

OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 21-04

RESOLUTION TO PHASE OUT AND REPLACE THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT'S "BEARCAT" ARMORED VEHICLE WITH A NON-MILITARIZED ALTERNATIVE

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Oakland empowers the Oakland Police Commission to propose changes to policies, procedures, customs and General Orders of the Oakland Police Department; and

WHEREAS, significant public feedback during the Police Commission's review and approval of the Oakland Police Department's Armored Vehicles Training Bulletin has demonstrated a strong public desire for the Oakland Police Department to cease its use of the BearCat armored vehicle due to its overtly militarized appearance; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Police Commission has previously declared its commitment to the demilitarization of the Oakland Police Department, and its intention to critically review the Oakland Police Department's acquisition and use of militarized police equipment; and

WHEREAS, public comment provided to the Oakland Police Commission has demonstrated that the Oakland Police Department's use of overtly militarized armored vehicles has generated fear and continuing trauma to the residents of neighborhoods where such vehicles are most often used; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Police Department's need for ballistic protection can be satisfied by alternatives that do not create or perpetuate the fear and trauma caused by the use of overtly militarized vehicles in residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Police Department has stated that the Department's BearCat armored vehicle is nearing the end of its useful service life, and that the Department has begun considering replacement vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Police Department has stated that the Department's BearCat armored vehicle is routinely unavailable for service due to ongoing, persistent, and unavoidable maintenance requirements; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Oakland Police Department shall, within six (6) months, return to the Oakland Police Commission with a proposed replacement for the Department's BearCat armored vehicle that satisfies the Department's needs for sufficient protective capacity, the Department's needs for sufficient storage capacity, and the community's need for police equipment that can be accepted as appropriate for use by civilian law enforcement agencies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oakland Police Commission shall, within sixty (60) days of the Department's identification of a potential replacement vehicle(s), convene a public hearing, on the appropriateness of the Department's proposed replacement vehicle(s); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oakland Police Department shall, within twenty-four (24) months, cease its use of the BearCat armored vehicle and instead use the Department's armored Suburban and/or replacement armored vehicles as authorized by policy unless the Department and the Commission jointly concur and report to the Council that a replacement vehicle cannot be realistically acquired in time, and a new deadline is enacted; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oakland Police Department shall not, absent exigent circumstances, seek, solicit, or accept the deployment and use of overtly militarized armored vehicles by outside agencies under mutual aid agreements, "overtly militarized" for the purposes of this resolution, meaning any vehicle that a reasonable resident might perceive as emblematic of a militarized approach to policing in our community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oakland Police Department shall not transfer the BearCat to another police department or law enforcement agency.

IN POLICE COMMISSION MEETING, March 25, 2021, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – DORADO, GAGE, GARCIA, HARBIN-FORTE, JACKSON, AND JORDAN

NOES –

ABSENT – SINGLETON

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____



CHRISSIE LOVE
Administrative Analyst, II
Community Police Review Agency
City of Oakland, California