



City of Cambridge

29.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 28, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner with regard to the attached letter and to report back to the City Council as to whether the handguns used by the Cambridge Police Department present the safety problem discussed in the letter.

In City Council September 28, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

#29

Date: Tue, Aug 18, 1998 10:48 AM EDT
From: OKJOE
Subj: Fault in the design of small handguns used by Police.
To: KTCouncil

Fault in the design of small handguns used by Police.

The following discusses a fault in the design of small handguns used by Police. It has been sent to Police units across the country. I am now sending it to Mayors, City Managers, and Council members.

You may wish to discuss it with your Police staff.

Your feedback will be appreciated.

Police real time TV recordings of actual shootouts show that small handguns have no means for aiming-and-applying their deadly force that is used by the participants in gunfights.

Handguns have sights for aiming, but stop action reviews of TV clips establish that they are not used in gunfights. The participants just point in the direction of another party, and blast away. Accuracy and survival is left to chance and instinct.

The 1997 video of the New Hampshire State Patrol Officer shooting it out with another young man is a good example. The participants were within 15 feet of each other, blasting away, and hitting nothing.

Current small handguns do not have a simple, ready, and reliable means for aiming-and-applying their deadly force that is used in close combat situations.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

This fault was not known the 100 or so years ago when current gun designs were developed and patented. Gun makers in the late 1800's did not have TV cameras to capture what actually takes place when handguns are used in close combat.

An improvement that provides a simple, ready, and reliable means for aiming-and-applying deadly force in high stress and close combat situations is available.

It utilizes a well established method of instinctive aiming that is fast and accurate, and it can be applied to pistols and revolvers.

Here is how the method works.

The index finger is placed against the side of the weapon just above the trigger guard, and aligned with the barrel. The index finger is pointed at a target, and the middle finger is used to pull the trigger. The method of aiming can be called Point and Shoot or P&S. It works.

P&S can be used with some sub-machine guns and assault rifles, but not with most pistols and revolvers because the design of the upper rear portion of those guns does not allow the index finger to be placed above the trigger guard. A modified form of the P&S method can be used with them. And, here is how that works.

The index finger of the gun hand is placed against the side of the trigger guard, aligned with the barrel, and used to point at a target. The fingers of the other hand are lightly wrapped around the fingers of the gun hand, and the index finger of the other hand is used to pull the trigger.

A few problems can crop up when using P&S as just

described. The index finger may be hit with the slide of a pistol or be burned by powder flash. And the index finger may move with each shot and need to be realigned. Also, a shim may be needed for aligning the index finger with the barrel.

Most importantly, as there is no ready and reliable means for aligning the index finger with the barrel, it is doubtful that P&S as just described, would be used in a real time shootout.

A simple and inexpensive index finger rest can be added to guns to provide a ready and reliable means for aligning the index finger with the barrel and aiming it in close combat situations.

The finger rest is added just above the trigger guard and it is aligned with the barrel.

The index finger is placed against it as the gun is drawn, and pointed at a target. The gun can be fired using the middle finger.

The finger rest can be called a Point & Shoot or P&S index finger rest.

In most pistol and revolver applications, the trigger guard and trigger will need to be extended to allow the middle finger to pull the trigger. That will require a modified frame and longer trigger, but no change to the gun action is needed.

Besides allowing automatic and accurate aiming, a P&S index finger rest provides improved weapon support because the weapon can be firmly grasped by both thumb and index finger. The gun will feel comfortable and solid in your hand.

Grasping a gun with the thumb and middle finger while also leaving the index finger free to squeeze off rounds in the heat of combat will no longer have to be done (if it ever was).

The gun will actually hang onto the level support platform made up by the thumb and index finger.

Recoil will be absorbed better, and target re-acquisition will be quicker.

You will get a flexible yet stable shooting platform that allows you to stay on target while moving.

The free hand can be cupped and used as a holder for the gun hand to give added support, or the fingers of the free hand can be wrapped around the fingers of the gun hand for added support.

The sight still can be used to aim, and the index finger still can be used to pull the trigger.

A P&S index finger rest also shields the index finger from the slide of a pistol, and from powder flash.

When a P&S index finger rest is used, the index finger will stop working at a cross-purpose. It will start doing what it can do naturally and accurately, and that is point. As fast as you can point at a target, the weapon will be aimed at that target.

Shooting scores will go up, and so will a user's chance of survival.

Police casualty rates can go down. Current rates are 150 killed and 23,000 injured each year.

The user will have better control of high stress

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situations because of increased weapon control.

Accidental shootings will be reduced along with their emotional and dollar costs, and questions of liability.

If you require others to carry a small handgun to use when they place their life at risk for you, shouldn't they have a gun that will not make it a gamble as to whether they live or die when they use it?

To require them to carry small handguns that are not designed to be aimed in life and death gunfights, is bad policy or worse.

Test P&S. If it doesn't work, let me know. That will be a first.

And if it does work, equip your Police with guns that give them the advantage when they risk their life for you.

Isn't their life worth the cost of a modified frame, an extended trigger, and maybe a new holster? And your training costs won't change, only what is done during training.

Here are more details on P&S index finger rests.

The P&S index finger rest should be about four inches long, positioned just above and about one inch in back of the trigger guard, aligned with the barrel, and have two flat surfaces each about 3/4 of an inch wide, one that extends horizontally out from a point just above the trigger guard, and one that extends vertically down from the same point and which can be the side of the gun.

The position of the index finger rest should

insure that when the index finger is placed up and against it, the side of both the middle and root knuckle of the index finger make contact with the horizontal surface, and the palm side of the index finger makes contact with the vertical surface. The contacts are critical to automatic and accurate aiming.

P&S index finger rests can be incorporated into parts for new weapons or existing weapons, or they can be added to existing weapons. They can be added to one or both sides of weapons, and they can be added to the front grip if there is one.

When you test the P&S method as described above, and of course at your own risk, please send me some feedback. I will take off the ID portion and add it to the comments portion of my web page.

If you would like to test a pistol with a P&S index finger rest, you may need to have a gunsmith add one for you at this time.

If you would like me to contact a gun maker to see if they will provide you with a gun or modified frame and trigger for testing, let me know, and I will ask them.

You can visit my web site for information on how you can make and add a simple test finger rest to a weapon for testing purposes: <http://members.aol.com/okjoe/ps1.htm>

If you have questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,

John Veit aka okjoe@aol.com



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VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO

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Consent Order #29

CM 458

Councillor Triantafillou re: report on
whether the handguns used by the Cambridge
Police Department present a safety problem.

In City Council September 28, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED