of Chicago has finally admitted fault in 100 cases of police torture and has undertaken a process of disclosure, apology, reparations, and making amends. *Chicago Tribune*, May 27, 2017:

“Darrell Cannon, 66, suffered at the hands of the former police Cmdr. Jon Burge, who with his so-called midnight crew of rogue detectives allegedly tortured upward of 100 people, many of them African-American men from the South Side, in efforts to extract confessions from them between early 1972 and late 1991.

“Accusations against Burge began to surface when former Mayor Richard M. Daley was state's attorney. **The controversy lasted for decades as the city fought the torture claims. So far, it has cost the city more than \$100 million in lawsuit settlements, judgments and other costs.**

“But in May 2015, the City Council moved to acknowledge the victims by approving a \$5.5 million reparations package, which Mayor Rahm Emanuel said showed Chicago wanted to deal with a dark chapter in its history and that the behavior wouldn't be tolerated in the future.

.....
“A U.S. Department of Justice report released in January concluded that the city's police officers are poorly trained and quick to turn to excessive and even deadly force, most often against blacks and Latino residents, without facing consequences. The report cited problems that have for decades been the focus of complaints from citizens, lawsuits and news investigations.”

Thank you for reading all this.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Hack". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Hack

Tom, Risa (POL)

File-8-17-17

From: Lisa Windes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 5:55 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: No Tasers

Dear SFPD,

I strongly, strongly OPPOSE SFPD using tasers.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Windes
94110

CVIA

Cole Valley Improvement Association P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117 CVIASF@aol.com

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RA-1111

7 September 2107

San Francisco Police Commission
Via email: SFPDCommission@sfgov.org

Dear Commissioners,

The Cole Valley Improvement Association, a neighborhood group with about 500 members, is hereby taking a stand on the adoption of CED's, more commonly known as "Tasers".

We are hereby voicing our support for our Police Officers to have the CED's as a tool to deal with the criminal element that pervades our neighborhood. The officers work hard and deserve all the resources available to do their work. It makes sense to offer a non-lethal weapon as a crime deterrent.

Please consider our neighborhood support as you vote on this important issue.

Yours truly,

Cathy Haller

Cathy Haller,
President CVIA

CC: Rachel.Kilshaw@sfgov.org
david.lazar@sfgov.org
John.Sanford@sfgov.org

Representing The Greater Haight Ashbury Community

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Susan Bryan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 9:43 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: David.Lazer@sfgov.org; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hearing on Tasers' use by SFPD

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R9-7-17

September 7, 2017

Dear Police Commissioners,

The Alliance for a Better District 6 (ABD6) has qualified support on the subject of issuing our Police Officers with tasers, as well as other items with which to subdue persons who have shown themselves to be a danger either to themselves or others. We hope this gives our officers options other than to shoot those, who they fear' are out of control.

The Tenderloin is a widely diverse community, with many disabled and elderly citizens. Some of us are mentally challenged, and some "self-medicate" with inappropriate remedies. There are language barriers. We also have many children living and going to school. We have shelters, and oftentimes, inadequate housing. We need for our Police Officers to have the best training in conflict management and communication skills that are the basis for Community Policing. We understand that non-lethal tools are necessary for this job and hope that rigorous training will come along with that.

Thank you for your kind attention,
Marvis J. Phillips, President
Susan Bryan, Treasurer
Alliance for a Better District 6

RECEIVED
9-8-17

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Ken Craig [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 4:20 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Email Of Support For Issuing CED's To SFPD

Dear Police Commission Members:

I write in strong support of approving the issuance of Conducted Electrical Devices (otherwise commonly known by the trademarked name TASER) to the members of the San Francisco Police Department.

Policing in the modern era is challenging enough in normal circumstances for Officers, but when they are faced with the need to apply force for their own safety or the safety of members of the public, they should be provided with as many force options as possible under the appropriate training and oversight regime. CED's are successfully utilized as a significant part of the use of force continuum in Police agencies around the United States and indeed around the world. They offer an invaluable option immediately before the need to deploy lethal force, and they have been proved to reduce deaths and serious injuries in multiple Police agency studies throughout the world, when employed thoughtfully and under strict guidelines and supervision.

The use of lethal force is fortunately something few Officers have to face in their careers, but when such situations arise it is incumbent on the public that they represent to provide them with as many force options as possible to deploy before having to utilize lethal force as the absolute last resort. CED's are a valid force option alongside bean bag rounds and other non-lethal options.

There are legitimate concerns in my view by many members of the public when CED's appear to be used in less than ideal situations by Officers, and there are certainly cases where the use of a CED can cause the death of

someone who receives a CED charge. I firmly believe that comprehensive training, competent supervision, and effective regulatory oversight can ensure appropriate use of CED's in a harm reduction role for all concerned. Such procedures are already in place and followed with all other force continuum options available to San Francisco Police Officers, so including CED's would make perfect sense.

As a former citizen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where the English, Scottish, and Welsh Police are not armed with firearms on a regular basis, they utilize CED's as a force option for their specialized armed response units, and they also utilize CED's with certain supervisory and quick response units that are not armed with firearms. As one of the few Police organizations in the world that is not regularly armed, they see the value and need to utilize CED's when appropriate and the San Francisco Police Commission and the citizens of San Francisco should recognize that value and need in my opinion also.

I have frankly never understood the decision in the past to prevent San Francisco Police Officers from having CED's as an option, when they are already issued with firearms which is a much more serious and debilitating force option if they must be used. To prevent CED's as a force option essentially leaves Officers in some circumstances with no choice when time, or other non-lethal force options have failed, but to use lethal force. CED's offer the option of another non-lethal force option before lethal force is compelled, and that is the logical, prudent, and caring thing to make available to Officers.

Sincerely,

Ken Craig

San Francisco Resident

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: David Spero RN [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 9, 2017 4:18 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: urge extreme caution in used of CEDs

Hi SFPD Commission,

I'm very concerned about the use of tasers. I, like many people, have heart arrhythmias due to electrical conduction problems in the heart. A low-dose Taser jolt could easily kill me or people like me. I don't know many this would be, but I developed the problem my early 50s. I don't think Tasers should ever be used unless the only alternative would be a gunshot, and I believe these situations should almost never come up with cautious, aware policing.

Thank you,

David Spero 4 [REDACTED]

--
David Spero RN
"Love your body. Love your life."
www.davidsperorn.com

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Denise D Anne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 11:12 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: NO TASERS

This topic has repeatedly come before the commission and yet here we go again. Most citizens do not want to give more lethal weapons to the police as it is. I, personally would like to see them entirely disarmed of weapons. And this is not unusual as many countries have disarmed police forces and the police are safer there than here.

Any weapon no matter how benign it is classified is just another weapon that has had deadly consequences. As it is police use their weapons indiscriminate and often especially when it comes to people of color.

I have seen on video where a police officer was trying to talk down an old white man with a weapon. He was unsuccessful and gave up after about 20 minutes and did not even attempt to shoot the man. This should be a lesson in deescalation.

Can we please give up on bringing this taser issue before the commission. You have as we the public have better things to do than coming to voice our opposition.

Denise D'Anne
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Vijay Chitnis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 8:27 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Support for CEDs to be considered as a force option for SFPD

Police Commission Members:

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Sincerely,

Vijay Chitnis

San Francisco Resident

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Emily Grimm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 12:52 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: public comment CEDs (Conducted Energy Devices, also known as Tasers)

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the SFPD request to use of CEDs (Conducted Energy Devices, also known as Tasers). CEDs have killed people. Don't fall for the sales line that they are non-lethal or less-lethal. When used as intended, people have died from CEDs. I'm not even talking about mis-use or accidents. Ask Oscar Grant if CEDs are less-lethal, or rather ask his surviving family.

CEDs will make our City and our communities less safe for all. Please say no to Tasers.

Thank you,
Emily Grimm
San Francisco resident and parent

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Regina Anavy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 6:43 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Lazar, David (POL)
Subject: Use of Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs)

Dear Commission,

I will be attending one of your meetings with the community, and I understand that public commentary will no longer be allowed. So I will send you my comments.

I presently volunteer with the D.A.'s office on a restorative justice project, where I act as an adjudicator on the Bayview Neighborhood Court. I am also a graduate of the Community Police Academy, where I learned the laws about use of force. I also realized how quickly a police call can unexpectedly turn into a dangerous situation by doing a use-of-force simulation.

Right now, the SFPD does not have a good option for non-lethal force. The media attention to officer-involved shootings has highlighted the use of lethal force without mentioning that there is often no alternative.

The threat or use of CEDs would give them this alternative. If other law enforcement officers (Sheriff's Department, UCSF police) are allowed to have them, I see no reason to prevent the SFPD from having them.

I am assuming that training in the proper use of CEDs and emergency medical procedures in the case of their use would be mandatory.

Let's please give our peace officers another way to enforce the peace and protect both themselves and the community.

Regina Anavy
Mission Bay

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Monday, September 11, 2017

San Francisco Police Commission
1245 3rd St.
San Francisco, CA 94158

Subject: Tasers as an effective tool for law enforcement

Dear Police Commission,

My name is Stefano Cassolato, I'm a life-long resident of San Francisco, as well as a professional registered lobbyist, however I'm not being paid for this letter or by any other pro Taser group, I'm writing this as a concerned citizen that wants to help reduce police fatalities. I've carefully weighed the pros and cons of the use of Tasers as a tool for law enforcement. Tasers are not new technology and are used globally by law enforcement agencies. Statistics tell us that when they are used properly police fatalities are greatly reduced.

The goal when meeting a violent suspect is to neutralize the threat to the suspect, the police officer(s), and the community at large. We know what the end result will be when a firearm is discharged. This is not to say that Tasers will replace guns, but when Tasers are used prudently they are an effective means to ending an imminent threat without fatalities. In regard to the voltage from a Taser, unless someone has other extenuating medical issues, the Taser in and of itself is a non-fatal option.

The U.S. Department of Justice and former Attorney General Eric Holder commissioned a study on the use of Tasers and other less-lethal weapons, which was published in 2011. Their findings were that in cities that adopted the use of Tasers the monthly injury rate to suspects dropped between 30 and 50 percent. They also found that the monthly injury rate for police officers dropped between 25 and 60 percent, depending on the city.¹

In conclusion, isn't it better to use a non-fatal option such as a Taser to save lives than to give law enforcement one less tool and minimize their options in regard to ending an imminent threat without a fatality?

Sincerely,

Stefano Cassolato

¹ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/232215.pdf>

Ron Lee
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Monday, September 11, 2017

San Francisco Police Commission
1245 3rd St.
San Francisco, CA 94158

Subject: Tasers as an effective tool for law enforcement

Dear Police Commission,

My name is Ron Lee, I'm a life-long resident of San Francisco, an Army veteran, retired from AT&T after 30 years, worked as a Community Advocate for over 15 years, as well as served in the DA's office neighborhood court in Chinatown. I've carefully weighed the pros and cons of the use of Tasers as a tool for law enforcement. Tasers are not new technology and are used globally by law enforcement agencies. Statistics tell us that when they are used properly police fatalities are greatly reduced.

I've been around long enough to know that Tasers, and where they're implemented in other areas, are proven techniques to ending potentially violent situations without fatalities. Where San Francisco is usually innovative, in this instance we're lagging behind, and when you lag you lose. How many more demonstration do we need to see with the community complaining about police brutality.

In conclusion, isn't it better to use a non-fatal option such as a Taser to save lives than to give law enforcement one less tool and minimize their options in regard to ending an imminent threat without a fatality?

Sincerely,

Ron Lee

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Kim Syre <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 8:18 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Tasers

As a long time San Francisco resident, I strongly encourage you to authorize police officers to have this much needed tool to use when deadly force can be avoided. Use of electronic control weapons need to be an important option for our police officers. Thank you, Kim Syre

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lisa Schiff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 12:45 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: No tasers in SF

Hi,

I'm writing in opposition to the use of tasers in San Francisco as they do not increase public safety, but instead reduce it, increase risks of danger as well as costs to the SFPD. Putting energies and money into de-escalation, more training and better community relations would be far better.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schiff
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Noemi Robinson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 3:43 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: a vote for CEDs - with a few steps first

Thank you for putting the use of CEDs out for public comment. The commission's oversight of SFPD is one reason San Francisco is seen globally as a leader in police-community relations.

I am writing to you as a private citizen, but want to let you know that I am a graduate of the SFPD Citizen's/Community Police Academy, a member of the SFPD ALERT volunteer program, and I graduated from the two month seasonal law enforcement park ranger academy at Santa Rosa Junior College. I received my arrest authority certificate for the state of California and was trained with multiple defensive weapons.

I work with officers every day who amaze me with their dedication and skills. I also see how terrible some officers have been to people of color, and I worry a lot about the militarization of the police.

Here is my opinion.

1. SFPD should be given the ability to use CEDs
2. This should start with officers still in the academy and grow with each graduating class. I think there is the potential for horrific problems when you give a 20 year veteran a brand new weapon. Officers speak often of muscle memory and falling back to your highest level of training. What is one class on CEDs vs decades of firearm refreshers? Start CEDs with people who wear them from day one and never knew a shift without them.
3. No officers get a CED until all officers have body cameras. (I'm using the term officer to mean all SFPD uniform personnel regardless of rank.) Money is limited. We've seen what officers have done that they could have gotten away with if it hadn't been for cameras. Cameras before CEDs - period.
4. Keep up the excellent community-driven accountability, transparency and communication focus of the work you do.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my personal opinion on this topic.

