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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

Mr. John Arntz  
Department of Elections  
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

March 12, 2018

RE: Proposition H - Ordinance setting a policy for the use of tasers in the San Francisco Police Department

Dear Mr. Arntz,

The cost of the proposed ordinance, should it be approved by the voters, is dependent on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process, as an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. In my opinion, the cost of fully funding the program created in the proposed measure, should future policymakers do so, is likely to be significant.

The measure establishes a City policy and program to provide tasers for each uniformed officer in the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD). The program would increase the City's costs by an estimated \$4.5 million for the purchase of tasers and for initial training. There would also be a new ongoing annual cost of approximately \$200,000 for training, recertification and equipment. These costs could be somewhat reduced if the SFPD adjusts the implementation and schedule of the program.

The measure specifies requirements for Police Officer training and certification in the use of tasers and investigating and reporting any instance when a taser is activated. The measure requires having defibrillators available in police vehicles which is already an SFPD practice.

As stated above, an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. Under the City Charter, the ultimate cost of this proposal depends on decisions made in the City's annual budget process.

Sincerely,

  
Ben Rosenfield  
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet

