

An Examination of ORDINANCE NO. 3134 and  
Whittier Police Department Policy 709.4—Military  
Equipment Inventory

After reading documents related to the use of military equipment by our police department, the expenditure for certain equipment seems exorbitant and unjustified.

Resolution ORDINANCE NO. 3134 states that ...”meaningful public input on decisions regarding how military equipment is funded, acquired, or used...” is applicable.

Unless Whittier expects an invasion by the Russian army or an assault by the Proud Boys, the establishment of a large arsenal of weapons and equipment as cited in attachment C (Whittier Police Department Policy 709.4—Military Equipment Inventory) is unjustified.

One city council session will not allow enough time to debate the efficiency and need for an item like a “2015 Armored Group Vehicle the BATT... at a cost of \$309,000 per vehicle; a 2007 Eagle Workhorse (custom built) vehicle at a cost of \$250,000 per vehicle; and the acquisition of Colt AR-15/M4 rifles at a cost of \$2,400 per rifle—not to exceed 250.

The justification for purchases of such equipment requires the scrutiny and recommendations of an ad hoc committee of Whittier residents that represent a broad spectrum of community organizations.

If “meaningful public input is to be exercised, I urge that ORDINANCE NO. 3134 be tabled until such an ad hoc committee is established to prepare a report with recommendations presented to the mayor and city council.