



LOS ALTOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

February 1, 2023

Dear Community Members:

In 2021, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 481, relating to the funding, acquisition, and use of “military equipment” by law enforcement agencies. California Government Code Section 7071 requires a law enforcement agency’s military equipment policy, which includes the type of equipment the department may acquire and use, to be approved by the governing body (City Council). Government Code 7071 also requires the Los Altos Police Department to post the military equipment policy on the department website at least 30 days prior to the policy being heard by City Council.

It is important to understand that what is defined as “military equipment” is not related to whether or not the equipment was acquired through military sources. The Los Altos Police Department does not possess any equipment specifically designed for military use, nor has the department acquired any equipment through a military surplus program, commonly known as the “1033 Program”. Our military equipment is included in the policy under inventory and includes several less lethal force options and training flash bangs utilized as diversionary devices by our SWAT team.

We will be hosting our annual Public Safety Update via Zoom to share updates on the Military Equipment Use Policy on February 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM. We welcome your questions and feedback from regarding this policy, please send your questions in advance to info@losaltosca.gov.

Sincerely,

Angela Averiett
Chief of Police