Noemi M Robinson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lazar, David (POL)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:37 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Kilshaw, Rachael (POL); Adwan, Rania (HRD); Walsh, Peter
Subject: FW: I have read the Department's talking points

Commander David Lazar
Community Engagement Division
San Francisco Police Department
3401 17th Street
San Francisco, Ca 94110
(415) 558-5459

From: David Heller [mailto:████████████████████]]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 4:29 PM
To: Lazar, David (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>
Subject: I have read the Department's talking points

I have read the Department's talking points and draft policy. These documents make a compelling case for implementing this weapon. There is just one thing missing. The community. The real issue is one of trust, and we are sadly at a time when many groups are lacking trust in their government officials and the police.

I suggest that if you want to adopt the weapon it should be only after stakeholder working group meetings where everyone rolls up their sleeves and collaborates to create a policy for San Francisco. Not in sessions like these.

Next, any roll out of this weapon should be incremental (limited number of officers) and with each use subject to analysis, evaluation and critique. And the community needs to be part of this oversight process. If you want to do this, you will need to be completely transparent and also inclusive of the community at every stage. And the people here objecting now and speaking for under-represented constituents will need to be full participants. It will be a lot of work but it will be worth while.

The GGBMPOA will be glad to facilitate such a process.



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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Jamey Frank <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 8:08 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Tasers and SFPD

Dear Police Commissioners,

Tonight I participated in the taser event held at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. As one of the few persons with the courage to speak up in favor of tasers, I was *shocked* at the level of disrespect and hatred exhibited by extremists at the event, who literally commandeered the meeting.

The break-out discussions went well enough, but I noticed of the four persons in our group of about 20 who spoke in favor of tasers, citing facts versus emotions, the moderator didn't even bother to write down our thoughts and facts, she only wrote down anti-taser biased, emotional opinions. At one point, one of the women who was neutral stated, "I don't feel safe" to those in the discussion group. It was clearly not a fair and balanced forum, nor a safe one to express multiple points of view.

When the town-hall meeting began, the Chief was shouted down, as anti-taser extremists screamed and shouted for a show of hands for "No". Feeling both outnumbered and unsafe, the group of us who were in favor of tasers looked at the screaming thugs around us and decided our personal safety was more important than speaking at the microphone. Outside, we agreed that we feared physical retaliation outside the venue should we have spoken up individually.

Please know that the meeting tonight did *not* represent the majority of San Franciscans. We need an alternative forum for expression, one not overridden by "antifa"-style anti-authority extremists.

I trust the SFPD to implement tasers responsibly, with accountability and restraint, and as a means of de-escalation of force. We have the most diverse police department and the best training in the nation. The recent de-escalation of the right wing extremist demonstration is a shining example of how it's done.

Yet we are the only large city in the U.S. without such a basic tool, proven time and again to greatly reduce injuries and deaths of both the community and law enforcement. Please consider facts and safety versus high-strung emotions of anti-law enforcement extremists, many of whom don't even reside in our city.

Sincerely,

—Jamey Frank
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
9/13/17

Lazar, David (POL)

From: Erica Sandberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:55 AM
To: Rodney Yee; Jennifer Jean Roche
Cc: Lazar, David (POL); SFPDAAlert, (POL); Jane_Rades@Yahoo.com; Hernandez, Mark (POL); ALERT - Andre Bolaffi
Subject: Re: Thanks! 9/12 PC Meeting.

Thanks to you ALL -- Jennifer, Rodney, Jane, David, Mark, and Andre

Sorry to have not attended this time. I did go by and wanted to enter but the crowd was thick and I had to be somewhere.

I am convinced that reason and civility will ultimately win out. As the wise sage LL Cool J once said, "When adversity strikes, that's when you have to be the most calm. Take a step back, stay strong, stay grounded and press on."

Erica

From: Rodney Yee <[REDACTED]>
To: Jennifer Jean Roche <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Erica Sandberg <[REDACTED]>; Cdr David Lazar (POL) <david.lazar@sfgov.org>; SFPDAAlert (POL) <sfpdalert@sfgov.org>; "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>; Hernandez Mark (POL) <mark.hernandez@sfgov.org>; ALERT - Andre Bolaffi [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:04 AM
Subject: Re: Thanks! 9/12 PC Meeting.

Hi Jennifer and .Company;

You are very welcome. I just had to say something on behalf of our beloved SFPD after hearing how unfairly the crowd treated the SFPD with just slander and distortion of the truth. .

The outreach from the SFPD police commission to the community is truly amazing to witness in action and shows the willingness to have a meaningful dialogue with the public. Unfortunately many of those folks in attendance were only interested in the public bashing of the SFPD to advance their political agenda.

I only wish I had more time to speak with the voice of reason and to settle down the very contentious augmentative crowd.

Warmest Regards;
Rodney Yee

On Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 9:51:02 PM PDT, Jennifer Jean Roche [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks so much for showing tonight, and thank you too Erica for saying hi to us real quick while we grabbed a bit to eat.

A special shout out to Rodney who braved the crowd when he spoke at the mic during the town hall phase. That was tough!

Take care,

Jennifer

Jennifer J Roche



Tom, Risa (POL)

From: William E. Riker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 8:23 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Taser review

Dear Police commission,

I understand there is a hearing at City college this evening regarding the above subject but space for attending is limited. So, I am submitting the following information for support of law enforcement officers being given tasers to help prevent the drawing their weapons and use less lethal force instead. My father was a New York City police officer for 34 years and in that time he fired his weapon once while on duty. He utilized his nightstick and when necessary his fists to deal with a suspect. Unfortunately the night stick has gone by the wayside.

As an neutral arbitrator since 1979 I have been assigned several hundred cases (I have heard approximately 3,000 arbitrations) where those in law enforcement have been charged with violating applicable law, which mainly related to using excessive force. I have also had to hear testimony relating to the use of Tasers. In my judgement Tasers should be an essential part of an officers equipment as there have been many times where the use of Tasers has prevented injuries to suspects as well as police officers.

The caution however, is to recognize that suspects who are high in opiates such as amphetamines may not be subdued when "tased" and officers must be cautioned of that fact.

Those protesting the use of Tasers by those in law enforcement must understand what police officers are facing in the street on a daily basis and their safety must be secured. Finally, for every case of a law enforcement officer abusing his/her job responsibilities by using excessive force there are a thousand or more who do their job on a daily basis without violating the laws they are charged with enforcing. Please give them the tools they need to continue protecting the citizens of San Francisco.

William E. Riker, Arbitrator

RECEIVED
9-28-17

Lazar, David (POL)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sandra Fletcher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Lazar, David (POL)
Subject: September 19th meeting

Hi David,

FYI I have reached out to Troy Campbell and Dennis Swayne asking for the help to rally the community to support the SFPD and the taser program. Both are going to send out the information about the meeting to their respective board members. I have also reached out to Frazer Thompson and Taylor Safford of Pier 39.

