

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque Police Department



Gorden E. Eden, Jr., Chief of Police



October 12, 2016

Northwest Community Policing Council

Re: Rescue devices

Dear Northwest Community Policing Council:

Thank you for your recommendation requesting that the Albuquerque Police Department's fleet become equipped with Emergency Hammer and Seatbelt Cutters. We are currently researching the most cost effective tools available for purchase. Once we have found a product that best meets the purchasing guidelines for the City of Albuquerque we will prepare to put our request out for bid so that the department can acquire this product for our fleet. Please keep in mind that the City of Albuquerque's purchasing process can take anywhere from 3-6 months to acquire a product.

400 Roma NW

Your recommendations are greatly appreciated, and thank you for your contributions to our community.

Albuquerque

Sincerely,

New Mexico 87102

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gorden E. Eden, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

GORDEN E. EDEN, JR.
Chief of Police

www.cabq.gov

GEE: ncl



Community Policing Council Recommendation

Creating Positive Change

and its components. Opportunities to use the devices might be available through cooperation with the Albuquerque Fire Department or local vehicle recyclers.

Recommendation

Albuquerque Police Department vehicles should be equipped with basic rescue devices to allow the breaking of a window and cutting of a seatbelt. Such devices could include "ResQMe" keychain tools or "ResQHammer" tools (resqme.com). Both devices include a window breaker and seatbelt cutter. Both devices can be mounted inside a vehicle, allowing easy access by an officer. These rescue tools are available at retail prices of \$10 - \$20 each. Similar devices by other manufacturers are also available.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "JL" followed by a flourish.

CPC Representative Signature

Rationale

In March 2016, a video surfaced of Indian River County (Florida) sheriff's office deputies trying to free a woman from a burning vehicle (<http://tinyurl.com/hyz37jz>). The deputies had obvious difficulty breaking a window on the vehicle with their batons. The deputies then had difficulty removing the person's seatbelt. At a time when seconds count, the deputies were ill equipped to respond to this emergency. These instances are uncommon, but there are other scenarios where accessing a vehicle through a closed window is necessary – such as reaching an uncooperative subject or freeing a child or animal inside a locked car. Delays in breaking a window could put officers in danger, allowing time for a suspect to reach a weapon or prepare further resistance.

While some officers already choose to carry pocket knives, there is no standard and no requirement that such tools include rescue features. Any type of knife carried by an officer may be viewed by the general public as a weapon, regardless of intent, features, or actual use. Rather than having officers carry additional equipment, rescue devices can be mounted inside vehicles. Smaller devices are available with visor mounts.

Training in proper use of such rescue devices could be included in existing Academy classes or MOE's. The devices are intended for use by civilians without training, so instruction for officers may be limited to familiarity with the device