

**ORDINANCE NO. 1849**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA  
CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE POLICY**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA DOES HEREBY FIND AND  
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 481 (“AB 481”), adding Chapter 12.8, “Funding, Acquisition and Use of Military Equipment”, to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code (sections 7070 – 7075), relating to the use of military equipment by California law enforcement agencies;

**WHEREAS**, AB 481 seeks to provide transparency, oversight, and an opportunity for meaningful public input on decisions regarding whether and how military equipment is funded, acquired, or used;

**WHEREAS**, the Gardena Police Department is in possession of certain items of equipment that qualify as “military equipment” under AB 481 and further intends to acquire other items of military equipment;

**WHEREAS**, AB 481 requires, inter alia, that a law enforcement agency possessing and using such qualifying equipment must prepare a publicly released, written, military equipment use policy document covering the inventory, description, quantity, purpose, capabilities, use, lifespan, acquisition, maintenance, authorized use, fiscal impacts, procedures, training, oversight, and complaint process, applicable to the Department’s use of such equipment;

**WHEREAS**, the policy must be approved by the City Council by ordinance, and reviewed annually thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, the military equipment inventoried and presented to the City Council is necessary because there is no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Military Equipment Use Policy (“Policy”), attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein, will safeguard the public’s health, welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties;

**WHEREAS**, the equipment is reasonably cost effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety;

**WHEREAS**, prior military equipment use complied with the applicable equipment use policy (which included equipment now defined as military equipment) that was in effect at the time, or if prior uses did not comply with the accompanying military

equipment use policy, corrective action has been taken to remedy nonconforming uses and ensure future compliance;

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department has submitted the proposed Policy to the City Council and has made those documents available on the Police Department's website for at least 30 days prior to the public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue;

**WHEREAS**, the Policy satisfies the requirements of Government Code Section 7070(d);

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Gardena, having received the information required under AB 481 regarding the Gardena Police Department's use of military equipment as defined in said law, deems it to be in the best interest of the City to and hereby does approve the Military Equipment Policy; and

**WHEREAS**, all legal prerequisites prior to the adoption of this Ordinance have occurred.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA HERBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** Recitals. The City Council finds that all the recitals, facts, findings, and conclusions set forth above in the preamble of this Ordinance are true and correct.

**Section 2:** Approval of Military Equipment Policy.

**Military Equipment Policy.**

(a) The Military Equipment Policy shall govern the use of military equipment by the Gardena Police Department.

(b) The Policy shall be made publicly available on the Police Department's website for as long as the military equipment is available for use or as otherwise ordained by the City Council.

(c) The Police Department shall submit an annual military equipment report to the City Council containing the information required by Government Code Section 7072 and the City Council shall thereafter determine whether each type of military equipment identified therein complied with the standards for approval set forth in Government Code Section 7071(d).

(d) The City Council shall on an annual basis and at a regular meeting thereof review this ordinance and vote on whether to renew it pursuant to Government Code Section 7071(e)(2).

(e) The definitions set forth in Government Code section 7070 shall apply to this ordinance. Any provision of state law referred to herein shall mean and include any amended or successor provision thereof.

**Section 3:** Compliance with CEQA. Adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) (General Rule) of the CEQA Guidelines because it is not a “project” and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the passage of this Ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment.

**Section 4:** Inconsistencies. Any provision of the Gardena Municipal Code or appendices thereto inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and no further, is hereby repealed or modified to that extent necessary to affect the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 5:** Uncodified Ordinance. This Ordinance shall not be codified in the Gardena Municipal Code unless and until the City Council so ordains.

**Section 6:** Severability. If any chapter, article, section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or portion of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance or its application to other persons. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each chapter, article, section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions of the application thereof to any person, be declared invalid or unconstitutional. No portion of this Ordinance shall supersede any local, state, or federal law, regulation, or codes dealing with life safety factors.

**Section 7:** Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days following from its adoption.

**Section 8:** Execution. The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall attest to the passage of this Ordinance. The City Clerk shall cause the same to be published once in the official newspaper within 15 days after its adoption. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from its adoption.

Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 by the following vote:

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TASHA CERDA, Mayor

ATTEST:

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MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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CARMEN VASQUEZ, City Attorney