Hopefully we can get a lot more people on our side for the next meeting.

Talk with you soon.

Sandra

Sandra L. Fletcher
President
Simco Restaurants Group
(415) 982-5872

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Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lazar, David (POL)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 3:23 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Kilshaw, Rachael (POL); Adwan, Rania (HRD); Walsh, Peter
Subject: FW: Observations on the Police Commission CED meeting on Tuesday 9/12

An update from a community member.

Commander David Lazar
Community Engagement Division
San Francisco Police Department
3401 17th Street
San Francisco, Ca 94110
(415) 558-5459

From: Larry Rosenfeld [mailto:larry@inner-sunset.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 8:31 PM
To: citywidecpab@googlegroups.com; SFPD Park Station, (POL) <SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org>
Cc: Sanford, John (POL) <john.sanford@sfgov.org>; Lazar, David (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>
Subject: Observations on the Police Commission CED meeting on Tuesday 9/12

Hello, all!

One of my neighbors on Nextdoor asked - in the context of the meeting announcement - why anyone would be AGAINST approving CEDs/ECWs/"Tasers" for SFPD. I composed a reply to try to explain the "points of view" of those opposed and describe what the meeting had been like. I'm copying it below for you.

By way of introduction to these notes I'd like to say that the behavior of a good many of those who were there to inveigh against CEDs for SFPD was so awful that I don't see how the Police Commission can take them seriously.

In addition, it's ironic that many of "them" were of the opinion that recalcitrant and even mentally ill people could (always) be persuaded to calm down and be reasonable, and yet they themselves we on the verge (in my opinion) of being out of control.

I won't be able to join you at next Tuesday's meeting, but I'm eager to hear whether it's any more docile.

Best regards to all, Nextdoor post follows my "signature"

--

Larry Rosenfeld
Treasurer & Secretary
Inner Sunset Park Neighbors
Co-Chair, Park District (SFPD)

Community Police Advisory Board

Here's what I observed Tuesday night.

There were somewhere between 150 and 200 people there, not counting members of SFPD (including Chief Scott), the Police Commission, members of the press and the eight (8) people assigned to facilitate the four (4) "breakout" groups.

The "breakout" period lasted approximately one hour. The second hour began with a brief address from Chief Scott and then the public comment (line up; 2 minutes max) period began. I left a little after 8 PM, so I can't say how long public comment went on.

The breakout I observed was facilitated by two women; they kind of switched off taking notes on a "flip chart," but one of them did more facilitating and the other more writing. Facilitation consisted of asking the group three questions and then trying to keep the group in order without assigning a specific sequence to the responses.

The first question was (my paraphrase) "Why did you come here tonight?" Since none of us knew what the next question would be, the first few folks to answer set the form of the answer as "I (support/oppose) 'Tasers' for the following reason(s)." Note: just about everyone used "Tasers" instead of one of the many other names. There was no time limit on answering, nor was there any suggestion that having spoken one couldn't speak a second (or more) time on the same question.

The second question was essentially "are you pro or con ECWs and why?" You can see that this would be, in essence, another go-round of the first. A number of people who had answered the first question had additional thoughts to add.

Here what I think I heard from the people who are opposed to these "tools" being approved for SFPD.

ECWs are used significantly more (than the proportion in the overall population) against: people of color, the "homeless" and people suffering acute mental distress.

ECWs have been shown to be lethal when used on: people of small stature, asthmatics, people with heart conditions, people who are currently heavily medicated, and several other groups.

ECWs HAVE BEEN lethal 1,000 times. Note: the time frame and geography over which this was measured was not made clear. Also the number of times ECWs were used overall during this period is not known.

ECWs are known to have an unacceptably high failure rate which can force an (unnecessary) escalation of the situation.

The manufacturer of Tasers (Axon Corporation) has so many cautions about when NOT to deploy their product that they have effectively insulated themselves from any liability that could possibly be attributed to the device. Thereby potentially costing the City millions in those unfortunate cases where the device malfunctions.

There is an inherent conflict between the "time-and-distance" approach to de-fusing a situation and the 7 - 12 foot range in which an ECW is "effective."

The estimated \$19 - 20 million per year could be better spent.

There were also comments that indicated a very high level of distrust of SFPD in general. During the public comment period, a uniformed member of SFPD stood by the microphone (I will not guess at the reason he was so deployed) and at least two or three speakers noted that having someone with a gun so near to them made them nervous.

There were also assertions that techniques exist for de-fusing the kinds of interactions that tend to lead to officers using their firearms. One woman was particularly emphatic about the excellent work of Temple Grandin with animals in slaughterhouses. Unfortunately she kept getting up from her seat behind me to show how approaching from the side rather than face-on was better in these interactions, but she was making me nervous.

Several of the members of the group I observed addressed the process itself. This is the fourth or fifth time that a proposal to approve these tools has come before the police commission. People expressed concern that the subject had not been laid to rest. They also expressed their frustration with what was actually going on in the room at the time. Another woman was very critical of the person trying to capture what was being said. Unfortunately she used some very demeaning language to show her frustration and then left her seat as if to take over the "scribe" job.

A couple of people seemed to get angrier as time went on and there was some animosity directed at other people in the group. Some of it at rather elevated volume.

At the beginning of the public comment period, the displeasure with the process was palpable and when Commissioner Sonia Melara tried to give her introduction to this part, she was met with intense shouting. When Chief Scott tried to give his introductory remarks he was met with shouts of "LIES!" and "Tasers Kill!" among other phrases.

Most of the public comment was similar to what I had heard in the first hour. A couple of new thoughts were introduced. Apparently there were only somewhere between 6 and 10 people in attendance who were vocally in favor of CEDs. One of the speakers pointed out that at his table there were four and he took the trouble to inform his hearers that they were "all white males." Later one of those "white males" got up to speak and was essentially shouted down by the crowd. After each of the speakers against CEDs spoke they were given a round of applause. Some were cheered for points made during their comments. If you've ever been to a meeting of the Supervisors, Planning or Police Commissions, you know that such outbursts are "discouraged." While the 2-minute limit was pretty much enforced, the no-outburst rule was not.

At least two or three of the speakers were (or while speaking became) very agitated and shouted at the police commissioners and Chief Scott. There was a strong concern that this meeting was meant to "sidetrack" all negative comments so that a "yes" vote could be pushed through the commission.

There were a number of comments in both sections of the evening from people who wanted to convey their desire that a different approach be taken. Think of these as answers to the "Why not Tasers?" question in the form of "because there are these other things that could (or should) be done (or done first).

I wouldn't blame you if you want to ask me to clarify anything I've written here, but please understand that depending on what you ask, I may not have the memory or the notes to give you a satisfactory answer.

