

Public Comment Submitted Via The CIRT Vehicle Public Comment Online Form

The following are all of the comments submitted to the CIRT Vehicle Public Comment Online Form. Names have been redacted to avoid identifying an individual. If you would like your name restored to your comment please email mayor@bloomington.in.gov with your comment and your approval to have your name restored.

This vehicle is a safety guard for officers. That is it. BPD, MCSO, IUPD, none of these agencies have had issues with excessive force or brutality. This speaks volumes of these officers and their professional. That must be considered. So far the most people that have come to protest is 70 people. That is less than 1% of the population here. That means either 99% do not care or are in support of this vehicle. That means something.

Thank you for all the information and allowing this conversation to happen.

I'd like to know, as a taxpayer, why there were by my count, at least ten police officers at this meeting? I am personally quite concerned that if such an effort is being made to ensure that these members of law enforcement were here, either on or off the clock, that they made no effort to circulate and engage in dialog with members of the community. A more paranoid member of the community might think that this were an effort at maintaining a 'thin blue line' or something.

I support the acquisition of this vehicle.

I guess I just think to myself that if it were my family member protecting the public I would not hesitate to support this.

I trust the BPD to make the best decisions for keeping people safe in this town. It's really that simple. If the people who best know and serve this town believe purchasing this vehicle is the right thing to do, then it is the right thing to do.

I fully support the City's purchase of the BeatCat. The CIRT officers need protection and this vehicle will provide that.

Every officer deserves to go home at the end of their shift. The CIRT team is asked to enter highly dangerous and volatile situations. They should be given proper equipment and protection to do that.

Yes

The vehicle is a necessary tool to keep officers safe in the line of duty. Please proceed as planned with the equipment to keep the community of Bloomington and its officers safe.

I support this

I support the purchase of this vehicle! Please protect our officers!!

I support this purchase.

I support the purchase of this vehicle to protect our law enforcement officers. We use armored vehicles to transport money due to the nature of its value, we should use armored vehicles to transport officers in dangerous situations due to their value to the community.

I have a child at IU. Get 2 of the Armored cars!!!

I agree with the purchase. Our police need to be protected. They put their life on the line for us, we must protect them back.

I wholly support the city's purchase of a CIRT Vehicle.

I fully support the Bloomington police department on the need for this vehicle. I urge the city of Bloomington and the mayor to allow this purchase to be made. They should not be left with an "if" or "maybe" it will be needed. They need to be prepared for the now! Thank you!

I support the purchase of this vehicle. The process for activation of the CIRT team is tightly controlled and will not they will not activate unless there is a credible danger to officers and the public. Furthermore, the team is currently not properly equipped to enter these situations. The cost is well worth it as well. Initial cost is higher than a used armored truck, however maintenance and longevity costs are lower and in turn make the overall cost less. How much is a life worth? I for one believe all lives, not just the officer's, are worth more than \$225,000. My last point is that Bloomington is the only BIG10 city that is not equipped with a vehicle like this. With a university the size of IU, the threat of a major event requiring a vehicle like this is a very real possibility. Therefore, this purchase is necessary.

Totally 110% for the purchase of the Bearcat. Officer safety should be our number one concern. We as a city, owe it to spouses, parents, children of the men and women that put their lives on the line for us every day.

I support the purchase of this vehicle. We need to protect Bloomington's finest. It costs a lot of money to hire a train an officer we should show support for that by protecting them as much as possible.

I am in full support of having a CIRT Vehicle for our department! Thank you for keeping our community safe.

Disarm the pigs. Fire Deikhoff and recall his wife for conflict of interest. Fuck you.

I strongly support the purchase of this vehicle for use by the CIRT Team. I feel like this tool will help protect officers as they respond to critical incidents. I ask you to please give the officers the support and equipment they need.

I fully support the decision to equip our officers with this tool.

It's better to have the CIRT armored vehicle and not need it then to need it and not have it. I fully support the police in our town and am glad they have this amazing vehicle to protect their even more amazing lives!

Black Lives Matter the terror organization should not be allowed to make demands!

I have no problem with this purchase whatsoever. With the world today, it's not a matter of if the vehicle will be needed but when it will be needed. Our police department should have every tool at their disposal to keep both themselves and the community safe.

I concur with the procurement of the armored vehicle.

I'm for it!

This purchase makes no sense for the town I have lived in for 19 years. We are not a town that needs a military vehicle to support our police. If something so bad were to happen, which does not here, that a military aid were needed then a SWAT team should be called to help. This is not Bloomington culture. It increases a feeling of fear in the police force even if you aren't doing anything wrong. In making this purchase, the city is suggesting that we are facing a MUCH different environment than what we currently live in, which in itself makes me want to leave Bloomington in the near future.

This is an unnecessary step in militarizing the police's force in Bloomington and will lead to more misinformation and miscommunication about intention between the community members and the police.

Homicide unit

This vehicle will be an asset for the Bloomington community, not a detriment.

I'm concerned why Bloomington feels the need for this when the crime rates are much higher back home...

Many of these comments are student based. There is a bias from many people who don't live here year round. They have no idea what the city is actually like. Do what you think is right for your city.

the public forums have been extremely helpful. just like drinking water and sewage treatment, the public typically takes the kind of service provided by law enforcement and CIRT for granted. most of us would not want to do these jobs, but most of us insist on the protection and safety law enforcement provides. we can argue whether there should or should not be an armored vehicle for drastic, life threatening emergencies, but the kind of information provided in these public forums would make one's mind up easily.

I am opposed to the city purchasing the CIRT vehicle. As a tax payer I feel that this a misuse of my dollars. A vehicle made for war only has one use, war. If put into service this vehicle will have to be used to justify itself perpetuating a violent circle. The police are overfunded

I am opposed to the city purchasing the CIRT vehicle. As a tax payer I feel that this a misuse of my dollars. A vehicle made for war only has one use, war. If put into service this vehicle will have to be used to justify itself perpetuating a violent circle. The police are overfunded

I am opposed to the city purchasing the CIRT vehicle. As a tax payer I feel that this a misuse of my dollars. A vehicle made for war only has one use, war. If put into service this vehicle will have to be used to justify itself perpetuating a violent circle. The police are overfunded

I am opposed to the city purchasing the CIRT vehicle. As a tax payer I feel that this a misuse of my dollars. A vehicle made for war only has one use, war. If put into service this vehicle will have to be used to justify itself perpetuating a violent circle. The police are overfunded

CIRT is needed for emergencies. Yes, it should be bought.

I am submitting these comments in support of the armored vehicle purchase. My family and I were residents on Bluebird Lane when the shooting incident occurred in 2000. Our house was a stone's throw from the house where things occurred. Because there was no armored vehicle onsite at the time, officers had to take cover behind people's homes including our porch. When the time came to evacuate we had to do so in our private vehicles. I recall the officer saying "when I give the word, open your garage door, get the kids on the floor, back out as fast you can, and get the hell out of here." When I opened the garage door there were several officers with weapons raised to "cover" us, just like in the cowboy movies. Fortunately we did not take fire but needless to say we would have felt a whole lot better if we were evacuated in a vehicle that offered more protection than the sheet metal of a 1999 GMC van. Its unfortunate society has degenerated to the point that an armored vehicle is now a necessity. Opponents should be blaming the NRA, not the police. The NRA has made military style weapons commonplace on the street. The police have no choice but to respond with military style equipment. For sake of the safety of the public and your officers, PLEASE do not give in to the public relations pressure being exerted by opponents.

Feel free to make my comments public. Thank you.

Please support CIRT by purchasing this vehicle.

City AND campus police are authoritarian. When they say "Jump," you had better jump. If they look at you, you are guilty and will have to do time or public service. Judicial system and prosecutors are complicit in this, too. When there is a neighborhood problem, instead of meeting with neighbors and trying to figure out how to help, they send in under-cover officers so someone serves a long jail sentence, rather than getting help for someone. Our police departments need to learn how to listen to the community, not boss and yell at us. It's all about their power, so having a military vehicle helps them hold authority. Too bad they fear our community so much. I know some kids in a nearby city whose dad was served a warrant with a military vehicle. These little kids had to sit on the military vehicle in the middle of the night, in the cold, with little clothing, which terrorized the kids. Really great community relations. But at least the police felt safe!

The vehicle (CIRT) is a good idea and needed. We should have the best in equipment to support our Response Teams. It will save lives when needed.

Research has shown that armored vehicles result in LESS safety for the community, particularly minority populations, rather than more safety. This has no place on the streets of Bloomington. There is no guarantee that it will never be used against us, no matter your good intentions at this time.

