



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

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To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

**From:** [Cindy Sidaris](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Cindy Sidaris](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 3 - 4/11/2023  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 4:16:51 PM

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April 10, 2023

To: Los Altos City Council  
Fm: Cindy Sidaris, Los Altos Resident  
RE: Item #3, Military Equipment Policy

I am concerned that our Policy 709 (dated 23/04/05) does not meet the requirements of AB481 properly and completely, which opens our city to risk and potential liability. My concerns

1. Chapter 12.8 of AB481, Section d.6 states, the policy shall include “the mechanisms to ensure compliance with the military equipment use policy, including which independent persons or entities have oversight authority...”. Our policy does not include mention of independent oversight.

2. The policy document (Section 709.7 is lacking – it uses the term “should” when the more definitive “shall” or “must” is correct:

“Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing the annual report, the Department should [**change to ‘shall’ or ‘must’**] hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the Department [**should use AB481 wording: General Public**] should [**change to ‘shall’ or ‘must’**] discuss the report and [**add: ask questions to the Department, who will**] respond to [**add: all**] public questions regarding the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

3. Section 709.3 of the policy should reference Section 709.7, Community Engagement, to include announcing the availability of the DRAFT updated policy and the meeting to be held in no less than 30 days for the public to review the policy. The meeting with the governing body for approval of the updated policy must not occur before the public review meeting.

4. The latest Military Equipment Inventory, section, 709.9, posted in the City Council amended agenda on April 7<sup>th</sup>, is dated 22/09/23, and does not include the new and replacement military equipment purchases the City Council approved on March 28. The policy document cannot be approved with the incorrect equipment inventory.

I apologize for submitting my comment after the Monday 2pm deadline. The amended agenda containing the updated policy was not posted to the City Council website until Friday, April 7.

Sincerely,  
*Cindy Sidaris*

**From:** [Los Altos Racial Equity](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #3 04/10/2023  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:35:13 PM

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To Mayor, Vice-Mayor & Councilmembers,

I am requesting that Item #3 - Military Equipment Policy be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

There are discrepancies, missing items, and violations of procedure under AB 481 that have yet to be resolved. The new military equipment purchases which have been approved by City Council have **not even been added in to** the policy, so legally can not be purchased, acquired or used without being added in the policy for the public to review. Our lack of adherence to this procedure is disturbing and points to an "anything goes" attitude when it comes to oversight of the PD.

Renee Rashid  
On behalf of Los Altos for Racial Equity

**From:** [Los Altos Racial Equity](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM ITEM #3 04/10/2023  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:55:12 AM

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To Mayor, Vice-Mayor & Councilmembers,

LARE has serious concerns about the lack of transparency and adherence to procedure in compliance of AB 481 - Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition & Use.

1. AB 481 requires the City Council to approve the types, quantities, authorized uses and costs for any military equipment PRIOR TO requesting, buying, funding or using the military equipment.

City Council proceeded to approve purchases of military equipment requested by PD BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN ADDED TO MEUP POLICY. This is in violation of state law.

2. AB 481 in 7070(d)(6) requires that the MEUP address: "The mechanisms to ensure compliance with the military equipment use policy, including which **independent persons or entities** have oversight authority, and, if applicable, what legally enforceable sanctions are put in place for violations of the policy."

Our policy states that the Chief of Police has oversight authority, which is not an independent person or entity. This is also a violation of state law.

3. The wording in 709.7 has been arbitrarily changed and does not reflect the wording of AB 481, which should be:

Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency **shall** hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the **general public** may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the law enforcement agency's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

4. In addition, we do not believe there is any need for the addition of chemical grenades into our military equipment. MV SWAT does have them and they haven't been used for 20 years. 47% of our budget already goes to PD. We don't need to spend more money on things we are not going to use.

Renee Rashid,  
On behalf of Los Altos for Racial Equity