



POLICE DEPARTMENT

# AGENDA REPORT

**DATE:** July 17, 2007

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Chris Magnus, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Approve the Contract with PROFORCE MARKETING for the Purchase of Taser® Brand Conducted Energy Devices

## **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:**

The police department has previously allocated funding to purchase conducted energy devices (TASERS®) to be supplied to our patrol officers in order to increase their efficiency and to provide them with alternatives to the use of deadly force.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

APPROVE the contract with PROFORCE MARKETING for the purchase of TASERS® brand conducted energy devices. (Chief Chris Magnus, 620-6655)

## **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Pending

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:**

The fiscal impact regarding this project will be \$86,435.75. This expenditure has been included within the approved fiscal year 2006/2007 budget, Account String 1000-10029-51105.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Richmond Police Department is constantly striving to identify new strategies to facilitate safer encounters between police officers and violent persons. One of these strategies includes focusing on less-lethal force options. The goal is to provide police officers with alternatives to deadly force in order to minimize harm to both violent/dangerous individuals and police officers.

Along with the use of bean bag projectiles and oleoresin capsicum sprays, conducted energy devices (CEDs--most commonly known as Tasers®) have become a prominent option for officers to use when employing less than lethal force during high-risk arrest situations.

Conducted energy devices (CED) are intended to deliver an electrical charge sufficient to momentarily disrupt a subject's neuromuscular system, temporarily incapacitating a targeted person allowing an officer better control of the individual while subduing or arresting them.

The most commonly deployed CED is the Taser®, which is manufactured by Taser® International. A survey of law enforcement agencies in the State of California was conducted at our request through the California Police Chiefs Association which resulted in 40 responses. Of these replies, 39 agencies deployed CEDs and all utilized the Taser® product supplied by Taser International.

The Taser® is designed to have a shape similar to a handgun and has the capability to operate in one of two modes: "probe" and "touch stun." In the probe mode, the cartridges project, through a set of wires, a pair of barbs that attaches to (or penetrates) a person's skin or clothing in order to create an incapacitating electrical current. In the touch stun mode, electrical contacts on the Taser® are pressed directly onto a person and there is a similar, but reduced neuromuscular effect. Deployment of the Taser® in either mode will be strictly controlled under the department's Use of Force Guidelines.

Through this purchase, the department will obtain 100 Tasers®. These Tasers® will be deployed to our patrol officers and supervisors in order to provide them with another option to use when employing less than lethal force during high-risk situations.

#### **DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:**

Attachment 1: Sole Source Documentation  
TASER International Sole Distributor Letter