As an Associate Instructor at IU, it surprises me that other advocates for students in the wake of the shooting in Florida have suggested that purchasing a single, expensive armored vehicle will make students any safer. The only people that are more safe with this purchase are the several police officers inside. When this purchase is seen in light of who this is for, the police department, it is seen as an inappropriate, irresponsible and dangerous use of taxpayer money. It is inappropriate because this vehicle represents, both really and symbolically, a threat to the underrepresented minority community in Bloomington. It is irresponsible because the tragic effects of mass armament of private citizens should not be police militarization, but an investment in public services. It is dangerous because the purchase of these vehicles by various police departments poses a legitimate public safety concern; these are potential weapons of war that can be misused by a rogue power.

We need our representatives at the Federal level to come to the Bloomington and hear from people who have productive ideas about how to prevent carnage in the event of an active shooter, starting with emphatic common sense gun regulation and active shooter training for instructors such as myself.

Unnecessary, dangerous, and a waste of money. also shows how irresponsible our gov is, letting this pass without even realizing that it was happening.... Unacceptable

The purchase of this vehicle was done without the people's knowledge or consent and is a clear step toward the further militarization of the Bloomington Police. Why exactly do we need this vehicle? We supposedly need it to protect officers, yet it will stay in storage until it is needed. It is supposedly to stop heavily armored aggressors, yet would not, under the proposed protocol for use, be able to arrive in time to provide any substantial effect. All I can see this being used for is against protesters, like how this exact vehicle was used in Ferguson and Standing Rock, and against the houseless population constantly under police threat. I think of the mass clearing of the houseless from People's Park, a public space. I think of the gentrification of Bloomington's downtown metastasizing into the entire surrounding area, pushing people out of their homes and into further destitution. I am AGAINST the purchase of this vehicle, and I would like to see it returned for a refund, the money of which will go toward affordable housing, or I would like to see it destroyed.

The issue with the purchase of the CIRT vehicle is not about police or civilian protection. It is about an issue than seems almost unfathomable but threatens our democracy: police militarization. This purchase would support police militarization that is happening all over our country. Whether or not our police would use it in such a way, does not matter. What matters is that we, as a community, should not support or stand for a symbol of police militarization that this vehicle represents. I hope the police department can understand this is not a personal attack on them - it is a larger issue than our local government. I urge everyone to educate themselves on police militarization - especially by watching the documentary Do Not Resist and to listen to our community members who are people of color. Please do not purchase this vehicle.

As a former resident of Bloomington, Indiana and a person who proudly visits often and still has many friends in the Bloomington area, I am appalled at the recent actions of the city I so love and adore. I have been following the story of the acquisition of the new CIRT vehicle for the Bloomington Police Department, and I am absolutely and 100% opposed to such a move by the BPD. Bloomington has no need for such a purchase, and the funds for the CIRT vehicle could be better used in so many ways by the BPD. In a recent newspaper article, Police Chief Mike Diekhoff was quoted saying, "This is a piece of equipment. It's not our mentality." I beg to differ. Buying such a piece of equipment without public input in a situation in which the public's tax money has most certainly funded the endeavor will only lead to a lack of public trust of the BPD. Those who made this decision must have known this and proceeded without care. These actions do, indeed and as a matter of fact, reflect the mentality of a police department acting without concerns for public opinion and support, which many could easily construe as one of the beginning steps of the militarization of the police that the public so desperately needs to be able to trust and appreciate. The police department is teetering at the edge of a precipice which will lead to trouble for the police department and city itself, not to mention the citizens of my favorite city in Indiana.

I am opposed to the purchase of the BEARCAT vehicle and the squandering of public funds on militarized vehicles that run the risk of alienating police from the communities they serve while adding little in the way of practical use. Outside of speculative scenarios, I have not heard a compelling argument from the City or BPD about why the purchase of this vehicle was necessary at this specific point of time, or why this particular purchase made financial sense in relation to other, perhaps cheaper pieces of equipment that could also boost officer safety. The relative lack of public transparency in the initial purchase of this vehicle is maddening, and leads me to believe that the City is either ignorant of the potential repercussions of having military-grade vehicles used in local policing or does not care enough to have opened the issue for public comment prior to purchase. Both are deeply worrisome.

