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**NOTICE OF MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILMETTE
Wednesday, October 10th, 2018 at 7:00 PM
Village Hall Committee Room (2nd Floor)
1200 Wilmette Ave, Wilmette, Illinois 60091**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes - October 23, 2017

III. New Business

A. Review of Conducted Energy Weapons as a less lethal option for Police

B. Review of Crime Statistics

IV. Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

V. Adjournment



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017
7:00 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL**

Members Present: Trustee Joel Kurzman, Chair
Trustee Senta Plunkett
Trustee Kathy Dodd

Staff Present: Michael Braiman, Assistant Village Manager
Ben Wozney, Fire Chief
Rob Brill, Deputy Fire Chief

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Trustee Kurzman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Committee Members Trustees Plunkett and Dodd were present. Residents and Property Managers from 1500, 1616 and 1630 Sheridan Road were also present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Kurzman directed the Committee’s attention to the draft minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of August 22, 2017. Trustee Dodd moved that the Committee approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Plunkett. All voted aye. The motion carried.

III. RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE VILLAGE’S RESPONSE TO HIGH-RISE LIFE SAFETY QUESTIONS

Trustee Kurzman introduced the Trustees and Fire Officials and expressed his appreciation to all for attending this meeting.

Chief Wozney presented the high-rise life safety matrix and discussed the revisions made to the matrix which were distributed to the impacted buildings on October 10th. The most current matrix is also listed on the Village website.

Mr. Seebocker stated that he had asked for addresses for all of the pre-1975 buildings that are sprinkled per the matrix distributed in the Board packet and thus this is not a valid document since it cannot be validated.

Dan O'Malley, 1630 Sheridan Road, says there is not one pre-1975 building that is not grandfathered in. Mr. O'Malley stated 1900 Sherman is owned by the Cook County Development Housing Authority

Emas Honberg, stated that there was a fire at 1420 Sheridan Road stated there was a fire at this structure but they are exempt from the ordinance and asked why they are exempt.

Chief Wozney stated that the building falls just short of the 75' requirement to trigger the life safety requirements. Former Chief Dominik requested that the State Fire Marshall confirm this building be exempt from the requirements and they did make such confirmation.

Trustee Kurzman stated that the safety of residents and firefighters is critical and as he learns more about fire safety, people's welfare is paramount with all due respect to the aesthetics and financial concerns.

Dan Finn, 1630 Sheridan, stated that the building is a concrete fortress.

Chief Wozney stated that as a last resort, shove something under your door and go out on the balcony. Chief Wozney stated that the room and contents are all flammable, at 1420 Sheridan the temperature reached 1500 degrees. While the building will survive, people will not in those types of environments.

Joe O'Malley, 1630 Sheridan, asked if sprinklers would provide a safer environment for any building whether its residential or commercial. Is there a cost benefit relationship for any building to have sprinklers? Shouldn't the Village Hall have sprinklers? Are there experiences where fires have started in hallways where sprinklers are proposed?

Chief Wozney stated the buildings are not comparable, Village Hall is two stories tall and has numerous points of escape. The purpose of sprinklers in the common areas is that the hallways are a resident's means of escape.

Trustee Kurzman asked how many residents were from each building. There were two residents from 1500 Sheridan Road, three from 1616 Sheridan Road, and about 30 from 1616 Sheridan Road.

Kathleen Finn, 1630 Sheridan, stated she lives on the 8th floor with only two units. Isn't there enough ability to wake up and get out with the high decibel alarm system and the doors which shut, without the need for sprinklers?

Chief Wozney stated that early notification is without a doubt very important, on any given day there are 11 firefighters on duty and we can bring in additional resources from other communities but it takes time. If hallways or stairs are contaminated with smoke, residents will not be able to descend eight flights of stairs.

John Schladwhyler, 1630 Sheridan, asked why of the six buildings, only three are required.

Elizabeth Goobe, 1630 Sheridan, stated her understanding is that residential buildings built before 1975, only one building has been forced to be retrofitted. Why is Wilmette the outlier in this regards?

Trustee Kurzman asked staff to review the comparable matrix to identify which buildings pre-1975 are commercial versus residential.

Lynn Seebocker, 1630 Sheridan, stated that the building was set to comply until they discovered that different municipalities have the ability to waive the requirement.