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lazar, David (POL)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:02 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Kilshaw, Rachael (POL); Adwan, Rania (HRD); Walsh, Peter
Subject: FW: Thanks! 9/12 PC Meeting.

Email from an attendee.

Commander David Lazar
Community Engagement Division
San Francisco Police Department
3401 17th Street
San Francisco, Ca 94110
(415) 558-5459

From: Rodney Yee [mailto:rodney.yee@sfgov.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:03 AM
To: Jennifer Jean Roche <jenroche@sfgov.org>
Cc: Erica Sandberg <ericasandberg@sfgov.org>; Lazar, David (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>; SFPDAlert, (POL) <SFPDAlert@sfgov.org>; Hernandez, Mark (POL) <Mark.Hernandez@sfgov.org>; ALERT - Andre Bolaffi <abolaffi@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Thanks! 9/12 PC Meeting.

Hi Jennifer and .Company;

You are very welcome. I just had to say something on behalf of our beloved SFPD after hearing how unfairly the crowd treated the SFPD with just slander and distortion of the truth. .

The outreach from the SFPD police commission to the community is truly amazing to witness in action and shows the willingness to have a meaningful dialogue with the public. Unfortunately many of those folks in attendance were only interested in the public bashing of the SFPD to advance their political agenda.

I only wish I had more time to speak with the voice of reason and to settle down the very contentious augmentative crowd.

Warmest Regards;
Rodney Yee

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Fong, Daryl (POL)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:54 PM
To: Katy Liddell; SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Scott, William (POL)
Subject: Re: Argument in Favor of CEDs

Katy,

As always, thank you for your support in the Department's effort to obtain another less lethal option for officers to utilize to save lives and enhance public safety.

Best,
Daryl

Captain Daryl Fong
San Francisco Police Department
Southern Station
1251 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

From: Katy Liddell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:24:19 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Fong, Daryl (POL); Scott, William (POL)
Subject: Argument in Favor of CEDs

Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street, San Francisco, California 94158

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to approve Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) for our SFPD Force.

As a charter member of Southern Station's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) and 22-year resident of this part of San Francisco, I have followed the history of our force and the effect officers have on the community.

We simply must do what makes sense. And it makes sense to assure our officers and members of the public are as safe as they can be. That means using CEDs. CEDs save lives, reduce injuries to subjects and officers, and drastically reduce the possibility that confrontations will escalate to lethal-force situations.

Yes, there are issues with CEDs that must be dealt with head on. Adopting their use requires a strong, sound use-of-force policy that assures robust reporting of all force, use of the accountability features built into these devices, and leadership that will not tolerate excessive force.

In the long run, it has been proven that CEDs would reduce the number of police injuries, save some suspects' lives and save the city money.

Chief Scott has obviously done his homework and knows what he is talking about. In his statement, he says, "The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), undertaking its own independent research, has found that the use of CEDs correlates with a decrease of 60 percent nationally in citizens' injuries. The DOJ also determined that risks associated with CEDs are lower than most other use of force options."

Chief Scott has promised excellent oversight and accountability, and I have every confidence this will happen. The fact that current technology has the capability to pair with the Department's body worn cameras is also a plus. This assures a thorough review process.

I urge you to give our SFPD officers the advantage of using CEDs so that they have a better option than using deadly guns. The cost (which many use as an argument against CEDs) is justified when a life is saved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Catherine (Katy) Liddell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

cc: Chief William Scott
Captain Daryl Fong

RANDALL J. SCOTT

Cell/VM: (415) [REDACTED]

Friday, September 15, 2017

RE: Conducted Energy Devices Community Outreach Meeting on 9/12/17

Dear Commander Lazar,

First of all, thank you for notifying me of this meeting. I was also able to review many of the reports submitted to the commission on the website. Based on that review, as well as my experience in observing conditions here on the streets of San Francisco and engaging with the SFPD officers I encounter on those streets, I have come to the conclusion that the SFPD should be allowed to carry conducted energy devices as part of their tools they will use to protect the people of San Francisco.

I would also like to share that the group I was a part of appeared to have brought many "friends" with them to group that evening. For example, when any of them spoke out negatively about the SFPD, many would raise and shake their hands all together (what my daughter calls "jazz hands"). One of the gentlemen seated next to me raised his hand to speak a couple of times, but after a while, he shook his head and said "these people aren't going to listen anyway," and stopped raising his hand. I was very pleased when the commissioner in our group stated unequivocally—after repeated calls from the dissenters that SFPD needed to focus on the other primary DOJ recommendations and not just on "Tasers"—that the SFPD was working on most of the 200+ recommendations from the DOJ concurrently and please limit the comments on this particular meeting to the conducted energy devices. Adding to the frustration of the meeting was that there were very loud individuals in the other groups which disrupted our group. Again, mainly voicing their opinions against the SFPD in general, not specifically the topic of "Tasers". In short, I feel that outreach meetings such as this are very important, however, many of my business friends and constituents will not come to these meetings because they feel drowned out by the minority voices and angry looks we get when speaking out in favor of SFPD and initiatives we feel will help them perform their jobs better and safer.

My opinion on the matter, as a business person working in downtown San Francisco, is that SFPD should be allotted as many tools as possible in their ever present struggle to keep the people within the City limits safe. One of those tools should be a conducted energy device. Right now, SFPD has the baton, and the gun. After speaking with many officers, pepper spray is not a good tool on their belt because of collateral exposure to other civilians and potentially incapacitating other officers if the wind shifts. De-escalation/time and distance are other tools to be used. Crisis intervention teams are helpful, but take time to mobilize and what if there are more crisis events than teams? Again, based on my experience, situations on the streets develop very rapidly and the officer generally only has a split second to determine which option/tool he can use to regain control of a situation. As I mentioned before, he has either the gun, or the baton. If he is close enough to the use the baton, his life and/or person is in jeopardy, therefore the only real option an SFPD officer currently has, while walking the beat, is his gun. Therefore I argue we put a less lethal option in his tool belt which, I believe, would save more lives. Extensive mandatory training and situation evaluation whether or not the person meets the criteria for use of a conductive energy device is a must, but SFPD has never shied away from training.

Please feel free to share this letter with those in charge of making the decisions.

Sincerely,



Randall J. Scott

September 15, 2017

Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, California 94158

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to approve Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) for our SFPD Force.

As a charter member of Southern Station's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) and 22-year resident of this part of San Francisco, I have followed the history of our force and the effect officers have on the community.

We simply must do what makes sense. And it makes sense to assure our officers and members of the public are as safe as they can be. That means using CEDs. CEDs save lives, reduce injuries to subjects and officers, and drastically reduce the possibility that confrontations will escalate to lethal-force situations.

