

From: [Jim \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Cc: [-- Petaluma Police Equipment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on 7/10/23 Agenda Item 5 - FY23 Military Equipment Annual Report
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:53:22 PM

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Dear Mayor McDonnell and Members of the City Council:

Please remove agenda item 5 - FY23 Military Equipment Annual Report from the consent calendar and have a discussion on this item. Discussion of Petaluma Police Department's Military Equipment should never be treated as so insignificant as to be relegated to the consent calendar.

I believe the report does not include full information on annual costs and the source of funds for those costs as described in the language of AB 481. For each type of equipment, the cost of the equipment must detail the following: Personnel (includes time spent on training, maintenance, transport), Maintenance, Training, Repairs (especially for vehicles), Transport, Storage (especially for vehicles), and Acquisition (especially for expendable items such as munitions). For full disclosure, all of these costs should be dis-aggregated and reported independently and then summed. For example, ignoring the personnel costs when "detailing" the training costs is especially wrong.

My memory is that at your hearing last year, the City Council had requested and Chief Savano had agreed that your annual reports would disclose, for each type of equipment, information on the race, gender, age, location, and disability status of persons who were the objects of the deployments of military equipment. This has not happened. These reports should show the number of deployments for each demographic. The Sheriff's Office already gathers demographic information on who is impacted by uses of force, which can be expanded in reports on deployment of military equipment. AB 481 begins with a finding that "Military equipment is more frequently deployed in low-income Black and Brown communities, meaning the risks and impacts of police militarization are experienced most acutely in marginalized communities." Multiple studies show that police overall use force disproportionately against people of color, especially Black people. It is therefore critical that the annual reports on use of military equipment document, as much as possible, who is impacted by these deployments.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Jim Duffy
Rohnert Park, CA

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Jim Duffy
NACOLE Certified Practitioner of Oversight (www.nacole.org)

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