Yes

The purchase of this vehicle should be stopped. Let the mayor and the police department start from scratch and approach the issue the correct way with public and city council input as should have been done the first time. Public apologies should be issued by the mayor and chief of police for trying to sneak a purchase like this in without public input and bids. Let everyone regroup and examine the issues, such as whether or not such a vehicle is really "needed" and appropriate and if so, is the BearCat actually the wisest choice of vehicles.

I STRONGLY oppose the purchase of the Bearcat. Not only does empirical evidence show that escalating police militarization results in more violence against civilians, but our marginalized communities of color have been telling us this for decades. Purchasing such a vehicle only further erodes what little trust remains between police and the communities they patrol.

I do not support the Bloomington Police Departments intended purchase of the Lenco Bearcat.

No. No. And no.

I believe that the path forward for the City regarding the possible purchase of the CIRT vehicle lies through a methodical process now. City officials have strong reasons to believe the vehicle is needed and would not be abused in the way critics fear. Critics have searing images of Ferguson and Standing Rock and think good intentions alone are insufficient. Meanwhile, however, we could begin with points of agreement and examine national evidence in that light.

Everyone, both City officials and critics, believes that all communities (especially those historically oppressed) needs to feel safe, including from the kind of police abuse they have seen elsewhere in the nation. Everyone believes that peaceful protest is integral to what is best about Bloomington. And everyone agrees that in scenarios involving Critical Incident Response, all of us owe the dedicated members of the police force the means to get there safely and operate effectively.

With these key points of agreement, the City (or an expert commissioned by the City) could look at the variety of strategies for Critical Response by law enforcement across the nation. For example, what percent of cities Bloomington's size possess a BearCat? How effective have they been? If some cities work with other vehicles, or with no vehicle, what is their track record in responding to critical incidents? Have BearCat vehicles -- outfitted only as Bloomington plans to do, not as a Ferguson vehicle -- been involved in oppressive incidents? When and where, and how have the communities responded? What concrete assurances -- either through hardware or through ordinance, could the City provide that this vehicle (or another, if a substitute is judged better) will not be used oppressively? What further steps, beyond those the Bloomington Police Department is currently taking, might improve communication between police and minority communities?

With these facts in hand, I believe the City and its residents could reach a convergence, if not necessarily a consensus.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved for their good intentions and express my confidence we as a community can both meet our practical needs and uphold our core values.

We don't need an armored vehicle. Spend the money hiring more police officers and giving them the best training possible, make Bloomington PD the model for the state. Fund more programs connecting police with at-risk children. Fund more counseling and therapy to help officers cope with the extreme stresses of their jobs.

Our city does not need to be militarized. Do not move forward with this purchase.

Bloomington is attempting to use the guise of "safety" and terms like "Critical Incident" to militarize our police force. The CIRT vehicle will not make us more safe. It's presence in Bloomington will only continue to marginalize those community members who have already been victimized by targeted policing campaigns (people experiencing homelessness, people of color, poor neighborhoods). We refuse to allow you to use "safety" to explain this decision away. When People's Park is empty, entire black families are being arrested, and our jail is full of poor and homeless folks, you can't fool us anymore. This purchase should not be allowed to go through. The true safety of our community (not just the college students, white folks, rich folks) depends on it.

I'm against the CIRT vehicle purchase. I feel it was done without public input, and without an examination of other options towards the same goal (safety). I do not want members of the police department or civilians in danger, but I also don't think a very expensive CIRT vehicle is the answer. I'm

embarrassed that again, it seems decisions are being made by ultimatum from the top, and not open discussion.

The lack of transparency has given the city and the police department a "black eye". A compelling case as to why this vehicle is actually needed has yet to be made. I do not support going ahead with the purchase.

It is utterly inappropriate to purchase a lenco BEARCAT for the Bloomington Police Department. I am opposed to this purchase.

The purchase of an armored vehicle by the BPD was an ill-conceived plan that seems to be waste of tax payer money. BPD likely knew that the purchase would be highly unpopular, thus their decision to do so surreptitiously. If this process wasn't done in order to avoid transparency, it shows that the BPD leadership is woefully out of touch with the community they are supposed to be serving.

I am strongly against the purchase of this vehicle. It is an unnecessary expenditure that has tremendous potential to be misused and abused. Bloomington has far, far more pressing needs to spend funds on than this vehicle.

