



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Susan E. Manheimer
Interim Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OPD POST Virtual Reality Training
System Grant

DATE: December 10, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Jan 6, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator, Or Designee, To Accept On Behalf Of The City Of Oakland A Meggitt Training Systems Virtual Reality Decisions And Tactics Training System From The California Commission On Police Officer Standards And Training (POST) At No Cost To The City Of Oakland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Police officer training requires exposure to all manner of scenarios that are part of the reality of policing. Virtual Reality (VR) training has been shown to increase a student's or trainee's psychological immersion and focus when dealing with real-life virtual situations at hand – in a safe environment. POST is prepared to donate to OPD a VR training system which will support firearms training and scenario training. POST is prepared to donate a VR training system to OPD to support modern law enforcement training. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution accompanying this report to authorize the VR training system donation from POST to OPD.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Working as a Police Officer in Oakland requires dealing with a wide variety of people in different situations that at times present serious risks of bodily harm to both themselves as well as members of the public. Police officers must quickly analyze and solve problems and use skills and training to respond to, and defuse conflict and avoid confrontations whenever possible. Police trainees must be prepared both mentally and physically to respond to calls for service, and

Virtual reality (VR) is one training mode that provides additional capabilities to an already robust training methodology. VR training has been shown to increase a student's or trainee's psychological immersion and focus when dealing with real-life virtual situations at hand; by increasing the immersions this process provokes a natural response from the trainee to assist in mental recall therefore enhancing training. Meggitt Training Systems (MGT) has over 30 years of validated experience providing training within to law enforcement communities. MGT Decisions and Tactics Training System consists of a Marksmanship Application (lanes based training that focuses on the fundamentals of weapon handling to replicate the most realistic firearms training) and a Judgmental

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Application (training to become proficient with weapon handling and deployment in scenarios that test decision making regarding force options and communication skills).

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

POST is prepared to grant to OPD and the City of Oakland, at no cost, a MGT VR Training System, worth approximately \$150,000. POST is making this grant as part of their mission to promote excellence in law enforcement training. In making this grant, POST also recognizes the power of VR systems to provide a unique and useful form of immersion training. POST is also providing a five-year warranty for the system so that OPD should not be required to pay for any immediate maintenance or repairs related to the VR system. Staff therefore recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution accompanying this report to authorize the City Administrator or designee to accept on behalf of the City of Oakland a MGT Virtual Reality Decisions and Tactics Training System from POST, at no cost to the city of Oakland.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this grant as POST will pay for all costs associated with the VR Training system as well as a five-year warranty.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

There was no public outreach required for the preparation of this report beyond standard City Council noticing requirements.

COORDINATION

This report was reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Environmental: There is no economic impact associated with this report.

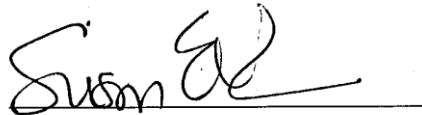
Race and Social Equity: OPD promulgates the values of procedural justice throughout its training regimen. OPD's Training Division expects to use the VR training system as part of a larger commitment to ensuring all officers integrate procedural justice principles into policing services. Training that supports procedural justice will further OPD's goals of serving the public through an equity framework that recognizes the harms of injustice that have disproportionality impacted disadvantaged communities and people of color in Oakland.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator, Or Designee, To Accept On Behalf Of The City Of Oakland A Meggitt Training Systems Virtual Reality Decisions And Tactics Training System From The California Commission On Police Officer Standards And Training (POST) At No Cost To The City Of Oakland.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Nishant Joshi, Captain of Police, Human Resources and Training Division, at 510-238-7192.

Respectfully submitted,



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Oakland Police Department

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