The Mace Helmet

Ronnie London, presenting the use of Mace by Tucson police, displays an innovation he said was devised by California police and civil rights demonstrators. The steel helmet shields from blows by nightsticks, the eye-goggles turn aside sprays of Mote, he said. (Citizen Photo)

CITY COUNCIL DECIDES

Mace Won't Be Used Until Perils Probed

Gus Smith, mayor, a druggist, and a company president was not used by the Tucson Police Department until reports concerning its possible hazards have been examined, the city council has decided.

Such a report was issued last week by a research team at the University of Michigan. Police Chief Ernest L. Garcia said he would obtain a copy of the report immediately.

The council acted last night at the close of a noon-hour public hearing on the use of the chemical. A dozen citizens urged the council to forbid the use of Mace until more is known about it.

Councilman C. Freeman Waddell was absent, but the five remaining councilmen voted unanimously to suspend the use of Mote, Mayor Joseph H. Conwell, Jr., appointed the council's action, saying that Mote was used as a "force multiplier" and the council's action is "to halt the use of the force-shielding chemical in this community."

Garcia said the department had used Mote in a dozen cases last May and June and January of this year. The next review of Mote is to be February, he said.

In one of the six cases there was no permanent injury to the victim, as nearly as could be determined Garcia added.

The chemical given the police an additional source of weapon, Garcia insisted in "the sledgehammer of the gun," he said.

"If I had the choice of having one of the three used on me, I'll take the Mace," Garcia said.

Police Capt. Carl Komes, of the City of Tucson Crime Laboratory, dealing a report by the Surgeon General of the United States, said Mote contained cyanide gas, hyperventilation is induced, the spray from the eye is all dissolved in a cloud.

The Surgeon General's said "at present advertisement should be given to anyone sprayed with Mote. The best treatment is flushing with water."

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The treatment of flushing with water. The Surgeon General said, at the same time advising doctors against the use of any weak or saline.

"These against Mote said there has been reported cases of permanent damage to the skin and eyes. They made particular use to see on a crowd of people, which would make it possible to the victim impractical."

"And more concern is with the large scale use of Mote," said Dr. James E. McDonald, a Doctor of Arizona,认为 it is a "very poor standard of not to 23 persons killed in a demonstration or rioting act."

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