

**Devonshire Area
Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @7:00 PM**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Self-intro of visitors: Miguel Paez, Oasis Security Company, president

Guest Speaker: Commander Marla Ciuffetelli, Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy

Topic: CA Assembly Bill 481 regarding Military Equipment Used by the LAPD

- Commander Ciuffetelli is from the audit division of the Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy and compiles a large report at the end of the year
This report which is presented to the public must be accepted by the Board of Police Commissioners and the City Council before the Department can utilize any pieces of equipment in inventory or acquire any new pieces
- Background: The use of military equipment and surplus military equipment has been controversial for some time, especially after Ferguson Riots where there was a picture of police officers that showed up to crowd control situations sitting on a what appeared to be tanks – this caused a lot of concern for social activists and there has been a lot of discussion to demilitarize law enforcement agencies in the USA
- In September 2021, the Governor of CA signed AB 481 into law -- it basically designated certain vehicles, tools, weapons systems and ammunition as “military equipment” and it required every law enforcement agency in the State of CA to adopt a policy, to have it adopted as an ordinance and complete an annual report regarding this military equipment.
The annual reports required to itemize all equipment that has been designated by the state, by AB 481, as military equipment
The report requires:
 - the uses of the equipment listed in the report
 - a summary of complaints associated with its use
 - the results of any internal audits
 - annual costs
 - new equipment items being soughtAs with the Department’s policy, every report is reviewed by the City Attorney’s office, and they ensure that the Department has been in compliance with AB 481 and the dictates of the law
- “Military Equipment” as defined by the State is not really “military equipment” but it is standard police equipment utilized by major American police departments including LAPD
Some of the equipment is specialized and some are routine equipment that you may be surprised that it qualifies as “military equipment” under the law

Some of the routine pieces of equipment include are command post vehicles, 40 mm less than lethal launchers and bean bag shotguns that patrol officers carry everyday

It is important to note that the term “military equipment” is very broad under State Law

- Would like everyone to understand that these are items of equipment that police officers and police departments use every day and are essential to having the inventory

The reports are posted on the lapdonline.org website with the policy documents, training documents and the 2 previous year’s reports that were completed

- On June 21, 2022, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the Department’s policy and the first equipment report

The Department tweaks the annual report a little bit every year to improve transparency, include more details on the use of equipment, the cost associated with the equipment, the entities that are responsible for using the equipment and a glossary to better help understand what is in the report

- Some of the items that have been determined to be military equipment include the following categories:

- Specialized Vehicles:

- Specialized armored vehicles – deployed by SWAT and Bomb Squad for high-risk operations requiring enhanced protection

- Heavy-duty trailers – Used for the transportation of large or sensitive items, including equipment and hazardous materials

- Command post vehicles – Mobile units that serve as operational hubs during critical incidents or large scale events

- Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) – Commonly referred to as drones, utilized for aerial surveillance, reconnaissance, and tactical support

- Robotics – Various types of robots employed for tasks such as bomb disposal, hazardous material handling and remote reconnaissance

- Specialized weapons and munitions:

- The inventory comprises a range of firearms and munitions designed to meet specialized operational needs.

- These include AR Rifle Systems, Specialized Sniper Rifles, Bolt Action .22 Caliber Rifles, Benelli M-Force Shotguns, Miscellaneous Rifle Systems with Specialized Capabilities

- These are used by officers who have been trained, some are for specialized units

- Certain less than lethal weapons and munitions

- The Department utilizes a variety of less-lethal devices and munitions that are routinely deployed by officers in the field to manage situations while minimizing harm

- Key examples include 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher, Remington 870 Bean Bag Shotgun, 37mm Projectile Launcher, Specialized items such as various Chemical Agent (tear gas, O/C spray) delivery devices

- Specialized equipment such as breaching tools, flash bang devices, tear gas and items utilized by Bomb Squad

- Less lethal weapons might be used when an officer reasonably believes there is an immediate threat to

the safety of the officers or others and if that threat is not immediately addressed, there is an articulable risk the incident could escalate to the use of a deadly force

It gives the officers the ability to have a bit longer and more precise range

- Recently beanbag shotguns have been disavowed to be used in crowd control situation
- Tear Gas is not used in crowd-control situations unless approved by a commander or above
- The Hornet is to be used only against armed suspects in barricaded situations
- After the North Hollywood Shootout incident in 1997 where LAPD officers were outgunned, LAPD developed a patrol rifle cadre and began training patrol officers and utilizing AR rifles
- Many of the officers are trained in these rifles and can quickly deploy if a similar situation arises again
- LAPD has already enacted a military equipment policy and submitted an Annual AB 481 report
- This is the third completed report
- The way that AB 481 was written is every time there is an equipment LAPD wants to start using, they must develop a policy for it
- LAPD then requests permission from the Board of Police Commissioners and once approved, it needs an ordinance to be passed by the City Council, not the Board of Police Commissioners
- Every year, the Audit Division must request the report be approved and the ordinance be renewed and the City Attorney has opined that if this ordinance is not renewed, it is possible the LAPD will not have access to be able to use the items of equipment
- It is better to have equipment and not have to use it rather than not have it when need it.

