

Asheville Police Department Update

Public Safety
Committee
June 25, 2020



Agenda Items

1. Information on APD military supply inventory and surplus
2. Update on APD progress and initiatives
3. Questions from Public Safety Committee members regarding protests that occurred May 31-June 6

Agenda Item #1:

Information on APD Military Supply Inventory and Surplus

Inventory of Military Like Surplus

- Public Safety members have been forwarded APD's current inventory of weapons and munitions
- APD **does not participate** in the Law Enforcement Support Office (1033 Program)
- APD **does not have, nor intends to acquire**, any military surplus equipment

Agenda Item #2:

Update on APD Progress and Initiatives

30/60/90 Plan

- Plan in development **prior** to June protests
- **Does not** end at 90 days
- Supports department and citywide philosophy of **continuous improvement**
- Continues to build on existing programs
- Public engagement that includes **community input** on **re-imagining policing services** collaboratively with community partners

Questions from PSC Members

1) On May 31 APD officers discharged tear gas into the crowd of protesters gathered on the Jeff Bowen Bridge.

Could you please describe this incident, beginning with events leading up to the arrival of the protesters on the bridge, then up until the initial use of teargas, including when officers were asked to escort the protesters across the bridge and when it was decided that tears was to be used on the protesters on the bridge?

Questions from PSC Members

2) What were officers instructed leading up to the protest concerning the discharging of teargas, rubber bullets and other weaponry. Were they to wait for orders from a superior officer? Were they allowed to use their own discretion based on what they see happening on the ground. Was there a criteria for them to follow, outlining what actions would give rise to the use of force? Did instructions differ pertaining to specific weapons?

Questions from PSC Members

3) How was the decision authorizing what weapons officers would be carrying made, who was involved in that decision?

4) We would like a complete list of weapons APD discharged throughout these protests along with data showing # of teargas canisters.

Questions from PSC Members

5) Number of arrests and charges, brown down by date and types of charges.

6) Has APD received complaints against officers for excessive use of force during protests? What is the status of those complaints? Process for handling complaints?

Questions from PSC Members

7) What warnings were issued before tear gas and/or other tactics were used?

8) What injuries, if any, were sustained by APD or other agencies?

QUESTIONS