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Subject: Agenda item 240636 Policy on use of drones
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Dear Supervisors:

I am unable to attend this meeting in person and do not qualify for an ADA accommodation to testify remotely. I support restoring some public remote access for everyone, especially at Board Committees where public participation is allowed.

This ordinance appears to be a back door attempt to rectify the lack of compliance with AB481 that requires a use policy for militarized equipment that has been posted and approved by the Board.

It should be noted that the SF Police Department failed to file its first annual report in a timely fashion and has not met the requirement to hold a properly noticed public hearing. There was a small meeting at one police station which included discussion of the report. This in my opinion did not meet the reporting requirement.

AB 481 requires reporting on the fiscal impact of in this case drones including projected annual personnel costs and maintenance costs. You are only showing acquisition costs here. You are also not showing whether use of drones is cost effective compared to other methods.

I am also appalled that the privacy rights of citizens are ignored here. How is the public going to know what planned operations means. You need to comply with 4th Amendment standards that protect free speech and would ban use of surveillance of protest demonstrations. The police should not be allowed to invade private spaces without a warrant based on probable cause.

I urge you to direct the SF Police Department to hold a hearing on the entire inventory of military equipment used by the Department and to include in that hearing the draft policy on use of drones. When this has occurred then the Rules Committee should review the report and any policy recommendations including use of drones based on the input from the public.

I also urge the Board to realign the reporting requirements for the Police and Sheriff's Departments to coincide with the budget process so the Supervisors can appropriately monitor the acquisition and use of all military equipment.

I would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for their compliance with AB 481 in filing their annual report on time and doing their best to provide all of the information required.

And I would like the Board to fulfill its oversight and accountability functions to protect the public under the law and to make more informed budget decisions concerning the need for and use of any military equipment by the city in the first place.

Thank you.

Regina Sneed
District Two resident