

RECOMMENDATION SUBMISSION AND RESPONSE FORM

2023 MEU Community Recommendation #5

DISCUSSED BY SCPRC		APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED	X	PENDING FURTHER REVIEW	
RECEIVED BY SPD	02/12/2024	APPROVED AND PENDING		SPD UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT	
RETURNED TO SCPRC	09/09/2024	PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION		DENIED	

SCPRC RECOMMENDATION

GO 410.06 Military Equipment Use

Community engagement regarding SPD's military equipment use policy is poorly promoted.

Changes in Existing Policy(s): Establish a formal and standardized process for soliciting community input and incorporating feedback into annual updates of SPD's military equipment use policy. The process should be written into GO 410.06 and include clear timelines for when SPD opens its community survey and when SCPRC will host no less than 3 community input forums before the annual report goes to City Council. The process should adopt the SCPRC's proposed Community Outreach Plan and promote all community surveys and input forums through coordinated outreach campaigns utilizing the City's website, mailing list and social media accounts, including those used for SPD and City Councilmembers.

The community survey should be open to the public no later than 4 months prior the Department's annual deadline for approving MEU policy updates (currently September 13th). The community input forums should be conducted no later 3 months prior to approving MEU policy updates. All feedback and policy recommendations captured from the survey and input forums should be included in a final report completed by SCPRC, published on the City's website, and presented to City Council before the annual MEU report goes to City Council and before adoption of any MEU policy updates.

SCPRC RECOMMENDATION RATIONALE

Expands upon 2022 MEU Recommendation #2. When citywide policing changes are made, there are few venues for the public to voice concerns or engage directly with the police department or City outside of the two-minute public comment afforded at City Council meetings. This became clear at the community forums, where a lot of pent-up frustrations were expressed, but once voiced and acknowledged, gave space for thoughtful discussion between community members and SPD officers.

While the forums were specifically designed to solicit feedback on the proposed MEU policy, it was clear that there is a desire by city residents to be engaged more deeply and thoughtfully on policing in general. One takeaway frequently expressed by the public was the need for SCPRC to have more authority to review policies, procedures, and data on a timely basis.

The Commission agrees: the public needs earlier and more visible public notice of future community input meetings about the MEU report and policy, which includes sharing meeting notices, SPD's draft of its annual MEU Report, planned procurements, and policy updates at least ninety (90) to one-hundred twenty (120) days in advance as suggested by community members.

SPD RESPONSE

SPD is committed to being responsive to our community and over the last three annual military equipment approval processes has improved reporting, policy drafting, and community engagement. Additionally, SPD has reviewed and incorporated feedback from the SCPRC, human rights organizations, leagues, and attorney groups.

It should be noted, a formal process for incorporating community feedback has not been established based on lack of a best practice or model used by any other California law enforcement agency.

Since the inception of AB481, SPD has organized a community survey and participated in community outreach events focused on military equipment.

For the last two years, SPD has worked closely with the SCPRC, City Manager's Office, and City Media and Communications to organize, publicize, and produce media to share information pertaining to MEU community meetings.

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

N/A

APPENDIX

N/A