

Ad Hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment
Minutes
February 11, 2008

Attendees:

Kim Tanzer
Mark Rush
James Klausner

Invited Guests:

Jamie Keith
Bill Bozeman

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM

Dr. William Bozeman, an emergency medicine physician and professor of medicine at Wake Forest University, presented his study of the medical effects of conducted electrical weapons, based on a scientific study, determined by previous expert Dr. Shenkman to be well-designed, reviewing their use by law enforcement and effect on almost 1000 subjects in real-life settings. Copies of the slides are attached to these minutes. Dr. Bozeman concluded that tasers result in very few moderate or serious injuries to subjects, that tasers result in fewer moderate or serious injuries to subjects than other means of intermediate use of force, and that injuries from tasers mainly result from subjects falling. He noted that more study could be done on the risk they pose to less than 1% of the population (.3%) if a combination of conditions exist in a single subject (drug use, dehydration, certain pre-existing heart conditions, pacemaker). Dr. Bozeman answered questions from the committee. He opined that tasers are “phenomenally safe” as an intermediate weapon, but that they are an intermediate weapon and should be used only when such use of force is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM