

Communication from Public

Name: Carolina Goodman
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Comments for Public Posting: On October 22, the Public Safety Committee reviewed LAPD's AB 481 Annual Report (policy of use and inventory of military equipment). In spite of a letter from the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles (https://docs.google.com/document/d/15dwUPrMo1EnZunu_h7ASeZH7jyohG4_BgQ8s13w3e3E/edit?tab=t.0) highlighting reasons to delay voting on the Annual Report, only one member of the Public Safety Committee asked any questions. Referencing LA City's Controller's audit, Councilmember Soto-Martinez asked about community engagement meetings as required by AB 481. Commander Ciuffetelli of LAPD's Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy responded that the City Attorney deemed past Brown Act Police Commission meetings to be compliant with AB 481 requirements and that LAPD would be advertising a community engagement meeting to take place in two days, on October 24, 2024. The Public Safety Committee voted to pass the Annual Report to the full City Council to renew the AB 481 ordinance. The purpose of this letter is to summarize the October 24 community engagement zoom meeting about LAPD's AB 481 Annual Report. The meeting was scheduled for an hour. There were 27 attendees. The first 20 minutes consisted of information (slide show and video) about LAPD's military equipment. Zoom logged attendees off at 3:25. Some of us logged back into the same link; some did not. Commander Ciuffetelli apologized for the technical difficulties and agreed to hold another community engagement meeting. Rather than completing the planned educational portion about AB 481, LAPD took questions and comments. Carolina Goodman, Chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice Reform for the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles (LWVGLA): * In the Annual Report, replace the non-compliant April 2022 Crowd Control Policy with the updated December 2022 policy. * Clarify that scattershot munitions are used only for barricaded suspects and NOT for crowd control. * Be explicit that the 37mm skip fire is not to be used for crowd control to ensure that bystanders are not harmed. John Lindsay-Poland, California Healing Justice, American Friends Service Committee: * Suggested that LAPD has the technology to produce high quality educational media and should be able to facilitate a high quality community engagement meeting. * Expanded on the information about scattershot munitions, pointing out that the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/torture/sr/annex-i-document-august-2023-ae-18-09-23.pdf>) has called for banning use of these weapons by law enforcement. * Requested that LAPD's AB 481 language NOT claim that military equipment are "deescalate" tools. Military equipment occurs when de-escalation – listening, communicating, reducing conflict, using or increasing time and distance to prevent violence, and other techniques – has failed. Linnea Wren, member of LWVGLA's Committee on Criminal Justice Reform on drones: * What is the plan for expanding or maintaining the number of drones? * Should LAPD prohibit the use of drones for routine patrols? * Will LAPD make public the drone usage log with date, time, and usage of deployment, as well as 3rd party recipients of video footage? * Has the LAPD made public the policy which, according to a statement made to Motherboard publications, it has developed for its "implementation, audit and review of Cobwebs Technology?" * Should Special Order 33 be updated to include Cobwebs Technology and should the revised policy be reviewed by some public body? Penny Sommers, President, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles * Suggested that LAPD track deployment of military equipment by race/gender/age/disability status of those who were impacted. * If LAPD sincerely wants community engagement, future meetings should have at least a week's notice. As caretakers of the people of Los Angeles, City Council must ensure that the police department is not only compliant with AB 481 and concerned with possible lawsuits, but first and foremost have the safety and well being of all Angelenos in mind. We urge you to instruct LAPD to hold another meeting about its report on use of military equipment, without videos that promote this equipment, that is properly noticed, with adequate technology and time for community members to express concerns and ask questions, and that you consider listening in to such a meeting.