



Date: August 15, 2019
To: Patrick Weithers, Acting Executive Director, Citizens Police Complaint Commission
From: ✓ Lloyd Cox, Commander, Internal Affairs
Subject: CPCC CASE #18-005

At the January 10, 2019 CPCC meeting the Commission recommended the department take the following actions:

- The Commissioners requests information regarding the objective standard for using zip ties for handcuffs
- How long can zip ties stay on?
- How tight can the zip ties be on the person?
- The Commission recommends LBPD create a policy on the use of zip ties
- The Commission recommend LBPD have a tool available to officer to remove zip ties in the field when handcuffs are used (ensuring both handcuffs and zip ties are not used together)

Attached please find the response to the commission's request/recommendations.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

LC:lc
CPCC Case Response



Date: August 13, 2019
To: Lloyd Cox, Commander, Internal Affairs
From: Rudy Komisza, Commander, Field Support Division
Subject: **SPECIAL PROJECT INTERNAL AFFAIRS CIT2018-0017**

This memorandum was written to provide historical perspective on the use of flex cuffs by the Long Beach Police Department. Flex Cuffs are a type of disposable restraint specifically designed by the manufacturer to meet law enforcement security and tactical requirements. They are different from the standard "zip tie" sold in hardware stores.

The Long Beach Police Department's SWAT team uses flex cuffs because team members do not typically transport or book their own prisoners. This makes the retrieval of a standard metal handcuff difficult once they are loaned to another officer for transport of an arrestee. In addition, SWAT officers routinely handcuff multiple subjects and need to carry more than two pairs of handcuffs. Flex cuffs are lightweight, easier to store, and can be placed into a tactical entry vest without using any significant storage space or pouches.

Flex cuffs are additionally used throughout the Police Department during mobile field force applications for the same reasons as SWAT. Flex cuffs are disposable, lightweight, and can be carried by an officer in larger quantities for subsequent application, as needed.

The Long Beach Police Department's SWAT team currently uses a flex cuff manufactured by The Safariland Group. Per the manufacturer's guidelines, the flex cuffs are designed to be used with the standard cuffing technique, are ½" wide, and have a tensile strength of 400 lbs. The flex cuffs can be removed using an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) sheer which is carried by all Emergency Medical Technicians on the SWAT team. The SWAT team has additional medical / EMT sheers available, and ready for use, by officers to safely remove flex cuffs from arrestees when applicable.

In addition, the Long Beach Police Department has identified a tool specific for the removal of flex cuffs. The item is identified as "Galls Cuff Cutters" and are being made available for police officers to use when applicable. For further details, see photo attachment.

The objective standard for the use of flex cuffs falls under the same policy governing the use of metal handcuffs in the Long Beach Police Department Manual. Furthermore, the length of time a flex cuff remains on a subject, or how tight a flex cuff should be, falls under the same objective standard consistent with the use of metal handcuffs.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Special Enforcement Section,
Lieutenant Paul Baum, at extension 87189.

LC:RK:pb
Special Project IA CIT2018-0017.doc

PRODUCT DETAILS

GALLS CUFF CUTTERS

PRODUCT SPECS

- Easily cuts all disposable cuffs
- Rubber handles prevent slipping
- Lock keeps the blade closed when not in use



Item# RS233 / | Mfg# RS233

GALLS CUFF CUTTERS

~~WAS \$14.99~~ **YOUR PRICE \$11.96**

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