



PROPOSAL OF A MILITARY EQUIPMENT ORDINANCE

Riverside Police Department

Community Police Review Commission
May 25, 2022

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BACKGROUND ON AB 481

- Ca Governor signed AB 481 in September 2021, became effective January 1, 2022.
- Classifies certain Law Enforcement Equipment as "Military Equipment," requiring City Council oversight.
- Doesn't matter whether equipment ever used by the US Military, or acquired from the Federal Government.



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RMC CHAPTER 2.70

- AB 481 requires the City of Riverside to conduct a public hearing to receive community input, and to adopt the Police Department's military equipment use policy by an ordinance before acquiring or continuing to use previously-acquired equipment
- Each year thereafter, the ordinance and policy must be reviewed and re-approved by the City Council.



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RPD POLICY 705

- Military Equipment Policy: governs the use of equipment described in CA Government Code 7070, such as:
 - Armored Rescue Vehicle
 - Mobile Command Post Vehicles
 - Bomb Robots and Drones
 - Less-Lethal Systems
 - Breaching Devices
 - Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)



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PURPOSE OF SPECIALIZED LE EQUIPMENT

- Preserve human life
- Search and rescue operations
- Rapid response to critical incidents
- High-risk apprehensions
- Hostage and victim rescue
- Safe and effective de-escalation tactics
- Less lethal use of force options
- Reduced likelihood of injury or death to officers/ public.



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IMPORTANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY

- Specialized law enforcement equipment already in use by RPD and other agencies throughout California.
- Interagency agreements in place through the Association of Riverside County Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs (ARCCOPS).
- Equipment necessary to minimize risk of harm to potentially violent suspects, officers, and the community.



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NECESSARY FINDINGS - GOVT CODE 7071(D)(1)

- A determination that:
 - Specialized Law Enforcement Equipment, classified as Military Equipment, is necessary because there is no reasonable alternative to achieve objective of officer and civilian safety.
 - The Department's policy will safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.
 - The equipment is reasonably cost-effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective.
 - Existing equipment complies with the Department's use policy, and if not, corrective action has been taken.



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority No. 2 – *Community Well-Being*

Goal No. 2.4 – Support programs and innovations that enhance community safety, encourage neighborhood engagement, and build public trust.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Police Review Commission receive a report regarding an Ordinance on Military and Specialized Law Enforcement Equipment.



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