

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

75th ANNUAL U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS  
LOS ANGELES, CA JUNE 22-26, 2007

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Resolution No.59

Sponsored by:

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable John J. Fretti  
Mayor of Valdosta

The Honorable Jerry E. Abramson  
Mayor of Louisville Metro

The Honorable Martin J. Chavez  
Mayor of Albuquerque

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
Mayor of Denver

The Honorable Jerry Sanders  
Mayor of San Diego

**BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH DEPLOYMENT OF LESS-LETHAL  
POLICE TECHNOLOGIES**

1. **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has worked for nearly a decade to provide information and assistance to mayors and police chiefs on a variety of community policing and other criminal justice issues by convening meetings of mayors and police chiefs, developing publications on city programs, and disseminating information on innovative crime prevention and enforcement programs in cities and on critical research; and
2. **WHEREAS**, safer communities start with demystifying policing, with helping communities to understand how law enforcement works and how to work with it, and with building and maintaining community trust and confidence in police officers; and
3. **WHEREAS**, in an on-going effort to make our communities safer for all citizens, law enforcement is deploying more

- less-lethal options as a way of de-escalating potentially violent situations; and
4. **WHEREAS**, electronic control devices have been demonstrated to be one of the safest and most effective less-lethal options available to law enforcement; and
  5. **WHEREAS**, more than 10,500 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies currently deploy electronic control devices, and
  6. **WHEREAS**, statistical data has shown dramatic decreases in officer and subject injuries in cities where electronic control devices are deployed; and
  7. **WHEREAS**, reducing officer and citizen injuries furthers the goals of community oriented policing by building community ties with law enforcement to make our cities safer; and
  8. **WHEREAS**, statistical data has shown that a reduction in injuries to both suspects and law enforcement officers translates directly into communities savings through fewer lost wages, workmen's compensation, and lawsuits; and
  9. **WHEREAS**, public education, sound community-based policies, proper training, and appropriate use of electronic control devices are crucial to maintaining their efficacy and safety; and
  10. **WHEREAS**, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has developed a nine-step guideline to help law enforcement agencies first deploy electronic control devices and develop policies, procedures and training curricula that are responsive and relevant to the communities they serve; and
  11. **WHEREAS**, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) has developed independent guidelines addressing a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to electronic control devices and generally focusing on use issues, including safety, training, and operational protocols; and

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3. **WHEREAS**, in an on-going effort to make our communities safer for all citizens, law enforcement is deploying more



12. **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors previously has taken strong positions in support of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, against gang violence, and for safer communities; and
13. **WHEREAS**, the mission of the COPS program is to increase the ranks of local law enforcement agencies and to provide training and grant funds to enable local agencies to acquire new technologies and equipment while promoting innovative approaches to fighting crime,
14. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S Conference of Mayors urges cities seeking to deploy, or currently deploying, electronic control devices to review and consider the guidelines developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum; and
15. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to continue to support the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) within the U.S. Department of Justice, and specifically its ability to provide direct funding to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring new technologies and equipment, including state-of-the-art less-lethal technologies such as electronic control devices, and implement community-based policies and programs governing appropriate training, use and placement of such devices in the local use-of-force continuum.

Projected Cost: Unknown