

From: [Deetje B](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [DEETJE BOLER](#)
Subject: Item. on Rules Committee Calendar: Police Use of Military Weapons
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 9:43:40 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

Re: Police Use of Military Weapons

The proposed purchase and potential use of surplus military weapons and equipment is not acceptable policy. Our City, the city of St. Francis, must lead to a turn away from violence in its policing to the greatest degree and by whatever means possible. This new post-mechanical, automated world possesses almost miraculous levels of communication and/or attack, and we, as a community, have the choice of peaceful enforcement of the law rather than resorting to weapons of war. If, indeed, an attack on the peace were so extreme that war weapons were required, then the militia could be called in. But our police, our community law enforcement officers, should not be subject to battle-level expectations -- or the expectation of having to use military weapons in their own community.

Therefore, I suggest that the Board indicate to the Police and the Sheriff's Departments that they should refrain from the purchase of military weapons. Instead, the funds otherwise spent on weapons could be put toward salaries for increasing the force numbers, for appropriate training programs, and for working conditions that would be the envy of all so that finding and hiring the number of officers needed would be no problem.

To me, keeping the peace by employing military weapons is a non-sequitur. Once we use military weapons against our own civilians, we are no longer 'keeping the peace', we are breaking it. Although that might seem necessary under possible revolutionary attack, it should not seem necessary to maintaining the peace on our streets. There must be alternatives; otherwise we are doomed to undeclared war on ourselves.

However, since at present the City is accustomed to accept (buy) surplus military weapons from the U.S government, then the citizens may appeal to the Board of Supervisors to reject the purchase from the US government of weapons, or else at least set limits on their use of lethal weapons of war.

However, by now, our police departments already have some military equipment (surplus from the Federal government). We can send it back (and ask for a refund?), we can decline to buy any more surplus weaponry from the military, and we can put those funds into salaries or training in peaceful resolution. (I am not suggesting that the police do without any armed protection but I am suggestion that the police return to 'keeping the peace' rather than threatening the populace willy-nilly with violence.

I apologize for the length of this, all these words, but sometimes that's

necessary when going against the tide. Of violence. Of fear. Of confused hope and despair. ...And holding instead onto the shores of shared hopes and caring.

Respectfully,

Deetje Boler, WILPF-SF

1280 Laguna St. SF, CA 94115