



# City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 13, 2021

**TO:** Christine Daniel, City Manager

**FROM:** Office of the Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The City Manager To Accept A Grant Award On Behalf Of The Police Department, From The FY2021 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) In The Amount Of \$10,613.13 For Funds Related To Conducted Energy Devices

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council of the City of Emeryville to adopt the above-entitled resolution approving the grant award funding from the FY2021 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$10,613.13 for seven conducted energy devices (Tasers). The Police Department was awarded this grant funding from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office who administers the JAG grant programs. The equipment requested would be used by the patrol staff to increase officer safety, to have less-than-lethal options when encountering potentially volatile incidents/people, and to have the ability to de-escalate incidents.

### BACKGROUND

The JAG program is an annual pass-through grant from the federal government. Alameda County Sheriff's Office manages the grant and disperses funding to municipalities in the County for equipment, training, and resources as needed. The Police Department applied for and was granted \$10,613.13 in funding for seven new conducted energy devices, commonly referred to as Tasers.

The Police Department has had Tasers for approximately 10 years and has been able to provide officers with this vital piece of equipment consistently throughout these fiscally challenging times. As many City Departments face budget challenges because of the pandemic, the Police Department believes this grant funding would be best used for purchasing new Taser devices. Some of the Taser devices being used by the patrol staff are more than seven years old and need replacement. Generally, the company who manufactures Tasers, Axon Inc., recommends Tasers be rotated out of use at five years.

While the officers rarely use the Taser devices in the field, they can be used to de-escalate a situation, and it is best practice to provide the officers with this option. The Police Department has a current policy on the use of the conducted energy device and has three in-house trainers who provide new officer and annual training to all sworn staff. This excellent resource, current policy, and expert training show how committed the Police

Department is to not only providing our officers with safe, effective equipment for intervention, but how disciplined our officers are at managing the use of this tool.

The grant period is October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023.

## **DISCUSSION**

The benefits of accepting this grant award will directly impact safety in our City. The conducted energy devices will provide officers with another tool to de-escalate and resolve potentially violent situations without having to resort to higher levels of force. The equipment will also provide the Police Department with the ability to keep our officers properly equipped, particularly during these financially challenging times.

Like all tools and technologies available to law enforcement, the Taser devices must also be carefully managed, and staff needs to ensure proper training. As noted above, the Police Department has a rigorous training program for our staff and has a current Department policy on the use of conducted energy devices by staff.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The fiscal impact to the City will be the initial expenditure of costs associated with the purchase of the proposed equipment. However, since the FY2021 JAG grant operates through a reimbursement process, there will be no real impact to the budget. Some police staff time will be required to administer the awarded grant but this staff time will be considered part of their normal duties. It is anticipated the initial expenditure for the equipment will come from the FY21/22 budget and the reimbursements will be received during the same fiscal year.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC**

As of this time, there has been no communication with the public as the grant award funding.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

## **CONCLUSION**

This program offers a great opportunity for the City of Emeryville, the Emeryville Police Department and to the Emeryville community. Staff recommends accepting the grant award to enhance our community safety capabilities within our community.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Jennings, Chief of Police  
By: Oliver Collins, Captain

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



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Christine Daniel, City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Resolution
2. Grant Application
3. EPD Conducted Energy Device Policy