

**From:** [Cohen, Malia \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Carr, Barbara \(REG\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#); [Chicuata, Brittini \(BOS\)](#); [WHITE, JOSHUA \(CAT\)](#)  
**Subject:** Use of Tasers by SF Police Officers -- Suggested Amendments  
**Date:** Friday, March 2, 2018 4:03:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Cohen Peskin. Use of Tasers by San Francisco Police Officers.pdf](#)

---

Dear Ms. Carr,

Attached please find requested amendments to the approved digest for the "Use of Tasers by San Francisco Police Officers" ballot initiative. Regarding the Ballot Simplification Committee's discomfort with the use of the word "oversight," the San Francisco Police Commission is described as a chartered commission that "oversee[s] the Police Department and the Office Of Citizen Complaints." This detail has been omitted from the current ballot digest and it is critical that voters are aware of the standing authority of the Commission.

Should you have any questions regarding the other recommended amendments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Always at your service,

Malia Cohen  
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 10

Aaron Peskin  
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 3

## Use of Tasers by San Francisco Police Officers\*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Approved digest  
On: Thursday, March 1, 2018  
Members: Packard, Anderson, Patterson, Raveche

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 4 p.m. on Friday, March 2

---

**The Way It Is Now:** The San Francisco Police Commission is a civilian oversight body appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors that sets policy for the Police Department. In November 2017, the Commission authorized the Police Department to use tasers starting December 2018. The Commission is developing a policy to guide and monitor the use of tasers.

Tasers are potentially lethal weapons that discharge electrical currents into an individual. Automated external defibrillators are portable medical devices used following sudden cardiac arrest. San Francisco police officers do not currently use tasers. About half of Police Department patrol vehicles have defibrillators.

This ~~A ballot initiative was submitted to remove the SF Police Commission's oversight of SFPD use of tasers. Any~~ voter-approved policy ~~on the use of tasers~~ cannot be changed by the Commission or the Police Department.

Under the City budget process, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor must approve the City's budget each year. The Police Department makes budget requests for equipment as part of the budget process.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ sets new policy for when officers can use tasers. ~~Tasers may be used when a person is actively resisting, assaulting or exhibiting any action likely to result in serious bodily injury or death of another person, themselves or a police officer.~~

Proposition \_\_\_ would authorize the Police Department to purchase tasers for each police officer, subject to the following conditions:

- Successfully completing the Department's use-of-force and threat assessment training;
- Using only Police Department-issued tasers and holsters;
- Holstering on the side of the officer's body opposite from the firearm;
- Equipping Police Department vehicles with defibrillators in districts where tasers are carried; and
- Investigating and reporting each time an officer uses a taser.

Tasers may be used when a person is actively resisting (including being verbally aggressive), assaulting or exhibiting any action likely to result in serious bodily injury or death of another person, themselves or a police officer.

The Police Department must request funding for the purchase of tasers and defibrillators 45 days after this measure is enacted.

The measure may only be amended ~~only~~ by a majority of the voters of San Francisco or by an ordinance adopted by a vote of four-fifths of the Board of Supervisors.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to set ~~this~~ policy for the use of tasers, which removes the San Francisco Police Commission as the monitoring body over taser use and that cannot be changed by the Police Commission or the Police Department without voter approval ~~and authorize the purchase of tasers for each police officer by the Police Department, subject to specific conditions.~~

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to adopt this measure.