Yes, there are issues with CEDs that must be dealt with head on. Adopting their use requires a strong, sound use-of-force policy that assures robust reporting of all force, use of the accountability features built into these devices, and leadership that will not tolerate excessive force.

In the long run, it has been proven that CEDs would reduce the number of police injuries, save some suspects' lives and save the city money.

Chief Scott has obviously done his homework and knows what he is talking about. In his statement, he says, "The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), undertaking its own independent research, has found that the use of CEDs correlates with a decrease of 60 percent nationally in citizens' injuries. The DOJ also determined that risks associated with CEDs are lower than most other use of force options."

Chief Scott has promised excellent oversight and accountability, and I have every confidence this will happen. The fact that current technology has the capability to pair with the Department's body worn cameras is also a plus. This assures a thorough review process.

I urge you to give our SFPD officers the advantage of using CEDs so that they have a better option than using deadly guns. The cost (which many use as an argument against CEDs) is justified when a life is saved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Catherine (Katy) Liddell

[Redacted contact information]

cc: Chief William Scott ✓
Captain Daryl Fong

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lazar, David (POL)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:37 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL); Kilshaw, Rachael (POL)
Subject: FW: Support Letter for SFPD on Taser

Commander David Lazar
Community Engagement Division
San Francisco Police Department
3401 17th Street
San Francisco, Ca 94110
(415) 558-5459

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Lazar, David (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Support Letter for SFPD on Taser

I sent my friend Steven Ng to come support on Tuesday. He was overwhelmed by the group against the Taser. He felt so sad and disgusted.

Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Lazar, David (POL) (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, Sep 15, 2017 4:03 pm
Subject: RE: Support Letter for SFPD on Taser

Thank you Ron!

Commander David Lazar
Community Engagement Division
San Francisco Police Department
3401 17th Street
San Francisco, Ca 94110
(415) 558-5459

From: r. [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:30 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL) <SFPD.Commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: Lazar, David (POL) <David.Lazar@sfgov.org>
Subject: Support Letter for SFPD on Taser

I am forwarding my letter of support for SFPD to have Taser's.

Ron Lee

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: chezmspj [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:04 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Tasers

Hello Commissioners,

I am unable to attend tonight's community meeting, however I have written about this for years as being a viable solution to a less lethal means of handling a potential life threatening situation/
Let our SFPD protect us.. A taser is an effective tool that all Officers should carry as a less lethal way to subdue a possible threat to our safety.
It can be used in close quarters without harming innocent bystanders. It is effective and efficient.
Our Officers should be able to use **all** the tools available to them in order to provide protection for our citizens and this is one.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms PJ

RECEIVED
Rab...
2017

September 19, 2017

TO: SF Police Commission

FROM: Andre Bolaffi

RE: Electronic Control Weapons (ECW) - Tasers

Members of the police commission, thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts on this very important "life or death" subject.

My name is Andre Bolaffi and, along with my wife Janice, I have lived in the Western Addition neighborhood of our city for the past 32 years. My wife is President of WANA (Western Addition Neighborhood association) and I am on her board.

In my experience (I am 85 years old/young) and I have lived in many major cities in the U.S., Europe and the middle East and I have seen many police departments in action. From my perspective we have the finest, brightest and most responsible police officers bar none. These dedicated men and women must have your authorization to carry ECW, commonly known as...Tasers.

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 ECW.

Thank you very much for listening.

Andre Bolaffi

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Lena <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 2:55 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Worried about the use of Tasers

Dear Sirs and Madams
Police Commission Office

I write as a concerned resident of San Francisco. I don't think using Tasers is the right course of action for the SFPD. Tasers are dangerous weapons that lead to an increasing number of accidents and are associated with many health conditions.

I would like the SFPD to train in better de-escalation protocols and the use of non-violent weapons to engage with citizens as much as possible, especially since our city sees many issues with mental health patients and people in distress. I understand the use of force is a fact of police function, but I think tasers don't contribute significantly as a viable option for our community.

Best regards,

Lena Gunn
Bernal Heights
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Tyler Breisacher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Please no tasers!

I already do not trust SFPD as it is. If they get more weapons that have the potential to be lethal, I believe that people's trust in the police will degrade even more.

At the meeting the other night, we heard from one of the officers that their draft policy protects people by prohibiting them from use tasers on people who are underweight, pregnant, suffering a mental health crisis, etc. If an officer is in an intense situation requiring quick thinking, I don't believe they can run through that list and reliably guess if a person fits any of those descriptions.

Please vote no on giving more deadly weapons to the police.

Tyler



584 Castro Street #333
San Francisco CA 94114-2512

formerly "Merchants of Upper Market & Castro – MUMC"
415/431-2359

Info@CastroMerchants.com
www.CastroMerchants.com

September 23, 2017

by Email to David.Lazar@SFGov.org, Garret.Tom@SFGov.org

Commander David Lazar
Captain Garret Tom
San Francisco Police Department
Community Engagement Unit
1245 Third Street
San Francisco CA 94158

Re: SFPD Use of Conductive Energy Devices (CED's, aka "Tasers")

Dear Commander Lazar and Captain Tom,

Thank you for Captain Tom's September 12, 2017 email about this topic.

This confirms that the Board of San Francisco's **Castro Merchants** (formerly "Merchants of Upper Market & Castro – MUMC") voted unanimously at its regular monthly Meeting this past week to SUPPORT San Francisco Police Department's use of Conductive Energy Devices (CED's, aka "Tasers."). We urge the San Francisco Police Commission and other approving bodies and individuals to promptly adopt this as policy, and to fully implement it with appropriate training and operational procedures as soon as possible.

CASTRO MERCHANTS represents business owners and managers in San Francisco's Castro-Upper Market area, generally along Upper Market Street from Castro Street to Octavia Blvd.; Castro from Market to 19th Street; and commercially-zoned portions of cross streets throughout that area. **CASTRO MERCHANTS** has over 300 paid Members for 2017-2018. Our local Members are served primarily by SFPD's Mission Station, with additional support in appropriate areas from Park and Northern Stations.

Please share this message of support thru appropriate channels with all members of the San Francisco Police Commission.

..... continued



CASTRO MERCHANTS

San Francisco Police Department
Community Engagement Unit

September 23, 2017
Page 2

Please let us know if you have questions regarding Castro Merchants SUPPORT for CEDs/Tasers and related items. Please also arrange for this letter to be included in the matter's permanent file and any successor files, and assure that it is provided to all relevant Commissions, hearing panels and individuals at the time that this matter is considered by them. Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Bergerac".

Daniel Bergerac, President

cc by email: SFPD Mission Station, Capt. Bill Griffin; Park Station, Capt. John Sanford;
Northern Station, Capt. John Jaimerena
SF District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy and staff

.... LtrSFPDTasers092317

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

JEFF ADACHI – PUBLIC DEFENDER
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY



Sept. 25, 2017

San Francisco Police Commission
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street, San Francisco, California 94158
Email: sfpd.commission@sfgov.org

Dear Police Commissioners:

As the Public Defender of the City and County of San Francisco, I write to urge you not to approve arming San Francisco Police officers with Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs.)

