

Pleasanton Police Department
Community Advisory Board
Tuesday May 24, 2022
Briefing Room

Department Attendees: Chief David Swing, Captain Larry Cox, Lieutenant Maria Sarasua, Lieutenant Brandon Stocking, Sergeant Rob Shuffield, Officer Katie Emmett, Administrative Assistant Kim Monfort

CAB Members in Attendance: Tim Barley, Tonya Bass, Gary Davila, Erica Gallegos, Ediambolo Lokoto, Puneet Pamma, Raffiq Rajabali, Melanie Sadek, Sylvia Tian, Soraya

Absent: Jennifer Degroat-Penney, Bill Foley, LaTasha Jefferson, Eugene Litvinoff, Pinky Mukherjee

I. Chief's Welcome

Chief Swing welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced PPD Staff who are part of the Increasing Community Trust workgroup of the Strategic Plan. Tonight's meeting is an opportunity for CAB to provide input on policy level conversations specific to AB481 prior to the item going to City Council on June 7th.

II. New Business

a. AB481 – Military Equipment

Lt. Stocking provided background on AB481, which is one of 8 reform bills signed into law on September 30, 2021. AB481 relates to the oversight and transparency for the funding, acquisition and use of "military equipment." The Pleasanton PD does not participate in 1033 military surplus programs.

Requirements of AB481

- Defines military equipment
- Requires policy and inventory to be approved by City Council
- Requires City Council approval for the continued use of equipment
- Requires annual reporting on: use, complaints, audits, costs, inventory and acquisition
- Requires an annual community engagement meeting

Military Equipment Defined

Lt. Stocking reviewed the items AB481 defines as military equipment.

- Unmanned aerial or ground vehicles

- Pleasanton PD has used Alameda County Sheriff's Office unmanned aerial and ground vehicles for search and rescue, missing persons cases and locating wanted suspects who fled.
- The department currently has two robots with cameras, no weapons.
- Wheeled vehicles with attached breaching device
 - Pleasanton PD has an Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV)
- Specialized firearms and ammunition
- Flashbangs
 - Pleasanton PD uses this item
- Tear gas and pepper balls
 - Pleasanton PD uses these items
- Projectile launchers (40 mm, beanbag, rubber bullet)
 - Pleasanton PD uses these items
- Command and control vehicles
 - Pleasanton PD does not have one.
 - The department currently uses Livermore PD's.

The following items are not used by the Pleasanton PD:

- MRAP, APC's, Humvees, 5 ton trucks, tracked vehicles
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels or vehicles
- Explosive breaching apparatuses
- Firearms/ammunition of .50 caliber or greater
- Firearms which launch explosives
- Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons
- Long range acoustic devices (LRAD)

Timeline

- April 30th – Proposed policy was posted to the website and submitted to City Council.
- June 7th – First reading to City Council.
- June 21st – Second reading to City Council
- March 2023 – First annual report and community engagement meeting.

Discussion

A CAB member questioned why Pleasanton PD does not participate in 1033 military surplus programs. Lt. Stocking stated that such equipment does not fit the department's needs. Staff discussed potential time delays of using/borrowing equipment from other agencies, and availability of equipment if an event impacts multiple agencies/cities. CAB discussed the importance of providing context around why equipment is necessary and of educating the community on how equipment can be utilized to locate missing persons, provide community safety, ensure police officer safety, assist search and rescue missions on Pleasanton Ridge, etc. Overall, CAB members agreed the equipment is necessary.

b. Equitable Policing

Chief Swing hosted a conversation on Equitable Policing which was previously identified as a priority by CAB. AB953 enacted the Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 (RIPA) into law requiring California law enforcement agencies to annually report their stop data to the Attorney General. (A stop is any detention by a peace officer of a person and includes both pedestrian and vehicle stops.) Officers are mandated to record 15 fields, including their perception of the identity characteristics pertaining to each stopped person, such as race/ethnicity, gender identity, approximate age, etc. They are prohibited from asking the person stopped to self-identify these characteristics. Collection of this data started in earnest this year. In addition, all Pleasanton PD staff will be attending an all-day course on Fair and Impartial Policing to understand what bias looks like, and how it plays a role in what officers do.

Chief Swing divided CAB into groups of three, and asked them to discuss the definition of “equitable policing”. CAB members spoke about officers looking within themselves to constantly check for bias, to be aware of triggers for bias. A CAB member stated that policy and procedure cannot be changed without changing mindset. The group discussed the difference between “equity” and “equal”. It was noted that bias can go both ways. CAB stated that department staff should reflect the community with regard to gender, ethnicity, age, etc.

It was agreed that equitable policing is difficult to measure. Suggestions included following up with individuals after a stop, conducting surveys, random video assessments. Other ideas included outreach in Hispanic, Asian and African languages. Staff appreciated the feedback of the group. CAB and staff decided the discussion should continue at the next meeting.

The next CAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28th at the Police Department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.