The acquisition of an armored vehicle without the knowledge and input of the community it is intended to "protect." is outrageous. The lack of empathy for how this acquisition would affect the sense of safety of marginalized populations in this community is not surprising to me, but that does not make it hurt any less. At a time when racial tensions are high and when immigrants, Muslims, and trans folk and more are cast away and deemed a burden or a safety risk, when peaceful protests are met with militarized police forces and when citizens are beaten and tear gassed for standing up to the injustice and murders inflicted on their communities.. the purchase of the Bearcat does not make us feel safe. I do not condone this purchase. I also am disappointed that not all individuals who were in attendance of events concerning this purchase were not emailed or notified about this survey.

The oversight of the BPD has been lacking and is alarming. The expense alone is high and unjustified due to lack of violent, active shooter scenarios. The crimes mentioned in the Exec summary lack dates except for an incident in 2001. IUPD does not want one of these ASSAULT vehicles, the county doesn't either and BPD must look at the social, financial AND legal ramifications of such a purchase BEFORE spending co structuring money on a \$226,000 vehicle that at its base cost is only \$88,000. The City Council has failed and the Mayor and Dietkoff began this process in 2014/2015 without any public comment, input or statistic driven information. This vehicle represents oppression and police militarization and I oppose its purchase and use as a citizen on Monroe County. I'm not able to get a home loan for \$226,000 and use it on a Maserati- neither should Dietkoff and Mayor Hamilton. This breach of public trust looks bad and is bad and should be fully investigated! In the meantime, HALT THIS PURCHASE!

I oppose the purchase of the BearCat by the Mayor and BDP Chief. Please confirm receipt of my opposition. Thank you.

In this beautiful, safe town, there is no need for a military-grade armored personnel carrier that makes police officers feel like soldiers and Bloomington residents (especially those with the least money and darkest skin, who are likeliest to experience antagonistic encounters with law enforcement) feel like subjects of an occupation. If public safety is the city government's and there are hundreds of thousands of dollars to be spent on it, better strategies include housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, employing the unemployed, treating those struggling with drug addiction, and in other ways enhancing the freedom and dignity of the people who live here. Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions, and the rest of the most undemocratic forces in the United States are busy invoking people's fear of sudden, violent attacks as a way of granting police increasing leeway, impunity, and militarized technology; the government of this wonderful, accepting, progressive city should not be helping them do it.

As a member of the community, I've made an effort to learn about the vehicle. I've attended the Tuesday BPD meeting with the chief and asked some questions that I didn't feel were answered. I've read the executive report and the talking points about the vehicle, and attended the city council meeting. I'm still uncertain that this vehicle is a good choice of taxpayer money, and even more concerned at what seems to me the lack of transparency or even knowledge about the purchase between the city council and the BPD, and the community, and particularly what seems to me to be the lack of understanding of what this type of equipment means for the community. There have been efforts to downplay the legitimate concerns of the community: how was this purchase made? What's the process of these purchases? How does this fit into the goal of community-oriented public safety that Mayor Hamilton stressed when he was running? Even if this vehicle is used for, say, Parkland, how is this vehicle going to be effective in an active shooter situation (outdoors vs. indoors)? How will this be a vehicle that will help students who are barricaded in the school rather than (solely) police protected in the vehicle and who may still have to enter the school regardless? Volan's comment about the process makes it clear that many were left in the dark about this purchase. I think the BPD needs to publicly review its options.

With all that has transpired in the run-up to the purchase of this vehicle, I believe it would be prudent for the purchase to be halted and for several different options to be made available, subject to the democratic process--and not via an online poll like this one that many citizens will not have easy access to / awareness of. I also believe that all records (e-mails and other recorded communications included) related to the purchase should be made available to the public so that the public may inform themselves properly prior to a democratic vote on the issue taking place.

On the economic side, this is a massive outlay of funds; given that in the recently released executive report regarding the history of the old armored vehicle, the BPD admits that the old truck was retired partially as a result of lapsed maintenance ("in the end, the vehicle succumbed to the elements and the lack of available funding to facilitate needed repairs"), I am not eager to see a quarter-million-dollar machine go the same route. I have a documented reason to doubt that BPD will maintain the vehicle (or that the city will fund maintenance); I have no reason to think another outcome is likely this time around.

