

The Militarization of Police in Our Communities



Ways to Take Action

- From Phillip Thompson, Loudoun County NAACP Chapter:
“Protection of human life at all cost should be the policy. That will change use of force procedures from shoot first to try to calm the situation down. That will also give better guidelines to shoot to wound where necessary instead of current all shoot to kill based on standard center mass training all law enforcement now get.” Insist on policing that is founded on a respect for life and the rule of law.
- The ACLU of Virginia urges people to:
 - Advocate for a law enforcement culture that values transparency over secrecy and respects civilian authority over police.
 - Accept responsibility as a taxpayer for public funding of public safety and bring an end to fee-based justice and policing for profit. Support state legislation restricting law enforcement’s use of civil asset forfeiture.
 - Oppose weapons transfer programs and terrorism grants. Advocate for greater public input on police departments acquiring military-grade equipment.
 - Support policy and legal barriers to warrantless mass surveillance (e.g., warrantless Stingray use or city-wide 24/7 searchable aerial surveillance)
 - Engage the community in conversation about alternatives to criminalization and prosecution of low level offenses like disorderly conduct, drunk in public, loitering, vagrancy, petty theft.
 - Advocate for the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration for people whose behavior is caused by or related to their mental illness or developmental disability, are addiction to drugs or alcohol, or poverty.
- Join the Richmond Peace Education Center's program and advocacy efforts for a more peaceful & just community and world. Sign up at the RPEC table or email rpec@rpec.org.
- Join the ACLU of Virginia’s email list at <https://acluva.org> to stay up to date about actions you can take in your community and during the General Assembly session to support efforts to reform our criminal justice system.

This list of actions is a compilation of ideas suggested by our speakers and organizations. Thank you for taking action!