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May 28, 2024

BPC #24-095

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: QUADRUPED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE QUARTERLY INSPECTION REPORT
– QUARTER 3 – FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, June 4, 2024, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

May 22, 2024
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D. Sibley
5/29/24
24-100
RECEIVED

MAY 29 2024

POLICE COMMISSION

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: QUADRUPED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE QUARTERLY
INSPECTION REPORT – QUARTER 3, FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and FILE the Los Angeles Police Department's (Department) Quarter 3 Report, Fiscal Year 2023/2024 on the Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV).
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Los Angeles City Council (Council) the quarterly report on the QUGV program as directed in the attached motion.

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2022, the Board approved the use of the QUGV. The Department implemented the program, as delineated in Administrative Order No. 6, dated May 30, 2023. As directed in the Administrative Order, Metropolitan Division was required to provide a quarterly report to Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB), documenting the QUGV field deployments. Later, the Council introduced Motion 2A, dated May 23, 2023, instructing the Department to provide quarterly reports to the Council as well. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, Metropolitan Division, was assigned the implementation, management, and deployment of the QUGV. The use of the QUGV was reserved for specific incidents that met SWAT's deployment criteria.

DISCUSSION

The SWAT team conducted the required evaluation for the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, in the following areas:¹

1. Approved deployment of the QUGV
2. Permissible Uses
3. Tracking system to capture the approval and deployments of the QUGV

¹ Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023), Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023), Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024) and Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024).

REPORTING

During Quarter 3, the SWAT team reported one QUGV deployment.

On January 25, 2024, Van Nuys Patrol Division officers received a radio call of a Burglary in progress. The comments of the call indicated the person reporting was out of the country and alerted by their in-home security/surveillance system that two masked individuals possessing firearms were inside of the residence. Metropolitan Division K-9 units responded and assisted patrol units with a search of the first floor of the location. During the search, the Tactical Flight Officer in the overhead Department helicopter observed a shotgun on a back patio. The K-9 unit ceased their search and requested SWAT to assist.

Upon the SWAT team’s arrival, they determined the QUGV was the best option to safely search the second and third floors of the residence.

The on-scene Incident Commander requested to deploy the QUGV, and gained approval from Deputy Chief David J. Kowalski, Commanding Officer, CTSOB.

With the assistance of the QUGV, the SWAT team searched all floors of the residence; however, the SWAT team were unable to locate the suspects. The shotgun was recovered and booked into evidence.

Usage and Deployment

Quarter 3			
Deployment No.	Date	Deployment Description	Division / Bureau
4	January 25, 2024	Barricaded Armed Burglary Suspects	Van Nuys / Valley Bureau

CONCLUSION

During Quarter 3, the QUGV was deployed once and adhered to all established protocols and procedures. As part of this report, an assessment was conducted of the tracking system utilized by Metropolitan Division for the approval, deployment, and documentation of each QUGV deployment. The system proved to be effective and Metropolitan Division will continue to assess the tracking system for efficiency.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

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Should you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief David J. Kowalski,
Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

Respectfully,



DOMINC H. CHOI
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *June 4, 2024*
Secretary *Rebecca Muñoz*

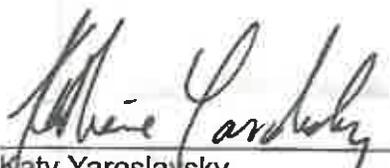
Attachment

MOTION

As with the use of any new technology used in policing, it is important that the City Council have appropriate oversight and the ability to modify or halt the program if circumstances warrant.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Police Department to provide quarterly reports to the Council on the deployments of the Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV), including where and why the QUGV was deployed, the outcome of the deployment, and any issues arising from the deployment. The report should include how these deployments were in compliance with the QUGV deployment policy that the Police Department has shared with the Council in the report.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council expressly declare its intent to closely monitor the QUGV program and to modify the deployment policy or suspend the program at any time if the use was outside of policy or if after the use the Council feels that the policy in place does not address all of the concerns of the Council.

Presented by 
Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilwoman, Fifth District

Seconded by 