Additionally, I have not seen even one decently researched document showing that this vehicle will make anyone in Bloomington, including the police themselves, safer. In several videos I have seen of police serving warrants in such vehicles, they simply park the vehicles on a road near the target residence and then pile out. I don't see how this increases safety. Looking over the history of the BPD, one can see that the last, and only, officer killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant was killed in 1928. Since then, there has been only one officer killed by gunfire, when a prisoner was able to grab the officer's service weapon. A reasonable argument could be made that none of the five total line-of-duty BPD deaths would have been prevented had the department had access to an armored vehicle. Based on this information, it seems that an armored vehicle is not necessary to protect the lives of BPD officers in the line of duty.

As to the argument from BPD representatives that the vehicle will not be used offensively, the purchase order shows that the vehicle will be equipped with a "hydraulic ram upgrade." I have a hard time envisioning a ram being used in a defensive fashion. This discrepancy has caused me to question BPD's stated intentions.

Finally, the concerns about armored vehicles being used to terrorize or oppress people, generally vulnerable communities and minorities, are completely valid. Footage of this is abundant. This reason alone is enough to at least warrant pausing for a long moment and letting the citizenry sort this out in a democratic fashion after reviewing the issue.

Please halt the purchase of this vehicle! The cost alone is absurdly high, and the failure of BPD to inform the public BEFORE the purchase is of serious concern. Rather than make the public safer, the purchase of this vehicle and the failure to allow for public oversight of the BPD will actually make Bloomington less safe by undermining public trust in the police.

I am unclear of the purpose of this purchase. The cost is significant. The process for this purchase was not done in the light of day, which is disturbing. Further, this vehicle can be outfitted as a war vehicle, which is also disturbing for our local police to have. I don't support this purchase as is. There needs to be oversight, parameters for usage, assurances this is not going to be a war machine, and steps taken to address the rational fears that this purchase will be used disproportionately against minorities and may escalate situations rather than protect the peace.

I would much rather see these funds used to hire an additional officer and/or give pay raises to members of the existing police force.

The CIRT vehicle's purchase was unethical, indefensible, and a slight to the Bloomington community. Mountains of research and statistics have proven that the possession of these vehicles by a police force increase violence against civilians, especially for people of color. Militarizing the police only perpetuates the systemic racism and oppression within our country. I am appalled by the direction our city is headed. Listen to your citizens, or face the consequences when elections roll around.

This is probably going to be a truncated response, just because of the format; I hope it comes across regardless. I can clarify if desired. The police force in Bloomington is at something of a crossroads here, I feel. They can choose to go the way of much of the rest of the country, and become everything that the anarchists and antifa and the like accuse them of being, or they can put forth the effort to set an example of what a GOOD police force can look like. The purchase of an "armored vehicle" at this junction will only separate the police even further from the public they are supposed to protect. I know the force feels it's a needed step to protect their officers, but I feel as if there should be alternatives offered. An actual "armored truck", for example; one that is built for solely defensive maneuvers, and that cannot in any way be fitted for offensive scenarios.

I know I for one am VERY skeptical of the assurances that the vehicle in question will not be used against protestors; I've been to protests and seen the level of concern the Bloomington Police regularly show to protesting citizens; the fact that they are (mostly) not actively out stomping protestors' heads, instead of protecting them as citizens exercising a civil right doesn't engender much confidence.

It's my understanding that we have not increased the number of officers on the force for many years. Why would we allocate this enormous amount of taxpayer money to something that will likely affect very few citizens when we could better spend the money on more officers, better personal safety equipment, better training for the opioid epidemic, etc?

While the process seems to have been flawed, I do support the purchase of this vehicle. We have to have faith and confidence that the present and future leadership of the police department will insure that the policies, procedures, and protocols for this vehicle will be clear and followed. Also, we have to be confident that regular, ongoing training will be provided to the CRT members. This vehicle is intended for the protection of lives in critical situations, not for breaking up demonstrations. It seems unfair to make the assumption that this vehicle will be used to break up protests. BPD officers have responded professionally in the past at demonstrations and I believe that will continue.

This is police militarization at the expense of the tax payers it will threaten. How exactly does this lend to the notion of police as peacekeepers instead of war mongers? And truly the likelihood of this ever being NEEDED in Bloomington is so small and insignificant as to make the purchase of such a vehicle completely redundant. Crime has been in decline since the early 1990s. What sort of crime is this needed for other than the suppression and oppression of the people of Bloomington through acts of war.

At this time, the CIRT vehicle is not a good purchase for the city. The polarization of Bloomington residents, including elected officials, on this illustrates that more discussions and information sessions need to take place.

I believe this is a gross waste of city funds. I want my tax dollars spent on REMOVING tools designed for warfare from my community, not adding to them.