ECWs have been a contributing factor in hundreds, if not thousands, of deaths. A recent investigative series by *Reuters* documented 1,005 incidents in the U.S. in which people died after being stunned by a Taser. A quarter of the casualties were people suffering mental health breakdowns or neurological disorders and in desperate need of help. In fact, more than 100 started with a 911 call for help during a medical emergency. The *Reuters* investigation highlights the weapon's lack of efficacy and the shifting of liability from TASER to police departments and cities.

According to *The Guardian's* series "The Counted," which tracks U.S. police killings, there were 72 people killed in Taser events in 2015 and 2016. Amnesty International has documented more than 500 deaths that occurred after the use of Tasers from 2001-2012 (California had the most deaths with 92.)

Studies rating the safety and effectiveness of ECWs has had mixed results at best. A 2009 study by UCSF examining data from 50 police agencies found in-custody deaths jumped sharply in the first year Tasers were used. While safety tests on police and military volunteers show little danger, that is because the people being shocked are healthy and calm, and in a controlled environment. These studies do not account for prolonged or repeated shocks and the use of restraints.

I am additionally troubled by the lack of any independent studies on the safety and efficacy of the new generation of ECWs—the X2 or X26P—which are the only weapons available for purchase by the SFPD. There is also no cost-benefit analysis to adopting the program.

Finally, I am concerned about adopting a new weapon before the SFPD has completed and integrated all training on the Use of Force and CIT policies. Without such training, San Francisco police officers risk using Tasers in inappropriate situations such as traffic stops or

Adult Division - HOJ
555 Seventh Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
P: 415.553.1671
F: 415.553.9810
www.sfpdpublicdefender.org

Juvenile Division - YGC
375 Woodside Avenue, Rm. 118
San Francisco, CA 94127
P: 415.753.7601
F: 415.566.3030

Juvenile Division - JJC
258A Laguna Honda Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94116
P: 415.753.8174
F: 415.753.8175

Clean Slate
P: 415.553.9337
www.sfpdpublicdefender.org/services

Community Justice Center
P: 415.202.2832
F: 415.563.8506

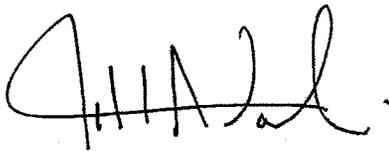
Bayview Magic
P: 415.558.2428
www.bayviewmagic.org

MoMagic
P: 415.567.0400
www.momagic.org

nuisance complaints. While ECWs were originally proposed as alternatives to lethal force, many police officers have been documented using them routinely to gain "pain compliance."

My office represents approximately 20,000 of San Francisco's most vulnerable citizens. Like all San Franciscans, they would be far better served by officer training that focused on crisis intervention than electronic weaponry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Adachi". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "A".

Jeff Adachi
San Francisco Public Defender

RECEIVED
9-26-17

To Whom It May Concern:

There has been ongoing discussion about potentially equipping SFPD officers with Tasers. If I'm not mistaken, San Francisco experienced two previous instances in which Tasers were voted down, and the reasons for the opposition were substantial. It is my hope that SFPD and the Police Commission decline Tasers, and that they instead say "yes" to giving the Crisis Intervention Training a full chance to come to fruition, as I don't believe that has happened yet. I would love to see what happens if police officers have the full range of de-escalation techniques in their toolkit, as that could allow them to foster understanding with the persons they must confront. If SFPD approaches those persons with an item that could be perceived as a weapon, fear may surface, which can rapidly create a tense and scary situation.

Sincerely,

Reuben Alvear

Reuben Alvear

September 26, 2017

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

RE: Tenderloin Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Response to Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs)

San Francisco Police Commission:

The Tenderloin Community Police Advisory Board extensively reviewed available research materials and engaged in multiple in-depth discussions regarding the implementation of Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) for SFPD. Discussions included rigorous debate with the Tenderloin Station Police Captain to consider the perspectives of all parties that make up the Tenderloin neighborhood. The Tenderloin CPAB voted 6 to 2 *against* CEDs implementation and found the following reasons for concern:

1. The Tenderloin is a unique neighborhood that disproportionately houses some of San Francisco's most high-risk and vulnerable populations.

The Tenderloin CPAB membership represents the views of the incredible diversity that makes up the Tenderloin neighborhood: high-risk and vulnerable populations, families, professionals, and police officers. Unique to the Tenderloin is the disproportionately high level of individuals suffering from chronic and episodic physical, mental and substance-related health issues. Housed or unhoused, individuals in the Tenderloin with such conditions are more likely to receive law-enforcement interventions.

Per CEDs and law-enforcement guidelines: persons who are physically slight, ill, disabled mentally ill, or intoxicated, are not to be targeted by CEDs weaponry due to the risk of death and serious injury. Due to the difficulty of accurately assessing an individual's state of health especially in a moment of crisis, CEDs may be an especially risky and lethal intervention with these populations, unduly harming community members and police-community relations.

2. Available CEDs research and evidence do not consistently demonstrate that CEDs will increase community safety, which includes the safety of police officers.

The Tenderloin CPAB believes in the need for more safety for our community. We also believe officer safety is important. We understand that CEDs may support police officers to feel more empowered and equipped to do their jobs and help them to feel more safe. However, we also examined available evidence and research on the effectiveness of CEDs for increasing overall community safety and police officer safety and did not find strong, consistent indicators that CEDs will help meet this need:

- Stanford University's Electronic Control Weapons study demonstrates that major injuries to police officers were not reduced by CEDs implementation. While CEDs implementation correlated with reduction in minor injuries sustained by police officers, continued focus on nonviolent intervention strategies may also reduce injuries, with less danger to the community.
- Recent data from Los Angeles Police Department shows that CEDs are ineffective at subduing targets up to 47% of the time. This fail-rate may be greater with the new lower-voltage models of the CED weapon. Unsuccessful subdual can easily escalate situations and lead to requiring increased use of force.

3. The projected cost for quality CEDs implementation is unknown.

The proposed cost and budget resources for CEDs implementation is unknown to the Tenderloin CPAB. Some studies have shown CEDs implementation to require significant costs to include proper and adequate training for and oversight of CEDs weaponry implementation, ongoing oversight and accountability during CEDs weaponry deployment, and continued data collection for learning and improvement. We are concerned with the unknown true cost of CEDs implementation and how that may impact other urgently important tasks of reforming department policies, practices, and cultures around the U.S. Department of Justice's 5 key findings *use of force, community engagement, personnel, accountability and bias*.

