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San Francisco will allow police to deploy robots that kill

By JANIE HAR November 29, 2022

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SAN
FRANCISCO
(AP) —
Supervisors in
San Francisco
voted Tuesday
to give city
police the
ability to use
potentially

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liberal board
over support
for law
enforcement.

The vote was
8-3, with the
majority
agreeing to
grant police
the option
despite strong
objections
from civil
liberties and
other police
oversight
groups.

Opponents
said the
authority
would lead to
the further
militarization
of a police
force already
too aggressive
with poor and
minority
communities.

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understood

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but that
“according to
state law, we
are required
to approve
the use of
these
equipments.
So here we
are, and it’s
definitely not
a easy
discussion.”

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The San
Francisco
Police
Department
said it does
not have pre-
armed robots
and has no
plans to arm
robots with
guns. But the
department

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armed, or

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at stake, SFPD
spokesperson
Allison Maxie
said in a
statement.

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The mindSpain
behind starts
the new
Rubik's code
Cube to
celebrate avoid
a lasting sexism
puzzle in ads
for
kids'
toys

Supreme Justices
Court asked
takes to hear
Jack dog toy
Daniel's dispute.
case Will
against they
dog toy bite?
maker

“Robots
equipped in
this manner
would only be
used in

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Supervisors

amended the

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specify that officers could use robots only after using alternative force or de-escalation tactics, or concluding they would not be able to subdue the suspect through those alternative means. Only a limited number of high-ranking officers could authorize use of robots as a deadly force option.

San Francisco police currently have a dozen functioning

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they been
used to
deliver an
explosive
device, police
officials said.

But explicit
authorization
was required
after a new
California law
went into
effect this
year requiring
police and
sheriffs
departments
to inventory
military-grade
equipment
and seek
approval for
their use.

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The state law

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giving the
public a

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acquisition
and use of
military-grade
weapons that
have a
negative
effect on
communities,
according to
the
legislation.

A federal
program has
long
dispensed
grenade
launchers,
camouflage
uniforms,
bayonets,
armored
vehicles and
other surplus
military
equipment to
help local law
enforcement.

In 2017, then-
President

Donald

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curtailed it in

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part by
outrage over
the use of
military gear
during
protests in
Ferguson,
Missouri,
after the
shooting
death of
Michael
Brown.

San Francisco
police said
late Tuesday
that no robots
were obtained
from military
surplus, but
some were
purchased
with federal
grant money.

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~~such as~~

privacy and

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excessive police oversight. In September, supervisors agreed to a trial run allowing police **to** **access in real time** private surveillance camera feeds in certain circumstances.

Debate on Tuesday ran more than two hours with members on both sides accusing the other of reckless fear mongering.

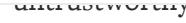
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who voted in

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and

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“I think there’s larger questions raised when progressives and progressive policies start looking to the public like they are anti-police,” he said. “I think that is bad for progressives. I think it’s bad for this Board of Supervisors. I think it’s bad for Democrats nationally.”

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Board
President
Shamann

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asked to do things in the name of increasing weaponry and opportunities for negative interaction between the police department and people of color,” he said. “This is just one of those things.”

The San Francisco Public Defender’s office sent a letter Monday to the board saying that granting police “the ability to kill community members remotely”

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from using

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an act of
force.

On the other
side of the
San Francisco
Bay, the
Oakland
Police
Department
has dropped a
similar
proposal after
public
backlash.

The [first time](#)
a robot was
used to
deliver
explosives in
the U.S. was
[in 2016](#), when
Dallas police
sent in an
armed robot
that killed a
holed-up
sniper who
had killed five
officers in an

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