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City Council Approves Upgrade for San Diego Police TASERs

UPGRADED DEVICE MAKES LESS-LETHAL TOOL MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PREVIOUS MODEL

San Diego – The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is committed to using de-escalation to peacefully resolve potentially dangerous situations. For the rare occasions when an officer needs to use force, the City Council approved today an agreement for SDPD to upgrade to the latest [TASER 10 Energy Weapon](#) by Axon Enterprise Inc.

The TASER 10 uses low levels of pulsed electrical current to temporarily alter subject mobility by inducing neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI). NMI works by sending a signal to muscles, causing them to contract, similar to off-the-shelf muscle stimulators used in rehab and therapy. The pulsed current delivered is extremely low, far below the level needed to cause physical damage to the body, and enables the officer to bring the situation to a resolution before further harm can be done to themselves or others.

“Our officers deserve the best equipment to enable them to protect this City,” Police Chief David Nisleit said. “The TASER 10 design is a game-changer and will make the TASER more effective when used in situations that warrant less-lethal force. I’m grateful to our City Council for signing off on this much-needed upgrade for our officers.”

Currently, SDPD officers carry the X-26P model TASER, which has a range of 21 feet. When the X-26P is fired, two probes fire at the same time at different angles. To be effective, the probes must connect with the person and produce a charge. Officers must mentally calculate the distance and spread of the two probes while taking into account a person’s movements and clothing.

The TASER 10 offers more opportunities with its 10 probe technology to stop a threat without reloading and has a range of up to 45 feet. The first probe discharges without electrical output, while the second probe will begin the charge to achieve NMI. If the initial probes do not achieve effective NMI, subsequent

probes provide additional chances to do so. TASER 10 sounds a unique noise to alert the officer that a connection has been made.

TASER 10 avoids delivering more charge than necessary. Regardless of how many probes make a connection, the device will only deliver current to the best four connections. Additionally, the TASER 10 has a reduced voltage of approximately 1,000 volts, compared with the previous 50,000 volts with the TASER 7.

"The development of TASER 10 was driven by Axon's mission to provide public safety with advanced tools to protect lives," said Axon CEO and Founder Rick Smith. "The San Diego Police Department brings this mission to life with their strong commitment to advancing public safety. TASER 10 marks a major step toward a less-lethal future and is key to advancing our moonshot goal. We aspire to see SDPD's adoption of TASER 10 deliver on their dedication to reducing gun-related deaths between police and the public, ultimately protecting more lives."

The TASER 10 also has a built-in function to activate any body-worn cameras (BWC) within 30 feet that are in buffering mode when the TASER is turned on. SDPD officers are required to leave their BWCs in buffering mode while on duty, except where prohibited [per department policy](#). The automatic activation feature could be useful if an officer comes into sudden contact with a situation where they don't have time to activate their BWC immediately.

The five-year agreement between SDPD and Axon allows the department to purchase TASERs for approximately 1,860 sworn officers. The first year of the agreement is anticipated to cost \$1.95 million for the purchase and training associated with rolling out the new device. The cost of the five-year agreement will not exceed \$9.75 million.

SDPD's Training Unit underwent a 30-day testing and evaluation period of TASER 10. Their analysis deemed it an effective tool for officers to use and could potentially decrease officer-involved shootings.

Following today's approval, SDPD joins a list of agencies that have upgraded to the new device since its launch in July 2023, including the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, among others. SDPD will be the first in San Diego County to acquire the device.

SDPD will begin training and rolling out TASER 10 to officers this fall.

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