



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Text

File #: R2016-19, Version: 1

### **RESOLUTION URGING THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO RESEARCH AND ADOPT LESS THAN LETHAL USE OF FORCE PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, The recent proliferation of high profile fatalities due to the use of deadly force by officers of the Chicago Police Department could have been avoided if an alternative to a lethal weapon had been readily available to them; and

WHEREAS, Varying degrees of physical force, including the use of firearms by Chicago Police Department officers, are occasionally required to deal with conflict situations. If these officers' response to managing conflict through the use of any type of force is not reasonable and proportionate, the officer is often open to criminal or misconduct proceedings. It may also constitute a violation of the human rights of the person against whom the force was used; and

WHEREAS, "Non-lethal weapon" is a term used to describe weapons that are not fundamentally designed to kill or cause serious bodily injury. It is possible that munitions deployed from these non-lethal weapons may, in extremely rare cases, injure a person to the degree that could result in death under unique circumstances. However, the chance of injury meeting the deadly force definition is only marginal; and

WHEREAS, The use of non-lethal technology is a great benefit for law enforcement, providing them with another conflict management option. Non-lethal weapons are engineered to save lives including the life of the officer involved, the subjects involved and the public who may be third party to an incident; and

WHEREAS, Such use of less-than-lethal weapons will drastically reduce the likelihood of serious bodily injury or death in conflict situations that police officers are often called upon to resolve. Various munitions options such as Solid Filled Rounds, Liquid filled Rounds, Foam Baton Rounds, and Rubber Pellets (Deployed out of a 12 Gauge or a 37/40MM) as well as Rubber Balls (Deployed out of a 31, 32 or 60 Caliber, a 12 Gauge or a 37/40MM), Fin Stabilized Rounds (Deployed out of a 12 Gauge), Rubber Baton Rounds, Wood Baton Rounds, and Bean Bag Rounds (Deployed out of a 12 Gauge or a 37/40MM) should be considered as viable options to the use of deadly force; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Chicago Police Department to adopt such effective and less lethal weapon systems in order to reduce reliance on conventional and more deadly firearms or other munitions without compromising the safety of police officers or the members of the public; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the undersigned members of the City Council gathered here, this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2016 AD, do hereby urge immediate adoption of a policy by the Chicago Police Department to establish research and institute procedures as well as procure equipment and provide training necessary to promote and encourage the use of alternatives to the department's over-reliance on lethal force that is currently employed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department.

RODERICK

T.

SAWYER

Alderman

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6th

Ward