

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 5



City and County of San Francisco

DEAN PRESTON

May 7, 2024

Chief William Scott
San Francisco Police Department
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Re: *Letter of Inquiry Regarding SFPD Compliance With Assembly Bill 481 [Law Enforcement and State Agencies: Military Equipment: Funding, Acquisition, and Use] (Chiu)*

Dear Chief Scott:

This Letter of Inquiry concerns the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) failure to comply with the requirements of Assembly Bill 481 (Chiu), which codified sections 7070 to 7075 of the California Government Code. Currently, the law requires that any local law enforcement agency submit:

“[A]n annual military equipment report for each type of military equipment approved by the governing body within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The law enforcement agency shall also make each annual military equipment report required by this section publicly available on its internet website for as long as the military equipment is available for use.” (Cal. Gov. Code § 7072, subd. (a).)

Similarly, section (b) of California Government Code section 7072 requires that SFPD hold “at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting” within 30 days of releasing its annual military equipment report. This law was passed and signed into law with an aim to ensure public view and input into their police departments' use of military equipment. However, the law relies on law enforcement agencies' compliance to be effective.

While SFPD submitted a policy that the Board of Supervisors approved in December 2022, it has not complied with the requirement that it submit a new report within one year of approval, and despite my office's repeated requests for information about the status of the report, the Department has not provided any estimated timeframe for its compliance.

The San Francisco Sheriff's Office has already submitted its annual report, held a community engagement meeting, and sought and received Board of Supervisors approval of its military equipment annual report. This

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report was heard and approved at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee on April 18, 2024. As Chair of that committee, I am formally inquiring about the status of SFPD's report, and further seek the following information:

1. Please explain why the Department has not posted or submitted its annual report for review by the Board of Supervisors or the Police Commission.
2. When does the Department plan to post its annual report for public view?
3. When does the Department plan to hold a public community engagement meeting regarding its annual report?

Please provide the requested information within one week of the date of this letter. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dean Preston
District 5 Supervisor

CC: Mayor London Breed
Cindy Elias, President, SF Police Commission
Paul Henderson, Director, Department of Police Accountability