



Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Rod Uyeda, Police Chief  
Bruce Moe, Finance Director  
Tony DiGenova, Police Lieutenant  
Gwen Eng, General Services Manager

**DATE:** August 7, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Purchase of 45 Electronic Control Devices (ECD) and Cartridges from ProForce Law Enforcement for Use by Patrol Officers, and Appropriate \$41,153.56 from Asset Forfeiture Funds

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers), b) authorize the purchase of 45 Electronic Control Devices (ECD) and cartridges from ProForce Law Enforcement in the amount of \$41,153.56, and c) appropriate \$41,153.56 from Asset Forfeiture Funds.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

The total cost of the equipment is \$41,153.56. The City receives Asset Forfeiture funds after law enforcement has seized monies/assets from suspects involved in the sales, purchase, and/or manufacturing of illicit drugs. Based on cause, a civil court can forfeit these monies to local, state, and federal law enforcement. Asset Forfeiture funds received by the Manhattan Beach Police Department are the result of police department investigations, joint investigations with other agencies, and our participation in task force operations. A permissible use of these funds is the purchase of law enforcement equipment; including defensive equipment.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Manhattan Beach Police Department is committed to officer safety, tactical flexibility, effectiveness, and reverence for human life. To this end, the Police Department continues to look at equipment that provides officers in the field with flexible tactical tools that may be used to de-escalate a situation so deadly force is unnecessary. One of the tools that has been found to be highly effective are Electronic Control Devices (ECD), also known as TASERS (Acronym for Thomas A. Swift Electric Rifle). These devices deliver a high-voltage electrical charge that temporarily incapacitates suspects.

ECDs are used by over 11,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide and have greatly reduced

injuries to both suspects and officers. Without this tool, officers are often subjected to hands-on confrontations when taking control of very aggressive suspects who prefer to fight rather than to surrender, sometimes opting for deadly force. Other less lethal weapons at the disposal of police officers often rely on pain compliance. Unfortunately, people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol have increased pain tolerance which often results in increased or repeated uses of various forms of force. The ECD incapacitates an individual so that they can be taken into custody quickly with less physical force being applied.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department has used several ECD makes and models over the past 15 years. Currently, the department has 11 Model M26 TASERs made by Taser International, which have been in service for approximately five years. This manufacturer has developed a new model, X26, which is more powerful and compact, allowing them to be carried on the duty belt. Each uniformed officer will be issued an ECD to ensure it is readily available whenever the need arises for its use.

Taser International is the industry leader in electronic control devices used by police officers and US Military. The manufacturer distributes this product through exclusive regional authorized dealers or directly from the factory. In either case, the pricing of the ECD units themselves is set by the manufacturer. Because requesting bids for this product will not result in lower pricing, staff recommends that Council waive formal bidding and award an order to ProForce Law Enforcement, the exclusive regional authorized dealer for Taser International in California, for a total amount of \$41,153.56. If this purchase is approved, the new equipment will arrive in approximately 4-6 weeks and the older models will be kept for training purposes.