



August 10, 2023

Chief Adrian Diaz
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Chief Diaz-

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2023OPA-0047 / 2023COMP-0004

Topic

- Taser Use

Summary

A named employee told OPA that he inadvertently discharged a Taser X2 while attempting an ARC warning, causing a prong to penetrate a subject's shoulder.

Analysis

- The named employee had the required Taser X2 training.
- However, the Taser X2's grip is somewhat large, and the ARC button is close to the trigger.
- Only one prong struck the nearby subject, suggesting the employee unintentionally deployed the Taser.
- The Taser 10, pending department issuance, does not have an ARC button, but it will take up to two years for officers to be issued that model and trained to use it.

Recommendation(s)

- Since the Taser 10's rollout will take time, SPD should address potential mishaps stemming from the Taser X2's design by reinforcing the need to test the ARC button before each shift per [SPD policy 8.300 Pol 2, 13](#) and stabilizing it with their non-dominant hand before a deployment like pictured in the [device's manual](#). Those practices will help reduce accidental discharges by building muscle memory and encouraging familiarity with the device.
- SPD should also consider more frequent than annual Taser training.

I appreciate your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gino Betts, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gino Betts, Jr.
Director, Office of Police Accountability