

Memorandum

Date: August 29, 2016
To: All Personnel
From: Undersheriff Melekian
Subject: External Vest Carrier
Sheriff's Bulletin: 16-19

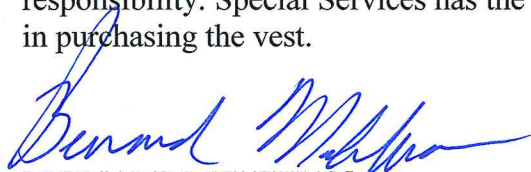


A peace officer's uniform appearance must present a professional image, be approachable, and not overbearing to the general public, while meeting the ever changing challenges of the law enforcement profession. When considering changes or additions to the uniform these often competing needs must be considered.

The benefits of load bearing vests have long been recognized in tactical operations; however, they have not been widely used in the regular daily law enforcement operations until recently. Our agency conducted a test evaluation of a load bearing vest for a variety of regular uniformed duty assignments to include patrol operations, foot patrol, and the transportation unit. Unanimously, all personnel testing the equipment expressed a desire to make it a permanent option to the uniform.

An evaluation of the products available was completed and a load bearing vest was selected and approved that retains a uniform appearance, provides the benefits of a load bearing vest, options for equipment placement, and is designed to fit the department issued concealable body armor. Sheriff Brown has authorized the Safariland Group DN6391 – MDFD USC 2PK MWEB Toledo GRN Carrier in OD Green to be worn by uniformed personnel working patrol, special duty, and transportation assignments. The vest is not authorized for Class A uniform use, court appearances or assignments, or during pre-planned public presentations. The Uniform Policy will be updated to reflect the newly authorized vest, equipment pouches, and pouch placement.

The vest is optional, so the purchase and maintenance expenses will be the individual's responsibility. Special Services has the vest specifications and will assist personnel interested in purchasing the vest.


BERNARD MELEKIAN
Undersheriff