Dick Schraeder, 1630 Sheridan, asked if the Board could adopt a variance for the sprinkler component of the requirements.

Bud Murdoch, 1630 Sheridan, asked if the Committee is recommending adoption of the ordinance to extend the implementation timeline.

Rob Hammesfahr, 1616 Sheridan, thanked the Village for responding to their questions. In regards to question #10, there was not sufficient risk analysis performed. Given the cost of the project, has there ever been an incident in these three buildings? The residents do not believe the sprinklers are necessary.

The Committee asked staff to provide additional information to include the distinction between commercial and residential buildings in the comparable matrix, the specific addresses of buildings in the matrix, as well as additional risk analysis on question #10.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Plunkett moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm, seconded by Trustee Dodd. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Braiman
Assistant Village Manager



Date: September 24, 2018
To: Timothy J. Frenzer, Village Manager
From: Kyle Murphy, Police Chief
Subject: Purchase of Conducted Energy Weapons (Tasers)

Recommendation

Purchase 18 Tasers to provide Wilmette Police Officers with an additional, non-lethal tool to ensure the safety of Police Officers, Subjects, and bystanders.

Background

Wilmette Police Officers have thousands of contacts with individuals and make hundreds of arrests during the course of any given year. Most situations are resolved without incident, however, there are demonstrated cases each year where a suspect actively resists arrest. From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017, there were 70 documented use of force incidents resulting in 11 instances of injury to an Officer or arrestee. Currently our Police Officers are only authorized to carry pepper spray and a baton to bridge the gap between empty hand techniques and their firearm.

All Wilmette Police Officers are trained in the articulation of commands, de-escalation techniques, the use of empty hand techniques, pepper spray, and expandable baton to subdue uncooperative subjects. To ensure that Police Officers utilize their firearm as an absolute last resort, both the Police Department and the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) recommend implementation of a Taser program.

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by IRMA in regards to the Village's review of Tasers. The full letter is included as Attachment #1.

Of the 62 member police departments in IRMA, 56 have deployed Tasers. We continue to strongly support and recommend the use of Tasers for a well-trained police department to reduce injuries to both officers and non-compliant individuals.

We feel these devices are an effective less lethal tool and ultimately reduce both officer and arrestee injuries. Studies show that the proper use of these devices is likely to reduce liability exposures arising out of the use of deadly force, allow for a lower level of force in many cases, and reduce officer workers' compensation injuries along with injuries to non-compliant subjects related to combative encounters.

Discussion

In reaching the recommendation to implement a Taser program, a committee of Wilmette Police Officers conducted legal research, interviewed law enforcement and risk management agencies, and researched policy and training development. This committee's research will be discussed below in the following sections:

- The operation of Tasers
- When Tasers would be utilized
- Perceived disadvantages to Tasers
- Implementation plan

The Operation of Tasers

Tasers can operate in two modes: a drive-stun mode and a probe mode. In both modes, the Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) work by sending energy down two electrical contacts producing 840 – 1,440 volts when embedded in an individual's torso.

For comparison, the standard U.S. wall outlet generates 120 volts, which is a high continuous current. Tasers, on the other hand have a low, pulsed current. The trigger on the Taser activates a five-second series of low-current pulses. The Taser model the Village would purchase has a pulse duration of 50 -125 microseconds at a rate of 18-20 pulses per second.

In probe mode, the devices use compressed nitrogen to fire two barbed probes at a target. Unlike drive-stun mode, the probes are not directly next to one another and the electrical current is spread across more tissue. When the trigger is pulled, electricity travels along thin wires attached to the probes. In addition to causing pain, the electrical current interferes with the subject's neuromuscular system. The interference causes involuntary muscle contractions, temporarily incapacitating the target and making him or her easier to subdue.

In drive-stun mode, the device's contacts are applied directly to a target and do not have the same incapacitating effect that they usually do in probe mode. This is because the contacts are closer together and do not involve as much tissue. This does, however, cause pain which may deter an individual from continuing his or her behavior.

When Tasers Would be Utilized

There exists a gap in less lethal force options for Wilmette Officers to effectively handle certain incidents involving active resistance. The introduction of an additional less lethal force option such as a Taser, is intended to give Officers an added tool to effectively control a subject who is actively resisting while expectantly reducing the occurrences of serious injury to the subject and or officers. While limitations exist with each less lethal option no one tool, including Tasers, can be solely relied upon.

While there are numerous instances that demonstrate the value of Tasers as an additional less lethal tool, below are two examples having occurred recently which put Police Officers, bystanders, and the suspects at great risk.

Example 1- October 17, 2015

A male subject walked up on two Wilmette Officers on the south side of the police station. The subject was clearly agitated, shirtless with his hand wrapped in a fabric of sort. He took a fighting stance, yelled an expletive and then approached the rear door of the station and punched through the exterior door window. The subject entered the vestibule and punched through the interior glass when the Officers were able to confront the subject. One Officer used pepper spray in an attempt to subdue the subject, the use of which while necessary was not ideal in a confined space due to the potential for contaminating the Officers involved or others responding. This was an extremely violent and dangerous interaction which put all at great risk.

Example 2- March 28, 2018

Wilmette Officers confronted a suspect on the Metra Train who had just committed a series of crimes and was bloodied from an attempted commercial burglary. The subject was non-compliant, actively resisting arrest, appeared to be under the influence of a narcotic, and attempted to disarm one Officer. The struggle lasted over five minutes in length and the offender had incredible strength almost overpowering the two Officers. The struggle over the Officer's holstered weapon was violent, breaking portions of the Officer's duty belt, uniform pants, and displaced the mounted holster. The offender was ultimately subdued and there were only minor injuries to the Officers. Similar to the case above, this was a very dangerous situation not only for the Police Officers but bystanders on the train.

There has been a consistent increase in the number of encounters between Wilmette Police Officers and individuals involving a mental health component, a trend that is not isolated to Wilmette. Between January 1, 2018 and September 1, 2018 the Wilmette Police have had over 200 documented interactions with individuals with a mental health element. While most of these cases are handled without incident, some such as those described above turn violent and an additional non-lethal tool for our Police Officers is necessary.

Perceived Disadvantages to Tasers

The most common misconceptions in regards to Tasers is the risk of potential death associated with usage. The committee reviewed numerous studies which all conclude that there is a very low risk of serious injury or death associated with the use of Tasers. The studies also found conclusive evidence that deployment of Tasers lowers the rates of injuries to Police Officers and suspects.

The following are excerpts from various independent studies conducted in regards to the safety of Tasers. The links to these reports are at the bottom of this memorandum.

National Institute of Justice Report (2008), "Although exposure to CED is not risk free, there is no conclusive medical evidence within the state of current research that indicates a high risk of serious injury or death from the direct effects of CED exposure."

US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (2011), there is currently no medical evidence that CEDs [Tasers] pose a significant risk for induced cardiac dysrhythmia in humans when deployed reasonably". The study also concluded a lower risk of injury with CED use than physical force and "it should be considered as an alternative in situations that would otherwise result in the application of physical force". Additionally, they found CED use resulted in 60% less suspect injuries.

Police Executive Research Forum (2009), a study of Tasers related to the reduction in officer and suspect injuries compared four years of data from seven law enforcement agencies. They compared CED deployment with six matched agencies without Taser deployment. Taser sites had lower rates of officer injuries, suspect severe injuries, and officers and suspects receiving injuries requiring medical attention. Results suggested that Tasers can be effective in helping to minimize physical struggles and resulting injuries in use of force cases.

National Institute of Justice Special Report on the Study of Deaths Following Electro Muscular Disruption (2011), "That arrestees who are involved in use-of force incidents are by nature at higher risk for serious complication and death relative to the overall population. These individuals are more likely to be drug-intoxicated, be mentally ill or have serious underlying medical conditions. There are more than 600 arrest related deaths in the United States each year and roughly 1 million incidents in which police use or threaten to use force. Nonetheless, the CED is cited as a causative or contributory factor in very few arrest related deaths each year. In this context, the relative risk of CED deployments appears to be lower than other use of force options."

University of Washington Medical Center (2009), examined medical records of nearly 900 persons who were subjects of an ECW (Tasers) activation by the Seattle Police Department over a six year period. According to the study, less than one percent required hospital admission for an injury related to ECWs. "No deaths occurred, even when patients exhibited signs of excited delirium."

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan includes policy development based upon best practices and the recommendations of use-of-force experts, medical professionals, risk management

authorities and police officials. Officers must successfully complete all qualification requirements and meet annual recertification program. Initial and annual training to review protocols, tactics and use to provide Officers with necessary knowledge and skills to safely and effectively deploy the Taser. Training will include use-of-force updates and practical scenario and judgement based training. Additional protocol development with Wilmette Fire Department for the medical evaluation and removal of probes.

