



# The Police Commission

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

September 21, 2023

CINDY ELIAS  
President

MAX CARTER-OBERSTONE  
Vice-President

LARRY YEE  
Commissioner

JAMES BYRNE  
Commissioner

JESUS YANEZ  
Commissioner

KEVIN BENEDICTO  
Commissioner

DEBRA WALKER  
Commissioner

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood  
Secretary

Dear Chief Scott:

At the meeting of the Police Commission on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION 23-89:**

**APPROVAL OF POLICE COMMISSION INTERPRETING 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.

THEREFORE, 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.

AYES: Commissioners Walker, Byrne, Yee, Benedicto, Yanez, Vice President Carter-Oberstone  
EXCUSED: President Elias

Very truly yours,

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood  
Secretary of the San Francisco Police Commission

[1211/ks]

cc: Assistant Chief D. Lazar  
Captain S. Perdomo/Academy  
Captain D. Toomer/Policy Development  
Manager A. Steeves/Policy Development