

Communication from Public

Name: Yadi

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 02:25 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: “Violence is never the answer” -Monica Rodriguez (August 2022)
I oppose the approval and adoption of LAPD’s proposed military weapons use policy. LAPD and LA City Council needs to fully comply with the law and the requirements under AB 481. The Council has until October 26 (180 days after LAPD proposed its policy on April 29) to fully consider the matter. The proposed policy does not specify what uses are authorized uses for military weapons in possession of LAPD. This policy does not safeguard the public’s welfare, safety, civil rights, or civil liberties (and AB 481 requires governing bodies to ONLY approve the use policy if it “will safeguard the public’s welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties”). Why does LAPD need military weapons at all? LA is not a war zone. Military weapons have no place in the City!

APPROVE LAPD MILITARY WEAPONS USE POLICY??

NO

NO

NO



Communication from Public

Name: Johnny Ray Gill
Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 02:45 PM
Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon! My name is Johnny Ray Gill and I live in LA in district 1. I write to ask you to vote NO on Agenda Item 12 in Friday's City Council. The arsenal of military gear must be reduced. Angelenos do not want to live in a police state surrounded by weapons of war. Who are the police at war with? The proposed policy is morally & ethically wrong and is a drastic waste of precious resources. These weapons don't help us fight climate change or educate citizens or house the homeless. They are just another signal that our government's priorities are marching in the wrong direction. It's 90 degrees today & the higher temperatures are on the way. These weapons of war don't cool me down and save lives from heat stroke. WHY DOES THE LAPD HAVE MORE MILITARY RESOURCES THAN DAMN NEAR EVERY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?! It's madness! We are a city, not a military. This policy does not safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, or civil liberties. I'm tired of waking up to videos of the LAPD murdering people. I'm tired of the lack of accountability. LA should be the greatest city in the world, but we can seem to get out of our own way. We are investing in death when we should be investing in life. Our lives and the lives of our children and their children. Please vote No on Agenda Item 12 tomorrow. It's the moral and ethical and financially responsible thing to do. There are so many addictions in the United States and our addiction to the police has been killing us, in more ways than one, since the 1900s. It's time for a change! ????

Communication from Public

Name: Zoe

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 11:29 AM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, name is Zoe and I live in Los Angeles in District 4. I write to ask you to vote NO on Agenda Item 12 in Friday's City Council. The arsenal of military gear must be reduced. If there are legitimate uses for arms that could create a war in our city, then the proposed policy must be revised to fully specify WHAT USES are authorized for each weapon. There are countless reasons to stop this initiative, namely, it is morally wrong, yet there are other legal and fiscal issues I take with the proposal. There is no provision that permits weapons How much will it cost to properly train officers on these weapons? How much to store and clean? This policy does not safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, or civil liberties (and AB 481 requires governing bodies to ONLY approve the use policy if it "will safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.") FEAR should not be a tactic used by officers meant to keep the peace. And this bill makes it seem like the police force is afraid. Afraid of what, you might ask? Exactly.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 01:02 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not approve the implementation of the LAPD's policy on the Use of Equipment. This agenda item should not be approved today. Council has until Oct 26 (180 days after LAPD proposed its policy on April 29) to fully consider the matter. The proposed policy must be revised to fully specify what uses are authorized for each weapon. This policy does not safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, or civil liberties (and AB 481 requires governing bodies to ONLY approve the use policy if it "will safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.") LAPD's proposed policy has a major deficiency: it fails to define authorized uses for its militarized equipment, as required by the new law AB481. AB481 requires that every piece of military equipment must describe both the purpose and the authorized use. That's authorized use, not authorized user. The policy must describe under what circumstances a weapon is authorized for use.

Communication from Public

Name: James Yarbrough
Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 05:13 PM
Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: You must reject LAPD use of military equipment, for the following reasons. AB 481 implies that communities have a say in how and if LAPD has military weaponry and equipment and uses it against communities, if we, the community, use the proper channels for objecting, as outlined by the state. In reality this is a falsehood, intent on distracting us from making demands against the police and policing. Oversight laws like AB 481 facilitate the inevitable expansion of LAPD's military arsenal, in a process called mission creep. Through reforms like AB 481, LAPD can insidiously increase its resources and weapons all while hiding behind a facade of accountability. AB 481 also provides mechanisms for LAPD to expand the instances in which it is within policy for them to use military equipment on community members, yet another example of mission creep. Surplus equipment, similar to grants and "gifts", given to LAPD justify their expanding budget for the following year when this equipment inevitably becomes a budget line item. We have seen how the LA Board of Police Commissioners, City Council, and the Mayor do not respond to community demands against police and policing. In 2014 and again in 2017 when LAPD acquired drone technology, the community overwhelmingly spoke out against the use of drones by LAPD, but the city approved them anyway. Today LAPD, beside a continuing expansion of its drone fleet and usage, lists among its military inventory a drone from DJI, a manufacturing company that collaborated with Axon on developing drones with real-time facial recognition technology. LAPD's policy and restrictions on drone usage are emblematic of the inevitability of mission creep. Initially drone usage was limited by LAPD policy for exclusive usage by SWAT teams, more recently we've seen drone usage proposed for things like traffic control, further normalizing the everyday usage of a widely rejected piece of surveillance equipment. The police will use military weapons against the community- that this is part of a long history of occupation and community control, whereby the community has been portrayed as the enemy and labelled domestic terrorists, and Black and brown communities especially have been treated and viewed as enemy war zones that required aggressive, militarized policing to contain and control. It is part of LAPD's continued tactics to maintain power and shut down resistance and uprisings against that control, and we are against AB 481 and also LAPD or any agency having and using these weapons. LAPD asserts that it keeps military weaponry "to assist officers in their duties" and as "a matter of public interest." We refute this and reject the use of military weapons by LAPD and all police agencies, and how this is normalized. Police having access to military weapons has deadly consequences, especially given the fact that LAPD has shot more than 9 people in just the month of July, 2022.