Q&A:

- What is the plan to be ready for LA 2028?
LAPD has a section headed by a commander prior to the Paris Olympics who has also been working with Federal and local partners to be ready
With the number of officers down, hoping to recruit more people to join but equipment like robotics and the use of drones will be a force multiplier
- What is the reason behind putting police equipment as military category? There are many people have not been in the military and have no idea what real military equipment is
A lot is ruled by politics
There are a lot of people who do not think LAPD should have anything scary at all and people classify them as military equipment
- Is there an expiration date for AB 481?
This is the law, so the process takes place every year until the law is changed
- Are the drones or the robots armed?
No, the drones and robotic systems are unarmed
There may be an occasion where with a barricaded armed suspect, SWAT may utilize a robot to carry a less lethal device

State of Devonshire with Captain Burns

- Status of ALPR
Currently 46 ALPR have been set up, i.e., 23 locations

The next install is scheduled for December 17

- Devonshire Division is gearing up for the holiday events
- There will be heavy presence with overtime detail in the business corridor including the Northridge Fashion Center from Black Friday into January
- Theft has gone up in the last few years but next year may trend differently with Prop 36 that was passed

Q&A:

- Residents at certain HOA's are not familiar with the Devonshire volunteers entering the community – how does one become a volunteer?
Also seeing people entering HOA's from the park and burglarizing homes -- Can the park be patrolled by officers or can the park gate be locked at night?
Parks are checked when resources are available
Vice goes to the parks at night to check if there is any illegal drinking after hours
Please contact the park rangers (Rec.'s and Parks) for locking the gate or impounding vehicles, or issues with the horse trail in that area
As for information on volunteers, please contact the volunteer coordinator, Officer Ginger Harrison, at DevonshireVolunteer@lapd.online
VCP (Volunteer Community Patrol) is also available to do a presentation for the homeowners
- Senior Lead Reports
 - 17A35 with Senior Lead Officer John Parker
Grand Theft Auto (GTA) is the only category that is up in Part 1 Crimes by 35.9%
159 vehicles in 2024 v 117 vehicles in 2023
With the Holidays coming up, please be aware of your surroundings, when shopping and parking
 - 17A67 with Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora
Part 1 crimes are down in A67 however last week there were 4 Aggravated Assaults (AGG)
Property crimes are up with regards to Theft and Grand Theft Auto (GTA)
Working on a license plate event hopefully in December
The MTA property next to the Devonshire PALS Youth Center is considered a safe zone parking space overnight. However, there are reports that the RV's are not leaving in the morning and now more are coming in – reached out to MTA with CD 12
The encampment is growing on the bluffs at Reseda and Parthenia – reaching out to the railroad who has jurisdiction over that area to handle the clean-up etc.
There will be several Pack-A-Police Car events coming up for the Devonshire PALS Toy Giveaway
Please refer to the flyer for dates and times
 - 17A81 with Senior Lead Officer Sean Taylor
SLO Taylor is covering for SLO Sigston who is out on IOD (injured on duty)
With regards to Traffic Collisions, Devonshire is down by 48% in fatal traffic collisions this year
11 fatalities in 2024 v 20 fatalities in 2023 which is a significant decrease
The intersection of Winnetka and Parthenia which is in A81 has had 6 collisions this year

The weekly task forces at the Northridge Fashion Center and around the business corridor with the Gang and Vice units -- good arrests have been made

Have received reports of street racing on Plummer between Tampa and Corbin and Valley Bureau will be monitoring that location

- 17A95 with acting Senior Lead Officer Phillip Yu

SLO Knopp is off on IOD

A95 looks good except for increase in Burglaries (BURG) by 48%

Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle (BTFMV) is up as well

Currently working on increase in gang activity in the Lindley/Schoenborn area and the Mid-Valley Library with the encampments that are set up

Traffic collisions in are high at the Hayvenhurst and Parthenia intersection – will be reaching out to Valley Traffic to monitor speeding in this area

Q&A/Comments:

- Community members are asking if some of the Coffee with a Cop can be hosted in the evenings, so that those who work have a chance to attend as well
- There has been a new regulation issued by the Dept. of Disability and has required all agencies to make available all documents for the disabled, for hearing and visually impaired

- C-PAB Updates/Comments

- LAFD may shut down the CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) Unit due to budget cuts and place all FF's into other departments/field

This will impact not only the current training program but the existing Call Out Team members and CERT volunteers as they will no longer have oversight or training by LAFD and most likely not be approved by the City Attorney to operate as LAFD volunteers

- Thank you to the C-PAB members who helped at the check-in table at the Galpin Ford event for the new Chief of Police
- Devonshire's active volunteer group, including C-PAB, has not gone unnoticed by OVB
Thank you all for taking time out of your schedule to participate
- Next meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2024 at 7 PM
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!!!