I'm calling for an immediate halt of this purchase. The revelations regarding the serious lack of transparency on this decision, along with BPD's past history of uneven policing across demographics, has caused a serious breach of trust in the department. If this breach is to be addressed and closed, the purchase needs to be halted.

It takes more than armor to protect police. They are at their safest in neighborhoods where people feel like they can trust law enforcement. In your attempt to protect a small group of CIRT officers, this purchase will undermine the legitimacy of the entire department and the safety of both BPD and Bloomington residents.

The Lenco Bearcat and similar vehicles are a symbol of trauma for many people, due to law enforcement's misuse and abuse of these vehicles against the public in instances of protest i.e. Ferguson, MO and Standing Rock. Despite the Bloomington Police Department's insistence that the Bearcat will not be misused in this way, I feel that the vehicle's very existence will lead to a continual mistrust of the police and an escalation of fear and violence. To me, these effects outweigh any possible benefits of a vehicle like this. Reading through the BPD's executive report, I am not convinced that there are no reasonable alternatives to the Bearcat. The only examples given were the armoring of current squad cars or a bank truck. I would like to see the remaining research into all of the armored vehicle options. While I understand the police force's desire to stay safe, I do not believe it is in their ultimate best interest to acquire this truck. Acquiring a less militaristic vehicle that still protects the individuals inside would be a wiser choice for the welfare of this community, as well as the relationship between the police and public.

Militarized vehicles are not necessary for civilian law enforcement and do not assist in either community outreach or situation deescalation.

Obtaining and using this vehicle will only endanger officers by presenting a more militarized police force that the citizenship feels oppressed by and does not trust.

Against the bearcat vehicle

Do not purchase this! I would rather have you purchase a Porsche 911 Turbo S for the mayor and he can drive it in parades. It would be more socially usefully than that Tank AND it would be cheaper. We need less militarization, not more! Listen to the people, especially the poor folks who will be terrorized by this. Thanks you

When police acquire these vehicles violence and death increases, it's been studied and proven. BPD keeps assuring us that it will only be used in "critical incidents" but fails to elaborate on what exactly counts as a critical incident. It seems like there's some purposeful flexibility with the term so that anything can be called critical to justify the use of this vehicle. BPD has a history of excessive force, especially against people of color and the homeless. There's no doubt in my mind that if they had had this vehicle when arresting the perry-leverston family that it would have been used and likely would have escalated the already excessive situation even further. I'm relieved that nobody in that family, "armed" only with bb guns, was murdered that day. I'm worried that this militarization will make that outcome incredibly likely.

I am extremely opposed to the militarization of our police department. This vehicle will do little to make the community safer and I believe will do more to escalate dangerous situations rather than resolving them peacefully. We don't need to have a police department at war with our community. Please do not bring this instrument of war into Bloomington.

I am extremely opposed to the militarization of our police department. This vehicle will do little to make the community safer and I believe will do more to escalate dangerous situations rather than resolving them peacefully. We don't need to have a police department at war with our community. Please do not bring this instrument of war into Bloomington.

I am fine with it; we need to protect our police when they are enforcing the laws.

It is unacceptable and unnecessary for the city to spend \$250,000 on a military-grade armored personnel carrier. Not only is this vehicle not needed and a waste of money, but it also will only lead to more violence and worse relations between the police and the citizenry.

An armored vehicle is very unnecessary, alarmist, and terrible use of taxpayer money.

I do not feel we need a armored vehicle in our town. It is not the image of Bloomington, that we look militarized. I respect the police and am for their safety, but do not see a need for a vehicle that can only protect while they are seated inside. Why not spend more on better police protection on their body. Stronger bullet proof vests, etc. Also, having a vehicle that can be modified and outfitted with guns is scary. We do not want to be another Ferguson. I think this only terrifies people and gives people the wrong image of our police force. The way this whole thing was handled was not good, and I respect that the leaders of our town are taking note of that.

The CIRT officers and medics of this county deserve and most importantly NEED this vehicle for their safety and the community's safety. Also, considering the amount of money spent on other, less necessary in my opinion, items by the City I believe the price of this vehicle to be very reasonable as well.