Some of these deadly weapons are already in LAPD's possession include: TASER Shockwave can hit community members over 35 feet away, oftentimes escalates the situation, and has resulted in the death of community members whether it's cops confusing guns for tasers or due to the physical toll of having been electroshocked. Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles were initially designed to withstand roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan and increasingly being used by law enforcement agencies nationally. "Less Lethal" projectiles, such as Pepper Balls, "bean bag", or rubber bullets, still maim and kill community members. During the George Floyd Uprising, we saw as local law enforcement aimed these weapons at close range against crowds of people, the projectiles hitting reporters, children, and in several instances permanently injuring those community members. High mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached; excluding unarmed, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and motorized dirt bikes. Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind

Example of use against community In 2019, LAPD responded to Joe Britton, who was experiencing a mental health episode, by attempting to break his door, utilizing 2 armored BEARCAT vehicles, shooting tear gas and pepper spray inside of his home, sent in a "recon

robot” which deployed more tear gas, sent in another robot, sent in Metro K-9 team, threw a stingball grenade into the room which started a fire, 12 officers fired rifle shots at Britton, and used their taser as 3 officers held him down. On May 1st, 2022, Marisa Baltazar’s finger was partially amputated after being hit by a “less-than-lethal” projectile by Long Beach police officers.

Communication from Public

Name: Diana Chang

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 08:02 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: I'm submitting a comment for Item 12: whether or not to approve LAPD's Use of Equipment policy. Reject AB481. The police will use military weapons against the community- that this is part of a long history of occupation and community control, whereby the community has been portrayed as the enemy and labelled domestic terrorists, and Black and brown communities especially have been treated and viewed as enemy war zones that required aggressive, militarized policing to contain and control. It is part of LAPD's continued tactics to maintain power and shut down resistance and uprisings against that control, and we are against AB 481 and also LAPD or any agency having and using these weapons. LAPD killed 9 people in July alone. Giving them military equipment would not only be unnecessary, it would be irresponsible and dangerous.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 08:42 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: I'm an LA resident and I categorically oppose AB481 and the militarization of law enforcement - police killed 9 people last month alone. I oppose the acquisition and use of military weapons and surveillance against our community- it is unnecessary and unjustified, it is murderous and unethical. Your constituents overwhelmingly oppose this bill - are you listening?? We will vote you out of office and you'll be remembered for the death and harm you caused if you allow this to happen.

Communication from Public

Name: Cody Donald Sloan

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 09:57 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: Please Reject AB481. AB 481 implies that communities have a say in how and if LAPD has military weaponry and equipment and uses it against communities, if we use the proper channels for objecting, as outlined by the state. In reality this is a falsehood, intent on distracting us from making demands against the police and policing. Oversight laws like AB 481 facilitate the inevitable expansion of LAPD's military arsenal, in a process called mission creep. Through reforms like AB 481, LAPD can insidiously increase its resources and weapons all while hiding behind a facade of accountability. AB 481 also provides mechanisms for LAPD to expand the instances in which it is within policy for them to use military equipment on community members, yet another example of mission creep. Surplus equipment, similar to grants and "gifts", given to LAPD justify their expanding budget for the following year when this equipment inevitably becomes a budget line item. We have seen how the LA Board of Police Commissioners, City Council, and the Mayor do not respond to community demands against police and policing. In 2014 and again in 2017 when LAPD acquired drone technology, the community overwhelmingly spoke out against the use of drones by LAPD, but the city approved them anyway. Today LAPD, beside a continuing expansion of its drone fleet and usage, lists among its military inventory a drone from DJI, a manufacturing company that collaborated with Axon on developing drones with real-time facial recognition technology. LAPD's policy and restrictions on drone usage are emblematic of the inevitability of mission creep. Initially drone usage was limited by LAPD policy for exclusive usage by SWAT teams, more recently we've seen drone usage proposed for things like traffic control, further normalizing the everyday usage of a widely rejected piece of surveillance equipment. The police will use military weapons against the community- that this is part of a long history of occupation and community control, whereby the community has been portrayed as the enemy and labelled domestic terrorists, and Black and brown communities especially have been treated and viewed as enemy war zones that required aggressive, militarized policing to contain and control. It is part of LAPD's continued tactics to maintain power and shut down resistance and uprisings against that control, and we are against AB 481 and also LAPD or

any agency having and using these weapons. LAPD asserts that it keeps military weaponry “to assist officers in their duties” and as “a matter of public interest.” We refute this and reject the use of military weapons by LAPD and all police agencies, and how this is normalized. Police having access to military weapons is deadly—especially given the fact that LAPD has shot more than 9 people in just the month of July, 2022. I don't feel that LAPD keeps me or my community safe. We should not be giving LAPD any more money, resources, or access to weapons. Thank you,
Cody

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle King

Date Submitted: 08/11/2022 11:32 PM

Council File No: 22-0766

Comments for Public Posting: Reject AB 481. Surplus equipment, similar to grants and “gifts”, given to LAPD justify their expanding budget for the following year when this equipment inevitably becomes a budget line item- which will be a huge waste of taxpayer dollars. Oversight laws like AB 481 facilitate the inevitable expansion of LAPD’s military arsenal, in a process called mission creep. Through reforms like AB 481, LAPD can insidiously increase its resources and weapons all while hiding behind a facade of accountability. The same LAPD who has shot more than 9 people in just the month of July, 2022. They don't need more weapons. Police having access to military weapons is deadly. Demilitarize LAPD. This is insulting