Budget Impact

The Wilmette Police Department applied for grant funding in 2016 & 2017 to help fund this project. Unfortunately, the Village's grant applications were not successful. As such, the Police Department recommends utilizing seized funds from asset forfeiture for the initial purchase of the devices, related equipment, and year one of maintenance totaling approximately \$40,000.

The reoccurring annual cost of the maintenance program is \$9,800. This will provide cost free maintenance, unlimited cartridges, replacement batteries and brand new devices after five (5) years.

Attached

1. Recommendation from the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA)
2. [U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\) Special Report](#)
3. [Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\) Electronic Control Weapon Guidelines](#)



September 21, 2018

Michael Braiman, Asst. Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Dear Mike

Thank you for your inquiry into IRMA's position regarding sworn officers being equipped with Taser devices. Of the 62 member police departments in IRMA, 56 have deployed Tasers. We continue to strongly support and recommend the use of Tasers for a well-trained police department to reduce injuries to both officers and non-compliant individuals.

We feel these devices are an effective less lethal tool and ultimately reduce both officer and arrestee injuries. Studies show that the proper use of these devices is likely to reduce liability exposures arising out of the use of deadly force, allow for a lower level of force in many cases, and reduce officer workers' compensation injuries along with injuries to non-compliant subjects related to combative encounters.

The key to successful implementation of a Taser program is in the development of a detailed policy and effective ongoing officer training. IRMA has a model policy and is happy to assist in developing a thorough policy and training program. The devices should be carefully utilized in conjunction with other less lethal tools to obtain necessary compliance while reducing the risk of officer and arrestee injuries and the need for more aggressive force options including potentially deadly force.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you and your police department in your evaluation of this less lethal force option. I have also attached some additional Taser resource information for your review, which will assist in confirming the safety and effectiveness of these devices. Please call me at any time if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan LeTourneau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan LeTourneau
Director of Risk Management Services
(708)236-6337



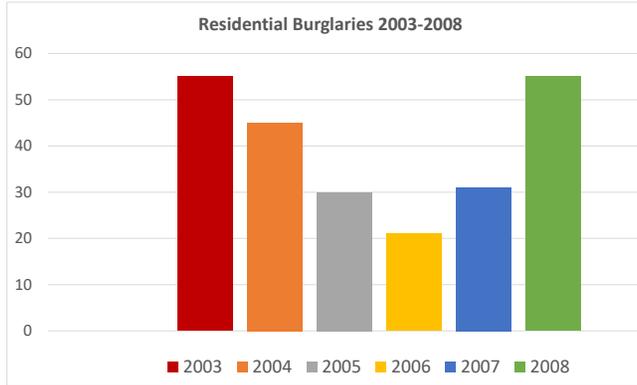
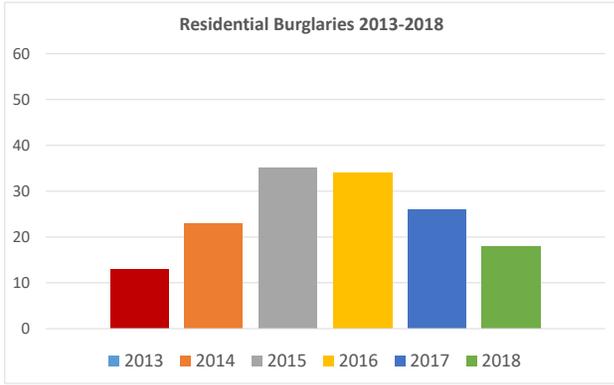
DATE: October 1, 2018
TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Crime Statistics

At the request of Trustee Kurzman, I have included crime statistics for your review. We have added in statistics from 10 years ago to help give the current trends some context.

We are fortunate that we are a low crime community, however these property crimes continue to be a focus of the Police Department. Burglaries and auto thefts are not specific to Wilmette, as most surrounding communities experience the same trends and patterns. Our Investigations Unit is assertive on this front and works proactively with neighboring communities on intelligence and operations. Additionally, Wilmette lends personnel to the multi-jurisdictional burglary arm of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force. In 2018, the Police Department also initiated a social media presence in efforts to improve communications and public education on such topics as crime and safety.