In conclusion, the Tenderloin CPAB would like to urge the San Francisco Police Commission to consider the following recommendations:

1. The Tenderloin CPAB is excited about the current direction that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) is taking which includes crisis intervention training (CIT), policy reform, and other non-lethal approaches to community safety and positive community-police relations. Along those lines, the CIT Police Officer of the Year award has not received the level of recognition and celebration that it deserves as it may be one of the bedrocks of community policing – having the skills to safely deescalate a situation where all parties can walk away unharmed. Let us celebrate that achievement more to support cultural shifts.
2. Provide more transparency on the true cost of CEDS implementation for San Francisco. This includes how much and where the resources are being drawn from, and the implications on how this may or may not detract from other simultaneous efforts in progress to improve community policing and trust. If the financial resources are not restricted to CEDs implementation, then consider other possible solutions that more effectively protect police officers and keep our communities safe without the addition of weaponry.
3. Despite the diversity that is represented on the Tenderloin CPAB and possibly other CPABs in San Francisco also, we are still a narrow representation of everyone who lives and works in San Francisco. One consideration is to introduce CEDs implementation for

SFPD on a citywide ballot measure for San Francisco's residents to vote on the matter directly.

4. See through the full implementation of other DOJ recommendations before revisiting CEDs implementation, such as body cameras. We believe there is still a lot that has yet to be gleaned and learned from current police initiatives. Specifically, increase accuracy of law enforcement data collection to improve data/accountability systems to better inform future decision making in this area.

Sincerely,

Brian Sheehy, CEO at Future Bars Group

Dan Barton, Director of Human Resources at Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS)

Doug Gary, Director at Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH)

Elizabeth Orlin, Chief Operating Officer at Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC)

Rita Shimmin, Executive Director at GLIDE Foundation

Simon Lewis, CEO at Dataway

Shelton Yee, Director of Operations at The Salvation Army San Francisco Ray and Joan Kroch Center/Railton Place

Rev. Tim Svoboda, Coordinator at Youth with a Mission (YWAM) San Francisco and Bay Area

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Alfonso Faustino, Jr. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 5:29 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Support SFPD CED Program

Dear Commissioner:

My family and I support Commander David Lazar's CED program:

Mother: Julie Faustino
Sister: Irene Faustino
Author Of This Email: Alfonso Faustino

Thanks, in advance, for your time and consideration given to this email.

My address is:
Alfonso Faustino

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Respectfully yours,
/s/ Alfonso Faustino

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Jane Wiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:22 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Jane Wiser
Subject: CED program proposal support

Dear Commissioner,

I support Commander David Lazar's CED program.

My address is [REDACTED]

Thank you,

Jane

Jane Wiser
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Jane Wiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:43 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Cc: Jane Wiser
Subject: CED Policy Support

Dear Commissioner,

Please add my family members to the list of support for David Lazar's CED program. They are all residents of San Francisco:

Charles "Chip" Wiser
Alison Wiser, daughter, 31 years
Emily Wiser, daughter, 29 years
Charles Wiser, II, 23 years

Thank you,

Jane

Jane Wiser
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: Scott Tandoi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 9:21 AM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: CED program

Dear Commissioner:

My family and I support Commander David Lazar's CED program:

Thanks, in advance, for your time and consideration given to this email.

Scott Tandoi

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: james conger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 8:46 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: Email Against the Adoption of Tasers

Dear Police Commission --

I am writing to let you know my full opposition to the adoption of tasers by the SFPD. I understand that it may seem like the more options the better for police, but this view fails to see the complex and nuanced view of police interactions with citizens. Indeed, the research from BASF and others makes clear that this endangers the public to a far greater degree and does not keep police safer. I base this on my research into this issue and my 15 years working in the criminal justice system.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint on this matter and I hope that you will view the complexity of this situation and the overwhelming percentage of San Franciscans that do not want tasers in their community. We are better than that and can deescalate situations in other, safer ways.

Thank you

James Conger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mark R. Vermeulen
Attorney at Law

[REDACTED]

September 27, 2017

Email: sfpd.commission@sfgov.org

SF Police Commission and Chief William Scott
Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, California 94158

Re: Opposition to the proposed use of ECWs (TASERS®)

To the Honorable Commission and Chief Scott:

I strongly urge you not to approve the use of ECWs (TASERS®) by the SFPD. The extensive research regarding the risks, the costs, and the lack of efficacy associated with ECWs make clear that they are a tool that should not be approved. Additionally, the lack of testing/research on the current model available for purchase by SFPD, and the competing priorities for the SFPD's reform needs in light of the 272 Recommendations of the DOJ/COPS Report, further counsel against adopting the purchase and use of ECWs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark R.

Vermeulen

Mark R. Vermeulen

Digitally signed by Mark R. Vermeulen
DN: cn=Mark R. Vermeulen, o=Law Office
of Mark R. Vermeulen, ou,
email=vermeulen@mindspring.com, c=US
Date: 2017.09.27 15:05:45 -07'00'

Tom, Risa (POL)

From: V.Roy Lefcourt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 9:51 PM
To: SFPD, Commission (POL)
Subject: use of taser policy

Dear Commission:

I strongly urge you to maintain your policy of opposing the use of tasers by the San Francisco Police Department. The science concerning tasers prove that they are unsafe and can result in death. Authorizing its use would endanger citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

V.ROY LEFCOURT
Attorney At Law

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
R 9/28/11

Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street,
San Francisco, California 94158

Honorable Commissioners:

By way of identification only, I am a co-chair of the Richmond District Community Police Advisory Board. While I suspect most, if not all, of the members of our CPAB would subscribe to this letter, I write as an individual.

A lot of noise made in a small room by a few unruly "activists" does not represent the greater San Francisco community. While the term has been properly out of favor for 50 years because of its association with a discredited politician, there is a "silent majority" of people who get up each morning, go to work each day, love their families and simply want the police to do their job—serve and protect. Screaming by people who dislike/distrust the police anyway should not influence your decision about whether police should be trained on CEDs and carry them as a tool.

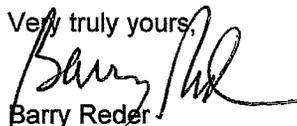
Those who are concerned that CEDs may, under unusual circumstances, kill are ignoring the facts that guns can kill as well, and there are some limited circumstances under which lethal force is necessary and appropriate. To have a usually less lethal tool available to trained officers can only be a good thing.

Yes, there can be police misbehavior—indeed, I joined the CPAB in part because I witnessed one such event many years ago. But with proper education, training and supervision, I believe that police can and should be trusted to carry out their obligations to the society that has entrusted them with the right to carry and use firearms.

You have far more information than I can ever have about the merits and risks of CEDs; I write only to urge you to consider that information on its merits and not be intimidated by a small, loud, organized band of unruly individuals who do not represent any material constituency other than themselves.

I urge you approve the use of CEDs by properly trained officers.

Very truly yours,


Barry Reder

