

From Berkeley Friends Meeting Racial Justice Action Team and AFSC

Call to Action for Racial Justice

Your voice is needed at public hearings to help shape important public policy! Join us and help make the implementation of a new law a citizen-guided success by speaking out on military equipment use policies in **your** city and county in California.

AB 481 is a law that requires California law enforcement agencies to propose policies about a range of militarized gear and to obtain approval of policies regulating the use of this military equipment. Right now, city councils and county supervisors are deciding whether to adopt police and sheriff proposed policies for the use of tank-like armored vehicles, assault rifles, teargas, 'less lethal' launchers and munitions, drones, sound cannons and other gear often used in SWAT operations and crowd control.

Public meetings are required and must be open to community comment. Our voices are needed to ensure police usage of military equipment is limited, and when used, the agency is held accountable via reporting on any incidents.

AB 481 ([see the legislation here](#)) requires approval by city councils or county supervisors. If proposed use policies are not adopted within 180 days of publication, use and purchase of military equipment is prohibited until a policy is adopted. For military equipment with an approved use policy, beginning in 2023, agencies must publish annual reports on uses of militarized equipment.

By speaking up at these public hearings, communities have an opportunity to bring transparency to militarized law enforcement gear and to push back on the widespread use of this weaponry, which has

been disproportionately deployed against Black and Brown people, neighborhoods, and households.

The Berkeley Friends Meeting Racial Justice Action Team and AFSC is urging state-wide participation in this window of opportunity. Recorded training sessions are available online and include the details about the legislation and talking points, as well as how to find policies/hearings and common policy problems that negatively affect communities.

You can start with the advocacy toolkit [here](#).

The AFSC report on AB 481 is [here](#).

Find what's happening in your community. Check the AFSC list of [California policies and hearings](#)

This is a community issue, so please share with your network.