



Militarized Equipment Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes (5/6/2025)

Meeting Minutes- 2025 Kick-Off Meeting

Time: 6:31 PM - 7:30 PM

Attendees:

- **Chair:** Wilson Riles
 - **Commissioner:** Sam Dawit
 - **Alternate Commissioner:** Omar Farmer
 - **Acting Captain** William Febel
 - **Acting Captain:** Omar Daza-Quiroz
 - **Acting Captain:** Toribio
 - **Featured Community Ad Hoc Member:** Tuan Ngo
 - **Featured Community Ad Hoc Member:** Elouise Epstein
 - **Featured Community Ad Hoc Member:** Stephen Geist
 - **Featured Community Ad Hoc Member:** John Lindsay-Poland
 - **Featured Community Ad Hoc Member:** Ericson Amaya
 - **Chief of Staff:** Mykah Montgomery
 - **Community Participant:** 1
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Main Topics Discussed

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Meeting Schedule**
 - Regular meetings are set for the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM.
- 3. Overview of Responsibilities**
 - Review of the 2024 Militarized Equipment Report.
 - Upcoming deep dive discussion of the report scheduled for the next meeting.

4. Timeline Clarification

- OPD reported that they must present the report to the City Council and hold a community engagement meeting within 60 days.
- Discussion regarding when the official “clock” starts based on report publication.

5. Bearcat Replacement

- OPD presented the Lenco SUV (on Ford F-550 chassis) as a visually less-intrusive armored alternative.
- Commissioner Farmer emphasized prior community agreement (2021) to fully decommission the Bearcat and replace it with more appropriate vehicles.
- OPD noted the need for two Lenco SUVs to meet current operational needs.

6. Crowd Control and Use of Force History

- Commissioner Farmer recounted concerns stemming from prior misuse of tear gas and lack of accountability by incident commanders.
- Advocated for an “Incident Commander Policy” and potential crowd control ordinance.

7. Policy and Public Engagement Recommendations

- Acknowledgment that OPD policy now restricts deployment of armored vehicles for crowd control.
- Suggestion for clearer community engagement meeting planning that complies with both local and state law.
- Chair Riles affirmed the importance of a well-advertised, focused, and legally compliant public meeting.

Questions and Concerns Raised

- Has the Bearcat been officially decommissioned as agreed?
- What is the timeline and procedure for public engagement around the report?
- What policies are in place governing tear gas and crowd control?

- How can incident commanders be held more accountable in crisis scenarios?
 - How and where will meeting materials and recordings be made accessible to the public?
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Suggestions and Recommendations

- Review and reaffirm the 2021 resolution between OPD and the Commission on decommissioning the Bearcat.
 - Structure next meeting's report review discussion by thematic areas (e.g., Bearcat, crowd control, legal compliance).
 - Draft and circulate an agenda prior to the next meeting to guide discussion.
 - Include public comment options at the end of future ad hoc meetings.
 - Clarify which entity (OPD or Commission) is responsible for hosting the required public engagement meeting.
 - Ensure Zoom links are not shared and are individualized for panelists to avoid confusion.
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Next Steps

- Chair Riles to draft a structured agenda for the next meeting focused on the 2024 report.
 - Commissioners and community members to review John Lindsay-Poland's emailed notes/questions.
 - OPD to verify if the 2024 Militarized Equipment Report has been officially posted online.
 - Legal counsel (Katina and Chair) to clarify meeting hosting responsibilities per City Charter.
 - OPD to gather relevant documentation and history regarding Bearcat replacement commitments.
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Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.
- Next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM.