



OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

ANNISE D. PARKER

September 8, 2008

The Honorable Bill White, Mayor
City of Houston, Texas

SUBJECT: Houston Police Department – Conducted Energy Device Program
Performance Audit (Report No. 2009-09)

Dear Mayor White:

I am pleased to submit to you this independent Performance Audit Report of the Houston Police Department's (HPD) Conducted Energy Device (CED) Program overseen by Mir Fox & Rodriguez, P.C. (MFR). MFR assembled a multi-disciplinary audit team consisting of statistical; mathematical; information system; and criminology experts from the University of Houston, Center for Public Policy; Rice University; University of San Francisco; Sam Houston State University, College of Criminal Justice; and Prototype, Fusion, & Modeling, LLC.

The primary objectives of the engagement included determining: (1) compliance with procurement laws, ordinances, City Policies and Procedures, HPD Standard Operating Procedures, and HPD General Orders; (2) to what extent the HPD CED Program objectives were being met; (3) whether HPD was effectively managing the CED Program; (4) compliance with CED Program Policies and Procedures; and (5) HPD CED practices and comparing them to the Police Executive Research Forum's National Guidelines for CEDs.

The audit team performed a statistical analysis to analyze the frequency and variables of HPD CED calls for service/incidents for any notable patterns, aberrations, and/or adverse trends which may warrant further study. MFR also held six focus group sessions with HPD officers to discuss CED related performance and HPD policies.

The report concluded that the CED has been a very effective intermediate weapon and HPD has been effectively managing the CED Program overall. Over the course of conducting the statistical analysis, however, the audit team found that the available data contained some patterns and/or aberrations related to gender, race, and geography. Additionally, the report identified approximately thirty recommendations for improvement in significant areas such as Policy, Training, Reports, Data Management Processes, Diverse Patrol Experiment, and CED equipment.

Draft copies of the matters contained in the report were provided to the Chief of Police and HPD Management. The Views of Responsible Officials as to actions being taken are appended to the report (Part VI).

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We enjoyed working with the HPD employees and appreciate their excellent cooperation with MFR during this audit.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annise D. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Annise D. Parker
City Controller

xc: City Council Members
Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Moore, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Harold L. Hurtt, Chief of Police
Charles A. McClelland, Executive Assistant Police Chief
Michelle Mitchell, Finance Department
Alfred Moran, Jr., Director, Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department