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CONTACT:

Ashley Bailey at abailey@sandiego.gov

SDPD Releases Draft Procedure for Acquisition, Use of ‘Military Equipment’ COMPLIES WITH NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

San Diego – To comply with new state requirements for all California law enforcement agencies, the San Diego Police Department today [released a draft procedure](#) for the funding, acquisition and use of designated “military equipment” such as mobile command posts, certain loud speakers, armored vehicles, less-lethal tools, and specific types of firearms in accordance with [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 481](#).

AB 481 also governs civilian law enforcement’s participation in the federal 1033 Program, which enables local law enforcement agencies to acquire and maintain surplus items through the military’s Defense Logistics Agency. SDPD does not participate in the 1033 Program and does not have 1033 Program equipment in its inventory.

“I am proud San Diego is one of the first cities in California to develop a program to comply with this new state law. Assembly Bill 481 mandates transparency and oversight of the costs associated with and use of military-grade equipment,” Mayor Todd Gloria said. “I championed legislation like this during my time in the Assembly, and I’m pleased to see it implemented here.”

In addition to publishing the draft procedure detailing how the department can acquire and use specialized equipment defined by the bill, agencies must also compile an Annual Report. The report will include a summary for each type of equipment, its use, costs, quantity, and any complaints and internal audits related to violations of the procedure.

“The San Diego Police Department understands the desire for greater transparency when it comes to the equipment officers use to keep the community safe. Meeting the requirements laid out in Assembly Bill 481 has been a massive undertaking by SDPD personnel,” said Chief of Police

David Nisleit. “We look forward to showing how these tools are used to de-escalate dangerous situations in our neighborhoods and how they are crucial to our public safety efforts.”

The report and procedure are mandated to be reviewed and approved by the City Council annually.

Agencies must seek approval of its “military equipment” before May 1, 2022, for any equipment purchased before Jan. 1, 2022. SDPD is one of the first and largest departments in the state to be moving forward with the process.

Working with the Independent Commission on Police Practices, SDPD plans to present the draft procedure and “2021 Military Equipment Annual Report” at the Commission’s public meeting on February 22, then at the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee in early March. This fulfills AB 481’s requirement to host a community engagement meeting ahead of its review by the City Council.

Once approved by the City Council and Mayor, the final procedure will be posted to SDPD’s [Policies and Procedures section](#) of its website as well as its new [Mandated Disclosures section](#).

Part of [Mayor Gloria’s proposed police reforms](#) announced in 2021 included implementing controls for the procurement and use of “military equipment.” The passage of Assembly Bill 481 superseded the need for a local resolution on this issue by mandating it statewide.

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