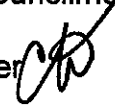




Office of the City Manager

January 9, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Christine Daniel, City Manager 
Subject: Study on the use of Taser/Electronic Control Weapon*

On May 6, 2014, the Council directed the City Manager to research and report back to the City Council regarding the history, potential benefits, impacts, and possible unintended consequences of allowing Berkeley police to carry and use Tasers, and to include in the report information regarding other jurisdictions "best practices" and protocols, an analysis of changes in technologies, and the feasibility of doing a pilot program, with further direction that the City Manager also consult with the Police Review Commission and the Community Health Commission.

After an extensive search for an organization that could best perform the necessary research and analysis, the City engaged the Stanford Criminal Justice Center (SCJC) to conduct such a study. The work will be done by SCJC on a pro bono basis. The selection of this organization was made with consultation from representatives of the two commissions.

Founded in 2005, SCJC serves as a research and policy institute focused on the criminal justice system. Its efforts are geared towards policy research for the public sector, as well as providing pedagogical opportunities to Stanford Law School students with academic or career interests in criminal law and crime policy. The project will be overseen by SCJC Executive Director Debbie Mukamal and Professor David Sklansky. The work on the study will begin this month and conclude by June 2015.

cc: Beth Pollard, Interim Deputy City Manager
Zach Cowan, City Attorney
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Michael Meehan, Police Chief
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer

*Since "Taser" is a brand name, the City is using the more generic term "electronic control weapon" for purposes of the study.