



## **Staff Report**

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### REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF TASER DEPLOYMENT BY BELMONT PD OFFICERS

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

#### **Summary**

Staff is sharing with Council the plan to expand our current use of the X26 hand-held Taser as a force option tool. Currently, only supervisors and a few designated officers are issued a Taser. Funds have been earmarked to expand this program to better provide for the safety of our officers and those violent suspects that we encounter. With the purchase of additional X26 Tasers, each patrol officer will be equipped with an additional less-lethal option during a violent encounter.

#### **Background**

For decades, Belmont PD supervisors and some officers have carried some form of electronic less-lethal force option device. Over the past five years, the X26 Taser has been the tool of choice. During that time, Belmont PD officers have used the Taser on three violent suspects. Each time, the Taser has successfully deescalated potentially lethal situations while ensuring the health and safety of our officers and those suspects who were taken into custody. None of those suspects suffered any long term health problems as a result of the event, which is consistent with the studies and literature that we have reviewed on the use of Tasers as less-lethal force options. A current Belmont PD policy is in place which covers the use and deployment of the X26 Taser as a force option tool.

#### **Discussion**

The X26 Taser has proven to be a valuable tool in deescalating physically violent suspects while reducing long-term injuries to officers and suspects alike. For that reason, Belmont PD staff has created this plan and earmarked funding within the current budget to outfit each of our patrol officers. As part of that plan, eleven X26 Tasers will be purchased immediately.

Most of our personnel have already been trained by certified instructors in the proper use of the Taser. The remainder will be properly trained prior to being outfitted with the Taser. This training will also be completed using the current training budget.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Available funds totaling less than \$10,000 have been identified for this project. Those funds are available within the current year’s budget. No additional transfer of funds to the Police budget will be necessary.

**Public Contact**

This item has been placed on the City Council agenda.

**Recommendation**

Staff offers this report to communicate with the City Council the intended plan of action set forth herein. No formal action by the City Council is required.

**Alternatives**

1. Refer back to staff for further information.

**Attachments**

Belmont Police Policy – Section 308 “Control Devices and Techniques”.

Respectfully submitted,

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Daniel J. DeSmidt  
Lieutenant

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Donald J. Mattei  
Chief of Police

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Jack Crist  
City Manager