

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carolina Goodman

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**Council File No:** 22-0766-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: October 22 Agenda Item #5 Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee, The League of Women Voters had submitted written comment in advance of the October 15th LAPD Commission meeting. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Eqb52KgqiHfzd-FkUCu-hjJG29Tk4N0UIAH7IDjRRYM/edit?usp=sharing> During the October 15th Commission meeting, we appreciated Commander Marla Ciuffetelli and her team for providing responses to the issues we raised. Please note the recording of the Commission meeting — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMtnXgBYvIY&list=PLLBukuSZNkDzg120-UzJSYqYpvKVOQY9M&index=37> — specifically, starting at 1:50:30. Commander Ciuffetelli stated that LAPD's Crowd Control policy is compliant with AB [488]. The correct law is AB 48, which went into effect in January 2022. Commander Ciuffetelli explained that a Department notice dated December 14, 2021, did include the new dictates of the law. In order to clarify, we request that the Crowd Control policy dated April 2021, which is attached to the Annual Report as Addenda XI, be replaced with the December 2021 updated Crowd Control policy in the Annual Report that is submitted to City Council. We were encouraged to learn that LAPD is continuing to work on crowd control procedures. The League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles is concerned about protecting the health and safety of officers and bystanders when munitions are deployed that are not target specific. City Council would have a similar concern for the health and safety of Angelenos. At 1:56 of the recording, Vice President Shields asked about multiple projectile 'scattershot' munitions and the Taser Shockwave. Commander Ciuffetelli's team explained that this equipment is to be used only with barricaded suspects after other specifically named measures have been taken. We ask that it be explicitly stated in the Annual Report so that officers and the public are clear about the use of this equipment. During the discussion, we learned that the Stinger Grenade had been authorized by the Mayor and used during the 2020 protests. Evidence shows that there are alternative methods of achieving the same result that do not put bystanders in danger of serious injury. Scattershot munitions and the Taser Shockwave should never be used for purposes of crowd control. (We would go so far as to say that these weapons do not belong in police departments, as the United Nations Rapporteur on Torture has urged.) Similarly, at 2:01 of the recording, it was explained that LAPD does not use the 37mm to "skip fire" indiscriminately at a crowd. "The Department has never been trained to use the 37mm for crowd control." The 37mm is used only when identified suspects are a danger to officers. It was confusing because it was then stated that the 37mm may be used for crowd control with approval by a commander. Again, the policy for use of these munitions, and documents that accompany the Annual Report, should explicitly make this clear. These clarifications should also be reflected in LAPD's Policy Manual. At 2:05 of the recording, Vice President Shields asked for assurance that a community engagement meeting would be scheduled BEFORE City Council votes to reenact the ordinance for LAPD's AB 481 policy. Commander Ciuffetelli replied affirmatively. Commissioner Garcia chimed in to ask for verification that a community engagement meeting would take place BEFORE City Council votes to reenact the ordinance for AB 481. Again, Commander Ciuffetelli said yes. Perhaps the Community Safety Committee would delay voting to move this Annual Report along to City Council until after the community engagement meeting. Councilmembers, the public, and the Department will benefit from hearing from each other. Sincerely, Carolina Goodman, Chair Committee on Criminal Justice Reform League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles Cc: Penny Sommers and Mary Dickson, Co-chairs, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles (LWVGLA) Raquel Beltran, LWVGLA Executive Director Linnea Wren and Rita Zwern, members, LWVGLA Committee on Criminal Justice Reform Director Lizabeth Rhodes, LAPD Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy Commander Marla Ciuffetelli, LAPD Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy Members of the Police Commission