

From: [Jim](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: RE: August 7, 2023 Agenda Item 13: Annual Military Equipment Use Report, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV)
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:49:18 AM

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Dear Mayor McDonnell and Members of the Petaluma City Council:

Thank you to Chief Savano and Lieutenant McGowan for amending Petaluma Police Department's Annual Military Equipment Use Report to include more complete cost data and the demographic information on the individuals who were subject to the use of the equipment in the revised report! Thank you to the City Council for directing staff to include this information in these reports going forward!

Only with this kind of more complete information can the City Council be in an appropriate position to begin cost/benefit analyses to determine if maintaining each type of equipment year after year is in line with the best interests of the City of Petaluma and its community values. The high percentage of uses against Black individuals shown in the report is concerning to me. It is one report with a limited data set, but I believe it is something to address, or at least keep an eye on.

In future reports, I believe it would be beneficial to ask for all information related to each piece of military equipment (description, use authorization language, number of uses, disaggregated costs and aggregated costs, complaints, demographics of targets of use, etc.) be listed under that piece of equipment's heading in the report so you do not have to flip around the report to get a complete picture of each piece of equipment.

Regarding the request to bring in UAS and UGV technologies to the City of Petaluma, I strongly suggest that Petaluma follow the lead of Sebastopol and implement a Surveillance Technology and Community Safety Ordinance (<https://sebastopol.municipal.codes/SMC/8.80>). The use of surveillance technologies by our law enforcement agencies is increasing at a rapid pace and, at this point in time, the technology has gotten ahead of the law. Surveillance technologies hold great promise for increasing public safety while at the same time pose a great threat to the public's civil rights and liberties. I know that the Sonoma County civil rights organizers from the Sonoma Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California who worked with Sebastopol Chief Nelson and their city council, would be happy to work with the appropriate folks in Petaluma to help you craft an appropriate ordinance.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Respectfully,

Jim Duffy
Rohnert Park

cc: CLEAN (Committee for Law Enforcement Accountability Now)
Sonoma Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California
NAACP - Sonoma/Santa Rosa branch

Police Accountability Task Force of the North Bay Organizing Project
COAR (Communities Organized Against Racism)

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Jim Duffy

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