

**Attachments:**

Police equipment March2020 SignOn Letter.doc; AB 3131 revised text.docx; EO 13688 LEEWG\_Report\_Final.pdf; Delehanty1033grantspoliceviolence.pdf; Police Militarization.pdf

Commissioners:

Please see below and attached from John Lindsay-Poland for tonight's meeting.  
-Kathy

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**From:** John Lindsay-Poland <[JLindsay-Poland@afsc.org](mailto:JLindsay-Poland@afsc.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:54 PM

**To:** Lee, Katherine <[KLee@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:KLee@cityofberkeley.info)>

**Cc:** Kitty Calavita <[kccalavi@uci.edu](mailto:kccalavi@uci.edu)>

**Subject:** Materials for PRC item #9A

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Dear Kathy,

Could you please distribute this email to members of the PRC? Thanks so much!

Dear PRC members,

As you consider the proposed ordinance on special equipment, Item #9A (pp. 13-28 of your agenda packet), you may wish to reference background materials for the proposal.

I work for the California Healing Justice program of American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization founded in 1917 and dedicated to peace and justice. I focus on police policy issues for the Service Committee.

The proposed ordinance, authored by CM Harrison and referred to you and to the Public Safety Committee by the City Council's Rules Committee, is based very closely on Berkeley's Surveillance Equipment Ordinance. Its origins are in Executive Order 13688 (attached), issued by President Obama in 2015, which restricted and in some cases banned certain types of military equipment for local law enforcement. After President Trump rescinded EO 13688, AB 3131 was a 2018 bill (attached) in California to control a similar list of types of equipment, without banning any type, which passed both houses of the legislature but was vetoed by then-Governor Brown. The current proposal is modeled on AB 3131 as well as the Berkeley surveillance ordinance. Oakland is also in the process of considering a very similar ordinance, which was approved unanimously by the Oakland Police Commission on June 25 and will be considered by its City Council.

Like the surveillance equipment ordinance, this legislation neither bans nor approves equipment, but creates a process for civilian oversight of its acquisition and policies for its use. It enables transparency for equipment that is sometimes controversial in the community, though little information about its use is made public, and mandates guidance for how and in what circumstances approved equipment may be used.

I attach copies of two studies that conclude that police departments in the United States that acquire military-grade equipment are more likely to use violence and are no more successful in reducing crime than those that

acquire less such equipment. I also attach a letter signed by 40 community organizations in support of the similar ordinance in Oakland.

I am happy to serve as a resource for you as you consider this proposed ordinance over the next 90 days. I will be joining you during your meeting for your first hearing of this item on Wednesday evening.

Thanks and be well.

John Lindsay-Poland

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