



Why the Berkeley Police Association Supports Tasers

Tasers save lives, prevent injuries and save money.

105 of 113 Bay Area Agencies Use Tasers; Berkeley is the Only One NOT Yet Investigating Tasers

The Berkeley Police Department and the City of Alameda Police Department are the only two agencies in Alameda County that do not currently use tasers. In the nine-county Bay Area, 105 of 113 law enforcement agencies use tasers; of the eight remaining agencies that have not yet authorized taser use, Berkeley is the only department in the Bay Area that is not currently investigating using tasers in the future.

2011 San Mateo Grand Jury Recommends Deploying Tasers for Sheriff, San Mateo & East Palo Alto

The San Mateo Grand Jury concluded that taser devices are a preferred use of force alternative to the lethal force of a firearm and that tasers result in fewer injuries to police officers and to subjects. *(2011 San Mateo Grand Jury Report entitled "TASERS: Standardizing to Save Lives and Reduce Injuries")*

Tasers Reduce Suspect Injuries

Statistics show that suspect injuries are reduced by 40% in taser agencies compared to non-taser injuries. In Miami-Dade, Florida, the United States Department of Justice found 90% fewer suspect injuries in 2011 when taser use was compared to other force options. *(Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) 2009 Study & US Department of Justice)*

Tasers Reduce Deaths

There are over 3 million documented taser uses in the United States as of December, 2012. Statistics show that, on the average, use of firearms result in 500 deaths and 500 injuries per 1,000 uses – compared to that fact that tasers average 2 injuries per 1,000 uses. *(Taser International)*

Tasers Reduce Officer Injuries

Police agencies that utilize tasers, on the average, experience a 70% reduction in officer injuries compared to agencies that do not use tasers. *(Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) 2009 Study)*

Tasers Reduce the Number of Worker's Compensation Claims

The Worker's Compensation savings generated after Houston, Texas deployed tasers paid for the cost of the tasers with a million dollar surplus. Pre-taser deployment in 2003, the Houston Police Department paid \$2.2 Million in Worker's Compensation claims. After taser deployment, claims in 2007 were reduced to \$148,929 – that's over a \$2 million a year savings. *(Houston Police Department)*

Tasers Reduce Excessive Force Claims

Tasers were introduced in Michigan in 2003, at which time losses for excessive force complaints was \$7.1 million a year. After five years of taser use, excessive force claims were reduced to \$366,600 in 2008 – that's over a \$6 million savings a year. *(Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority)*

What Berkeley Citizens Are Saying About Tasers *(BPA Community Survey to Voters, March 2013)*

- 80% of the residents surveyed said they prefer taser use over physical force and gun use.
- Over 74% of those surveyed are concerned about injuries sustained when police use batons or physical force and the cost of these injuries to Berkeley taxpayers.
- 85% are "greatly concerned" by the probability that firearm/gun use could cause death.
- 83% of Berkeley citizens surveyed indicated that they support the police department investigating the use of tasers in Berkeley to deter and control violent individuals.