



Text File

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Committee: Committee on Public Safety
Services

Status: Passed Finally

Presented by Mr. Hertzberg

Requesting the Mayor and Chief of Police to investigate the nationwide state-of-the-art use of non-lethal restraining weapons such as the Taser Gun and the utilization of Mental Health Crisis Management Intervention Teams, for implementation in Pittsburgh.

Whereas, the nation watches with horror at news stories of police beatings that result in the maiming or death of resistant suspects being taken into custody, and

Whereas, this Council appreciates that police have a difficult and dangerous job of protecting the public and taking into custody, suspects who resist arrest, and

Whereas, Council also acknowledges that many suspects causing disturbances may indeed be breaking the law, or posing a threat to the public, or to police officers, but may at the same time be having a mental crisis, and

Whereas, Council recognizes that professional policing practices would prefer to restrain a suspect and take them into custody with minimum force necessary

Whereas, Council believes that the policing policy of the City of Pittsburgh should include the use of non-lethal restraint weapons, where appropriate, and

Whereas, Council further believes that situations that are clearly mental health related should be diffused by Mental Health Crisis Management professionals, under police supervision...

Be it Resolved that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The Mayor and Chief of Police are hereby requested to investigate the nationwide state-of-the-art use of non-lethal restraining weapons such as the Taser Gun and the utilization of Mental Health Crisis Management Intervention Teams, for implementation in Pittsburgh.

Section 2. The Chief of Police and the Citizens Police Review Board each are hereby requested to appear at a televised Post Agenda meeting of City Council, within 30 days from today, to share their findings and recommendation with Council and the public regarding both the use of the Taser Gun and incorporation of Mental Health Crisis Intervention Teams.