



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: SHERIFF

Board Meeting Date: 7/23/2019

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Carlos G. Bolanos, Sheriff
Subject: TASER and Use of Force
Update to the February 11, 2019 Study Session

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, there were three deaths involving the use of the TASER by three different law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County. One of these three incidents involved Sheriff's Office personnel. The tragic loss of life led the Board of Supervisors to request a Study Session. Sheriff's Office staff examined topics raised during the study session and is in the process of incorporating a number of changes to policies, equipment and training. These changes will be highlighted and presented to the Board.

DISCUSSION:

The following items have been studied and are in the process of being implemented:

Use of Force Policy - A revised Use of Force Policy has been drafted and contains an overarching philosophy emphasizing the safeguarding of human life and dignity, establishing communication and de-escalation. The areas of the policy that contain the most significant changes are those addressing circumstances under which a TASER may be used and placing a numerical limit on the number of TASER activations.

Updates to TASER Training and Use of Force Training - The TASER training program has been enhanced by incorporating additional training materials. Once the new use of force policy is adopted, the Sheriff's Office will conduct agency-wide training with an emphasis on the changes from our existing policy.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) - An AED will be added to each of the Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles.

Implicit Bias Training - The Sheriff's Office will be conducting additional Implicit Bias Training this year for all levels of the organization.

Expansion of the PERT Program - The Psychiatric Emergency Response Team will expand in the Fall of 2019, from one to two teams.

Alternative Use of Force Option - A 40mm launcher loaded with a less lethal blunt impact projectile will be added to all of the Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles. This type of device can be useful in a variety of situations, especially those where an individual is armed with a weapon other than a firearm.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Accepting this report will have no fiscal impact.