



## **Resolution #5**

### **END THE MILITARIZATION OF THE POLICE**

PRESENTED BY: ALAMEDA LABOR COUNCIL

WHEREAS the militarization of police forces adversely affects public safety, welfare, civil rights and civil liberties, and increases the propensity of police to overreact and resort to violence without effectively reducing crime; and

WHEREAS the militarization of police is a facet of structural racism that contributes to the devaluation and loss of Black lives and the lives of Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC); and

WHEREAS the loss of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color's lives to police killings has galvanized a nation and the world to demand an end to the militarization of our communities; and

WHEREAS the Pentagon's 1033 program has sent \$7 billion worth of military equipment to more than 8,000 law enforcement agencies in Alameda County and across the country since 1990, including tracked and armored vehicles, drones, assault and other rifles and rifle sights, grenade launchers, chemical weapons, bayonets, night-vision goggles, drones and other weapons, equipment and supplies designed for military combat; and

WHEREAS the acquisition of military-grade arms and equipment by local police forces contributes to the militarism of police while padding the profit margins of military-industrial corporations that manufacture and distribute military-grade arms and other military equipment; and

WHEREAS cities and counties must allocate funds from their budgets to purchase such militarized equipment and, for the 1033 program, to transport, maintain and train officers to use the equipment, diverting local funds from urgently needed community investments; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of current police encounters could best be addressed by de-escalation and social services rather than the use of force or the presence of armed officers; and

Whereas it has been shown that police forces have increasingly engaged in paramilitary tactics that target Black, Brown and Indigenous communities disproportionately; and

WHEREAS a primary stated purpose of the Pentagon's 1033 program is to engage in counter-drug activities, which has created a "warrior" mentality among police officers, who then are prone to view the communities they serve as a "battle space" and all its residents as potential hostile combatants, thereby turning a force that should protect and serve into one that functions and is seen by many community members as an adversarial repressive occupying force; and

WHEREAS a growing consensus across the political spectrum recognizes that the so-called *War on Drugs* has had debilitating effects on communities, including mass incarceration and a failure to invest appropriately in substance-use treatment, healthcare and community health services; and

WHEREAS the military-grade equipment provided to local police departments or purchased directly by them is a direct result of misplaced spending priorities that overfund the military and underfund communities, in direct parallel to local overinvestment in police forces at the expense of communities; and

WHEREAS local and national leaders have spoken out clearly about the need to demilitarize our police forces, particularly in the context of growing understanding of the institutional racist underpinnings of such militarization; and

WHEREAS the Poor People's Campaign, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the American Friends Service Committee, and numerous members of Congress, including members of the Bay Area Congressional delegation, have called for an end to the provision of militarized weapons and equipment to police forces as essential to demilitarizing communities and reducing instances of police violence; and

WHEREAS the Oakland City Council is presently considering an ordinance to control all militarized equipment that the Oakland Police Department wants to acquire or to continue to use, and that ordinance has been unanimously approved by the Oakland Police Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Labor Federation urges local governments to identify military-grade equipment in use by law enforcement agencies in their jurisdictions, and to refuse to accept or purchase military-grade or similar weapons and equipment under the Pentagon's 1033, Homeland Security, or any similar program, and if such military equipment has previously been acquired, to return all remaining military equipment currently in their possession to the relevant authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Labor Federation urges local governments to adopt ordinances to control all military equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that counties and Sheriff's Office, and each city Police Department, respectively, should cease cooperation, if any, with or participation in Pentagon's 1033 program or any other similar program which makes military-grade weapons and equipment available to local law enforcement agencies, and cease cooperation with other law enforcement agencies that continue to deploy such military-grade weapons and equipment when providing or receiving mutual aid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Labor Federation urges the National AFL-CIO to support Congressional adoption of legislation introduced by Rep. Nydia Velazquez to end the 1033 program; and *The Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act* put forth by Sens. Brian Schatz and Rand Paul to ban the transfer of weapons from the Pentagon to police and create similar prohibitions on militarized equipment through cash grants from the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security; and further urges the National AFL-CIO to support an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that they along with Sens. Murkowski and Harris will introduce to end the transfer of tear gas, armor-piercing firearms and ammunition, bayonets, grenade launchers and grenades, combat tracked vehicles, drones and other offensive military weapons and equipment from the Pentagon to local law enforcement agencies; and further urges the National AFL-CIO to support Rep. Ro Khanna's bill to deny Justice Department grants to states and localities that don't adopt stricter use-of-force legislation or policies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be made available to all affiliates of the California Labor Federation, and to members of the California Congressional delegation.

*Approved by Delegates*