

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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MPD discusses military equipment use policy

Photo Vera Kochan

weaponry, nevertheless as of

Jan. 1 it is required to obtain

approval from the town council

through an adoption of a mili-

tary equipment use policy. The

community review process and

to the town council during its

equipment becomes available

to local law enforcement agen-

cies after military action over-

seas ends. Currently, MPD has

less lethal shotguns and bean

bag projectiles in addition to

two free surplus military gen-

June 22 meeting that such

MPD Chief Jon King related

policy must be reviewed and

approved annually after a

an MPD report.



Bean bag projectiles

By Vera Kochan

Assembly Bill 481 is intended to increase transparency, accountability, and oversight surrounding the acquisition and use of military equipment by state and local law enforcement, which includes, but isn't limited to unmanned aerial or ground vehicles, armored vehicles, command and control vehicles, pepper balls, less lethal shotguns, long range acoustic devices and flashbangs.

While the Moraga Police Department does not utilize most of the above-mentioned

cilities during outages.

"The less lethal shotgun and bean bag projectiles allow officers to confront a potentially armed or dangerous suspect at a longer distance, potentially preventing a deadly force encounter," King stated in his staff report. "The range of the weapons system helps to maintain this increased distance between officers and a suspect, reducing the immediacy of the threat, which is a principle of de-escalation."

erators used to power town fa-

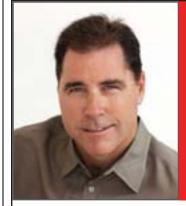
Mayor Steve Woehleke asked King if Moraga was excluded from the use of drones, to which King replied, "We do not currently operate drones. We have other agencies who do. For example: Moraga-Orinda Fire District has drones; the Lafayette Police have drones; the Sheriff's Office has drones; and those law enforcement agencies all have similar policies about their use. As long as those policies are abided by on a mutual aid or assistance basis, we could have them assist us, but if we wanted to start a drone program of our own, I would have to come to you [the council] ahead of time and get your approval to make those

purchases." The item will return to the council on Aug. 24.



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