

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. 705-2024

Prime Sponsors:

By the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Gutiérrez and Restler

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the use of conducted electrical weapons by the police department

Submitted by:

Public Advocate Williams

Justification:

A 2019 study by the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) found that NYPD officers only download conducted electrical weapon (Taser) discharge data “in the event of a critical incident or suspected misconduct, rather than as a routine”.¹ NYPD Taser use has tripled in the last decade and these devices are frequently discharged on people experiencing mental health crises, even though this group is particularly susceptible to Tasers. Electrical weapons have killed several New Yorkers in mental health crises.²

Following the recommendations of the 2019 CCRB report, this bill would rectify the reporting issue by requiring that NYPD officers download Taser data at the end of their tour when these weapons are discharged. It would require officers to note the number of times a conducted electrical weapon was discharged on the Threat, Resistance, or Injury worksheet. It would also require that NYPD body worn cameras purchased in the future be capable of automatically activating when a Taser is armed or discharged and that such feature is enabled for body worn cameras whenever it is available.

¹ https://www.nyc.gov/assets/ccrb/downloads/pdf/policy_pdf/issue_based/20191205_TaserReport.pdf

² <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2026/01/07/shocked-how-the-nypd-embraces-tasers>