

who do not voluntarily seek medical assistance; and

Whereas, The New York City Police Department issued an interim order to all uniformed personnel in June of 2008, which described an “exception group,” meaning the types of individuals on whom tasers should not be used; and

Whereas, The list includes children, the elderly and pregnant women, and further instructs officers not to use tasers in situations where the subject may fall from an elevated surface; and

Whereas, New York City experienced a tragedy in September of 2008 when the police used a taser on Iman Morales, an emotionally disturbed person who stood naked on an elevated surface in Brooklyn and then fell to his death; and

Whereas, The Iman Morales incident resulted from the improper use of a taser, which caused a death that could have been avoided; and

Whereas, The use of tasers should not be permitted on individuals with clear and evident mental illnesses, disabilities, or retardation except in a case where such individuals pose a clear threat; and

Whereas, Some organizations, like Amnesty International, believe studies have not adequately examined the impact of tasers on potentially at-risk individuals - such as people who have medical conditions, take prescription medications, are mentally ill or are under the influence of narcotics; and

Whereas, Mentally ill individuals should be added to the department’s “exception group” and included as people on whom officers cannot use tasers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of The City of New York calls on the New York City Police Department to refrain from using tasers on the mentally ill and disabled.

RMP
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