



The Police Commission
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

CINDY ELIAS
President

MAX CARTER-OBERSTONE
Vice-President

LARRY YEE
Commissioner

JAMES BYRNE
Commissioner

JESUS YANEZ
Commissioner

KEVIN BENEDICTO
Commissioner

DEBRA WALKER
Commissioner

DATE

Dear Chief Scott:

At the meeting of the Police Commission on Wednesday, DATE, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION XX-X:

POLICE COMMISSION INTERPRETS ITS GENERAL ORDERS TO PERMIT THE PREEMPTIVE USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

WHEREAS, On May 30, 2023, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) directed all personnel to immediately cease the preemptive use of tire deflation devices (TDD), including spike strips, claiming that such use was inconsistent with Commission policies, including Department General Order (DGO) 5.01. The Commission was not consulted before SFPD issued this directive.

WHEREAS, The preemptive use of TDDs, including spike strips, is an incredibly effective law enforcement tool. During the 15-month period immediately preceding SFPD’s directive, TDDs were deployed preemptively 46 times. These deployments resulted in 82 arrests, the seizure of 31 firearms (including 4 assault rifles), roughly 360 cases being closed, all with only a single (minor) injury. Absent the preemptive use of TDDs, officers may need to engage in vehicle pursuits, which pose substantial safety risks to officers and members of the public.

WHEREAS, Given the effectiveness of the preemptive deployment of TDDs, SFPD’s decision to suspend their use imposed significant public safety costs on the City. Suspects who might have been apprehended got away, and recidivated. Residents lost property that otherwise might have been recovered, and innocent people were harmed.

WHEREAS, There is nothing in any of the Commission’s policies that forbids the preemptive use of TDDs. SFPD personnel should accordingly resume preemptive deployment of TDDs, consistent with prior practice.

THEEFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Commission interprets its DGOs—including DGO 5.01 and DGO 5.05—to permit the preemptive use of TDDs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This resolution shall remain in effect until the amendments to DGO 5.01—currently pending in meet and confer negotiations with the San Francisco Police Officers Association—are approved by this Commission and become effective.



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AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

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Commissioner
DEBRA WALKER
Commissioner

Very truly yours,
Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary of the San Francisco Police Commission
[star number/initials]