

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 24, 2005

THROUGH: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE EXPANDED USE OF PASADENA POLICE FIRING RANGE TO OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND AMEND THE GENERAL FEE SCHEDULE FOR THIS USE.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Authorize an expanded use of the Pasadena Police Firing Range to outside governmental law enforcement agencies.
- (2) Amend the General Fee Schedule to include a daily fee of \$10.00 per shooter to be charged to outside governmental law enforcement agencies for use of the Police Firing Range.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to City Council action dated November 18, 2002, limitations were placed on the use of the Police Firing Range by outside governmental policing agencies.

At the time, the police department was operating an outdoor shooting range. Neighborhood residents had expressed concerns about the noise level and safety associated with the operation of the facility. Subsequently, construction of a new indoor facility was planned, and Staff was directed to report back to City Council for approval of any expanded use. Simultaneously, Staff was also directed to report back to City Council on the impacts of mitigation efforts associated with the new indoor range six (6) months after the range was completed.

MEETING OF 10/24/2005

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____6.B.3.

In November 2004, the police department's indoor firing range was completed and the first bi-monthly shoot occurred in December of 2004. The range is fully enclosed with two (2) operational areas, one for pistol fire and the other for rifle fire. The range has been in operation for more than six (6) months. During that period, there have been no neighborhood complaints concerning the operation of the firing range. Staff, neighbors and the Range Action Committee, which consists of residents who live in the area of the range facility, all agree that the new facility has met its objectives. A meeting was held with the Range Action Committee and they are also supportive of the expanded use of the police range

The new firing range requires the use of costly lead-free ammunition, regular State-mandated indoor maintenance, and higher electrical costs to operate. Such costs did not exist with our former outdoor range facility. Since the facility is used daily, the costs associated with the State mandated indoor maintenance and electrical usage are fixed; therefore, limited additional use by outside law enforcement agencies would not have a measurable impact on the existing operating costs. Nor would there be any other additional costs associated with outside agencies using the facility because these agencies would be required to provide their own range master for direct supervision of their shooters as well as all ammunition, targets and other necessary equipment related to their qualification courses. Given that there would not be any additional operating costs incurred, it would be beneficial to allow other law enforcement agencies to use our range facility for a fee, thereby enabling the department to off-set the fixed operating costs associated with the range facility.

A few law enforcement agencies have recently inquired about using the indoor police firing range. They include the Verdugo Hills (Altadena) office of the California Highway Patrol (30 shooters) and the Department of Homeland Security (22 shooters), both of whom shoot on a quarterly basis. Staff has conducted a market pricing survey of local indoor range facilities. While the survey revealed a wide variety of billing methodologies, the conclusion was reached that a \$10 per shooter fee is reasonable.

It is not anticipated that there would be significantly greater interest in usage of the firing range than that present today. This is due to the fact that its accessibility is only desirable for agencies within a limited geographic range. Costs of overtime and/or lost duty time associated with a commute of more than 15 or 20 minutes will make its use cost prohibitive for many agencies.

The Pasadena Police Range Master would be responsible for oversight of the facilities use and would be responsible for evaluating the qualifications of range masters from other agencies. Shooting by outside agencies would be limited to Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the recommendation will increase FY 06 projected revenues in the amount of approximately \$6,000.

Respectfully submitted,

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City Manager

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Approved by:

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BERNARD K. MELEKIÁN Chief of Police