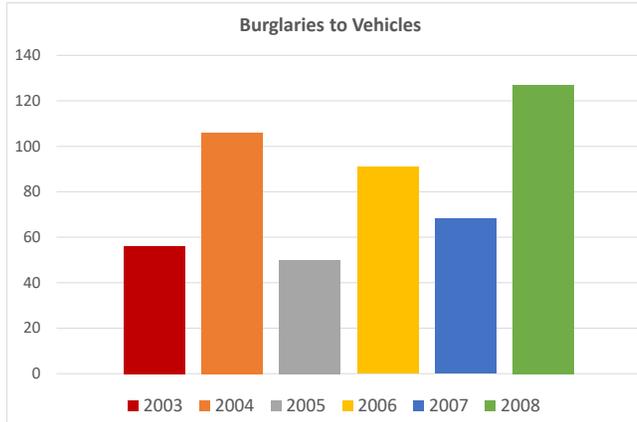
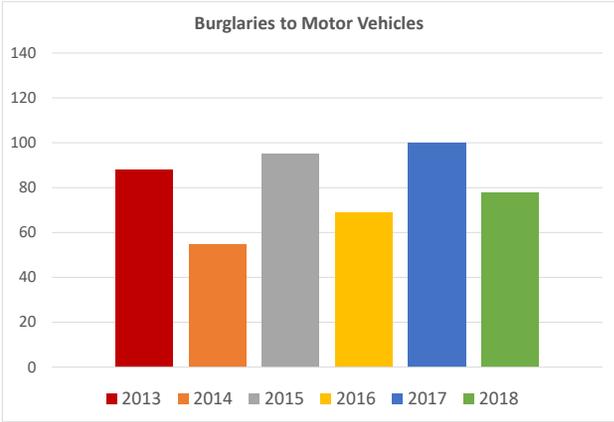
I look forward to discussing this topic and any questions you may have.

Residential Burglaries	
Year	# of Cases
2013	13
2014	23
2015	35
2016	34
2017	26
2018	18



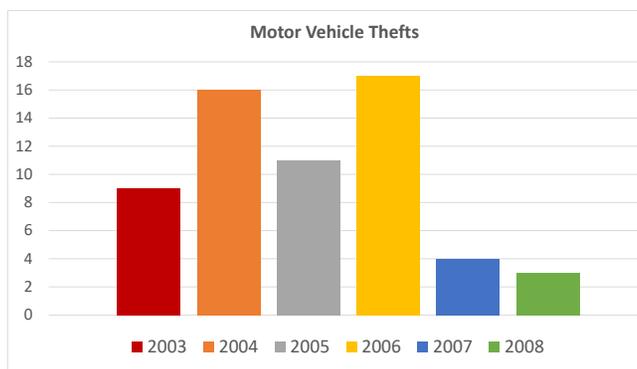
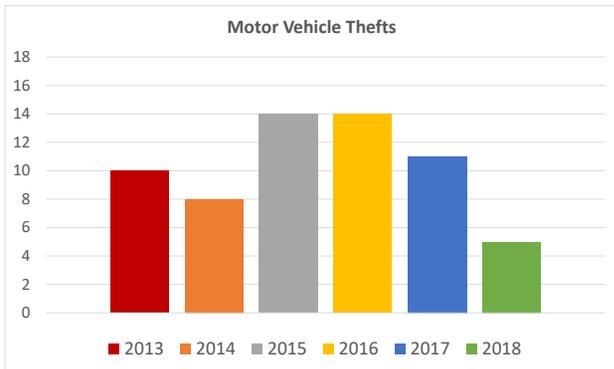
Residential Burglaries	
Year	# of Cases
2003	55
2004	45
2005	30
2006	21
2007	31
2008	55

Burglaries to Motor Vehicle	
Year	# of Cases
2013	88
2014	55
2015	95
2016	69
2017	100
2018	78



Burglaries to Motor Vehicle	
Year	# of Cases
2003	56
2004	106
2005	50
2006	91
2007	68
2008	127

Motor Vehicle Thefts	
Year	# of Cases
2013	10
2014	8
2015	14
2016	14
2017	11
2018	5



Motor Vehicle Thefts	
Year	# of Cases
2003	9
2004	16
2005	11
2006	17
2007	4
2008	3