

From: [Jonathan Douglass](#)
To: [Jonathan Douglass](#)
Subject: comment regarding consent agenda item
Date: Monday, November 21, 2011 9:36:42 AM
Importance: High

From: lauri di routh [mailto:lauridi@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 6:26 PM
To: mike dever; mikeamx515@hotmail.com; schummfoods@gmail.com; aron cromwell; David L. Corliss; Barry Walthall; hughcarter@sunflower.com; mdever@sunflower.com
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Dear Commissioners,

I do not support the taxpayer-subsidized purchase of assault ("patrol") rifles for our police department.
http://www.ci.lawrence.ks.us/web_based_agendas/2011/11-22-11/pd_patrol_rifle_lease_purchase_agreement_memo.pdf

My complaint here is not so much with the mechanism of funding, as proposed, as it is with the overarching inference that such weapons are needed, and are being "embraced" by the department and thus our community (with no public input).

I think it is astonishingly disrespectful if not disingenuous that this matter is being brought forth under the consent agenda, at a holiday-week meeting, held during working hours when the working public most likely cannot attend to comment.

Why was such a purchase not included in the budget?

So-called patrol rifles may greatly increase the City's liability, and will inherently exacerbate the militarization of the Lawrence Police Department. Such a purchase does nothing to increase the public's trust in the police.

I, for one, am interested in learning more about the City's policies and guidelines regarding the control and deployment of these weapons, and the City's training protocols therein.

I respectfully request that you remove this item from the consent agenda, for further discussion, and/or ask the Chief to withdraw his proposal.

If this item remains on the agenda as proposed, I believe that the Commission should vote against this expenditure.

This issue warrants a broader discussion of departmental policies and priorities related to the aquisition and use of such armament.

I request that my comments here be made part of the public record.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Laura Routh