

Village of Carol Stream

SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

6:00 P.M.

**GREGORY J. BIELAWSKI MUNICIPAL CENTER
500 N. GARY AVENUE
CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS 60188**

BOARD ROOM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ATTENDANCE
3. INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TASERS
4. OTHER BUSINESS
5. ADJOURNMENT

Village of Carol Stream
Interdepartmental Memo

TO: Village Board

VIA: Village Manager Bob Mellor

FROM: Commander Michael Zochert and Chief Ed Sailer

DATE: May 28, 2019

RE: Participation in an Axon Funded Taser Study

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to determine the usefulness of Conductive Energy Devices (Tasers) as a supplement the department's current less lethal options and to request permission to enter into an agreement to participate in a 2-year study of their use.

BACKGROUND

During the FY-2020 budget discussions, the Police Department proposed implementation of a Taser program through partnership with our insurance pool, the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) and Axon, (formerly Taser International).

IMRA staff worked with Axon to secure a no cost Taser Study for the Carol Stream Police Department to address the number one cause of department officer injuries - combative encounters with arrestees. Department officers are limited in their choice of tools to facilitate an arrest without having to use hands-on tactical techniques, which greatly increase risk of officer injury and the risk of injury to the arrestee in the encounter.

This program is recommended by IRMA and was recommended as a tool to help reduce the number of combative workers compensation injuries to our police officers. IRMA has proposed that we address combative encounters with arrestees, which is a significant cause of police officer injuries. Tasers have been shown to be an effective tool to reduce officer and arrestee injuries. This has the potential to reduce worker compensation claims by our police officers arising from combative encounters. IRMA has arranged for Axon to provide to the Village, at no cost:

- Study Methodology and a grant to Dr. Darrell Ross (researcher, author) to perform pre/during/post study analyses.
- Sufficient X-7 Tasers and accessories for the study.
- Taser training and other study related materials and equipment to accomplish the study.

DEVICE

A Taser is a Conducted Energy Device. It is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury to that individual and our employees. Using pulses of electricity, this device targets motor nerves that control movement. This restraint allows for control of a subject while reducing risk of injury to both the subject and our employees.

Tasers would supplement the department's current defensive tactics training program and use of force tools. Appropriate training and policy controls would allow for use of a Taser under specific conditions when a subject is violent, physically resisting, or has demonstrated an intention to be violent and reasonably appears to present a threat of harm to officers, the assailant or others.

The application or use of a Taser would meet the standard of reasonableness by which other uses of force are judged and would not be practicable in every use of force event.

A presentation at the workshop on Monday night will provide information on the use of Conducted Energy Devices (Tasers) by Police Departments first developed in the 1960s and becoming widely accepted as a less lethal method to gain compliance by police departments in the late 1990s. After the presentation, the Police Department requests direction from the Village Board to pursue an agreement with Axon to begin a 2-year, no cost trial of the Taser devices, which would be presented for your consideration at a subsequent Board meeting.

REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT TASER STUDY

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY

- IRMA has arranged and endorses our participation in a 2-year Study – at no cost to the Village.
- IRMA would like to supplement our efforts to address combative encounters with arrestees.
- Allows for development, implementation, and evaluation of a Carol Stream Police Department TASER program before agreeing to expend funds.
- Training and equipment are free – we are required to forward data to a researcher.

WHAT ARE TASERS

- TASER is a common name for a Conducted Energy Device. Taser International became AXON in 2017 and is a leading source for these devices.
- The TASER device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury to officers and subjects.



LEVELS OF TASER DEPLOYMENT

- Presence
- Verbal
- Display
- Arc
- Laser
- Probe Deployment or Drive Stun

POLICY BASICS

- Key points of the draft policy
 - Requires Verbal and Visual Warnings unless not practicable.
 - Used when a subject is violent, physically resisting, demonstrates an intention by words or actions to be violent and reasonably appears to present potential harm to officers or others.
 - Not used against subjects who are known to be pregnant, elderly, obvious juveniles, low body mass, handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
 - Cannot be used in some circumstances where secondary injury can be anticipated.

WHY

- Aging Employee base
- Size Disparity
- IRMA Endorsement of our Participation
 - To help address combative encounters with arrestees.
 - Village will remain on Workers Comp. Focus Program until Taser Program approved.

WHY

- Reasonable Standard
 - Use of Force Cases
 - LaQuan McDonald Jury Comment

2 YEAR PROCESS

- Once Approved to enter into the agreement
 - Selected officers would become Trainers.
 - Review and modify our draft Policy.
 - Officers would be trained.
 - Field Testing.
 - Study / Program Review and Conclusion.

FUTURE COSTS

- A Device provided to Every Officer
 - Wear and Tear
 - Greater level of care
 - Immediate Availability
- TASER 60 Plan Allows for 5 annual Payments of \$43,500

SUMMARY

- 2 year study allows the department to evaluate Tasers before purchase without expending funds.
- Endorsed by IRMA, supplements existing Defensive Tactics Program.
- Reasonableness remains the standard for evaluating Use of Force incidents – trending towards Judicial and Public expectations these alternative options are readily available.
- Staff recommends entering into agreement with Axon and seeks Village Board direction.