Communication from Public

Name:	Megan D
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 11:05 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	We've been here before. In 2014 and again in 2017 with the drone usage. Our communities do NOT want militarized police (and I am writing from a wealthier neighborhood whom the system was built to protect at the expense of other's human rights). We already have oversight issues with the LAPD. Putting militarized weapons in their hands will be deadly. AB 481 is a farce. A way of tricking communities into thinking they have oversight. It is cynical and deceptive. NO on AB 481.

Communication from Public

Name: Kenny Stevenson
Date Submitted: 08/12/2022 11:13 AM
Council File No: 22-0766
Comments for Public Posting: 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. Truly scary stuff. 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.

Communication from Public

Name:
Date Submitted: 08/12/2022 10:31 AM
Council File No: 22-0766
Comments for Public Posting: The community has been consistently against the militarization and expansion of the LAPD. AB 481 implies that communities have a say in what tools and technology the LAPD gets to use, if we speak out in the appropriate channels and venues. However history clearly shows this is a facade of accountability. Time and again the LA Board of Police Commissioners, City Council, and the Mayor have shown they do not listen to community demands against police and policing. The community spoke out overwhelmingly against LAPD acquiring and using drone technology in 2014 and 2017, but the city institutions rammed the approval through anyway. AB 481 is another clearly an surreptitious attempt at mission creep - giving the false facade of accountability to the unaccountable militarization of policing. LAPD is allegedly a civilian institution, but is gradually expanding its counterinsurgency mission by acquiring the warmaking arsenal required to expand and prosecute a domestic counterinsurgency. From a budgetary perspective, today's so-called "gifts" will become the next budget's routine line-item spending, further justifying wasteful budget bloat and police misspending. LAPD shot more than 9 people in July 2022. They already have overmatch against the civilians they police, and AB 481 really starts to raise stark constitutional questions: is this a 3rd Amendment violation? As the LAPD move closer and closer to being military police, it seems more and more like Los Angeles is being asked to quarter soldiers during peace time. What sort of civilian officers would respond like LAPD did in 2019 to Joe Britton, a man who was experiencing a mental health episode. The police responded with two armored BEARCAT vehicles, fired tear gas and pepper spray into the house, sent in a recon robot to deploy more tear gas, as well as another robot, sent in a Metro K-9 team, fired in a stingball grenade which ignited a fire. After all of that, 12 officers fired rifle shots at Britton, and tased him while 3 officers held him down. Not even considering all the grevious harms the LAPD regularly commits, with zero accountability to civilian oversight, the LA Board of Commissioners, City Council, and the Mayor seem happy to move the LAPD closer and closer to having the equipment, tactics, and mission of soldiers, opening up the city to an enormous constitutional challenge. AB 481 represents a values,

budget, legal, and constitutional problem for Los Angeles, and should not be passed.

Communication from Public

Name:	Shayan H.
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 10:07 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	I write to ask you to vote NO on Agenda Item 12 in Friday's City Council.

Communication from Public

Name:	Melissa Ferrari
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 10:12 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	I am a resident of District 13 and a teacher at an LA public school, and I am demanding that City Council must vote to reject AB481. The LAPD already generates so much danger and mistrust in the community, and this law both enables the LAPD to continuing using deadly force and militarized equipment against our community as wells as aggravates the convoluted and deceptive communication channels from the LAPD. This law will foster an environment that leads to justifying expansion of the already disgustingly bloated LAPD budget and arsenal. The use of insidious facial recognition software and other military weapons against our own community is leading to irreparable harm. This law does NOT protect our community. If you want to protect us, invest the LAPD budget into actually needed service there will help our community, including social services, providing real long term housing to unhoused folks, and addressing the severely underfunded education infrastructure in our city!

Communication from Public

Name:	Zoe Witt
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 10:01 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	I write to ask you to vote NO on Agenda Item 12 in Friday's City Council.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Gallo
Date Submitted: 08/12/2022 09:00 AM
Council File No: 22-0766
Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to ask that you DO NOT approve LAPD's Use of Equipment Policy. This is a terrible direction to be moving in. Not only is it unnecessary, it will further fracture relations between police & our communities and cause increased harm. The police will use military weapons against the community. There is a long history of occupation and community control - 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. I oppose AB 481 and also LAPD or any agency having and using these weapons. This shouldn't be happening in any police or sheriff's department any where in the country! It's not only dangerous & unneeded, the message it sends to community members is dystopian and fear-based. Is that the cloud under which our young people should be growing up? LAPD asserts that it keeps military weaponry "to assist officers in their duties" and as "a matter of public interest." I absolutely disagree and am appalled by the use of military weapons by LAPD and all police agencies. It is disgraceful how this has been normalized throughout our country.

Communication from Public

Name:	Julia Rich
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 09:08 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	Please reject the use of military equipment for LAPD. Where does the line end for militarizing the police. We continue to allocate more and more budget to them it seems every city council meeting, and now they want more military weapons? What for? 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.

Communication from Public

Name:	Gregory Irwin
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 09:11 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	In regards to Item 12 — I fervently urge a no vote on AB 481, which may claim to be a civilian oversight law but which will, in practice — as we have seen time and again with such "oversight" policies — facilitate easier and broader access to military equipment for LAPD. Already LAPD wields military equipment, including drones, MRAP vehicles, Humvees, vehicles with weapons mounted on them, more. Such excessive force, beyond unnecessary for LAPD's work, simply puts our community in danger — we are not protected by giving LAPD more arms. If they have the weapons, they will misuse them against the citizens they have sworn to protect; this is an undeniable history and pattern and you cannot allow it to expand more by supporting this policy, which will grant LAPD access to weapons whose oversight will be rendered blurry and irrelevant by mission creep. Stand with your community and reject AB 481.

Communication from Public

Name:	Erika Feresten
Date Submitted:	08/12/2022 09:24 AM
Council File No:	22-0766
Comments for Public Posting:	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. However, in reality, this is a falsehood. 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 while hiding behind a facade of accountability. Increasingly arming the LAPD is putting us all in danger. Just one example of this was June 30, 2021, when the LAPD blew up a neighborhood in their attempt to remove fireworks. The LAPD "ignored the advice of the most experienced bomb technician on the scene," according to the inspector general's report. The LAPD failed to clear the neighborhood, including bystanders and journalists on the street and residents living next door to where they detonated a bomb. They failed to weigh explosives in determining their "controlled" explosion. Instead, they relied on calculations based on an eyeballed estimate that blew up the neighborhood, destroyed 35 homes, and injured 17 people. And what was the accountability for the LAPD for this horrendous disaster they caused? There was none. The people injured in this blast, whose homes were destroyed by the LAPD, and who were displaced have still not been made whole. Instead, they continue to suffer the consequences of the LAPD's inept actions while no individual of the LAPD nor the department itself has been held accountable. Yet, the LA city council continues to expand the budget and increase the militarization of the LAPD. It's time the LA City Council stop enabling the LAPD to kill residents and destroy the lives of Angelenos with impunity. Vote no on AB 481.