CITY OF OAKLAND

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oakland Community and Stakeholders **FROM:** LeRonne L. Armstrong
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Militarized and Controlled Equipment Draft Policies **DATE:** May 20, 2022

PURPOSE

This memorandum is to provide information to the Oakland Community and governing body stakeholders on the Oakland Police Department's progress towards completing requirements around militarized and controlled equipment.

BACKGROUND

The Oakland City Council passed CMS 13657 on July 6, 2021, enshrining Chapter 9.65 into the Oakland Municipal Code. This ordinance requires that the Police Department (OPD) produce reports and use policy / policies prior to taking specific actions with militarized or otherwise controlled equipment. The State of California took much of the language in Oakland's ordinance and adopted it in an assembly bill (AB 481) that was passed by the legislature and signed into law on September 30, 2021. This law, comprising sections 7070-7075 of the Government Code, requires that law enforcement agencies (OPD is a law enforcement agency under this statute) obtain the approval of their governing bodies(Oakland Police Commission and City Council) prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, which is defined in the law.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

OPD's Special Operations Section (SOS) oversees much of the equipment controlled by these two laws. The SOS Commander has completed both a draft policy and a draft inventory of militarized and controlled equipment, which are posted to our website.

This is only the beginning – OPD is looking forward to collaboration with the Police Commission and our Community as we move forward with this process. However, as required by law, OPD is posting the draft policy and inventory list for viewing by the public as the work of reviewing and finalizing the policy continues.

OPD is committed to legally enforceable safeguards, including transparency, oversight, and accountability, when it comes to the use of controlled equipment. These drafts represents a step on the way towards fulfilling that mission.

In service,

LeRonne L. Armstrong
Chief of Police