The Bloomington community does NOT need a CIRT vehicle. For public safety, We need affordable housing and employment opportunities, not the militarization of the police. This CIRT vehicle would only encourage a hostile environment and further discrimination of low income, homeless persons and POC. The money used for CIRT could be much better spent to mitigate the extreme income and racial inequalities in our community which underly any social unrest. I've lived here for 15 years. Bloomington does NOT need a CIRT vehicle. It would only make things worse.

Black Lives Matter Bloomington in advance of their screening of Do Not Resist at the Buskirk Chumley Theatre in Bloomington Indiana 7:00pm with a following panel discussion; are issuing an list of demands for the Mayor for Bloomington John Hamilton, the City Council, the Board of Public Safety and Bloomington Police Department concerning the purchase of the Lenco BearCat G2. This list comes from our disruption of the Mayor's State of the City Address on 02-15-18, the City Council listening session on 02-20-18 as well as statements released from the Mayor, City Council members and discussions with BPD chief Mike Diekhoff. It is our firm belief that the city of Bloomington has been subject of the misuse of power by the Mayor & his office, as well as lack of transparency on the part of BPD, the Mayor & City Council and too that end we demand:

1. That there be an immediate halt of the Lenco BearCat G2 or any other militarized vehicle. In addition, that the Mayor John Hamilton, the BPD Chief Mike Diekhoff & City Council publicly commit to the halt of purchase.
2. That the Mayor, City Council and BPD release any and all documents, research materials, phone messages, emails or statements regarding the purchase of this vehicle including all updates leading to the that release to the public. So that the public might get a better understanding of how the failure to follow procedure as indicated by Councilman Volan happened and if any criminal, activity or bad practices took place between the Mayor, the Council and BPD.
3. That the Mayor, BPD as well as City Council either as a whole or by way of a special committee provide the public's with a least two alternative vehicle options that are non-militarized cost roughly the same or are more affordable options (armored or not) all by March 23 2018. The onus should be on those who failed the public due to lack of transparency to come with alternatives suitable to us not the other way around.
4. That those two or more alternative vehicle options be presented by the Mayor, City Council & BPD to the public for comment and approval for no less than one month in accessible* public sessions. (*accessible meaning multi-meeting times during the day and more after 5pm spread over at least a one month period)
5. That the City Council immediately form a Standing Committee on Public Safety to fully investigate recent purchase of the Lenco BearCat vehicle by the city of Bloomington. This Committee will investigate any and all communication and transactions between the Office of the Mayor, Bloomington Police Department, the Lenco Corporation, and the Board of Public Safety, and share those findings with the public.
6. That the Mayor, City Council and BPD create timelines for the completion of these demands. As well and end of fiscal year timeline for the final decision of purchase or non-purchase.

Black Lives Matter Bloomington are not alone in these demands but rather stand in solidarity with many local organizations, groups and individuals that oppose the city's purchase of the Lenco BearCat G2. We are merely pushing forward their message and adding our own. This process was not a transparent nor well-advised decision and we demand the city walk back it actions and take better advised actions to restore a transparent process. Our demands are not unreasonable, nor are they unfair. The provide a very in-depth look into the hearts and minds of many Bloomington residents and their concern for the

safety of our community, its financial health and the lack of oversight in our local government. We do this with the belief that Black Lives Matter and the usage of the Lenco BearCat G2 will disproportionately affect black and brown-skinned people.

I feel strongly that this is a wrong decision for the city of Bloomington and am requesting that the mayor put an immediate STOP to this purchase.

This vehicle is a clear step towards the militarization of Bloomington Police Department that will directly and disproportionately impact people of color, those experiencing poverty and homelessness, as well as other vulnerable members of the community. The cost to taxpayers is excessive, and that money that could be spent in other ways to help Bloomington. I am also disturbed by the lack of transparency on the part of the Mayor's office and BPD with respect to this purchase.

I have a list of questions that have been either unanswered OR not been clearly and consistently answered. I would like to know...

money, exactly, has been spent on this vehicle already?

Has construction on this vehicle begun? If not, when is the due date for construction? What is the due date for delivery of the completed vehicle?

Has the mayor confirmed the deadline for his final decision, and if so, what is the deadline?

The Mayor and police Chief Diekhoff mentioned guidelines for use of this vehicle. Where are these guidelines? Will they be made available to the public before the vehicle is purchased or delivered? How are these guidelines written, and who oversees adherence to them?

How can the mayor or the police chief guarantee that this vehicle won't be used against peaceful protestors? If they cannot, will they publicly concede to this point, and engage in meaningful dialogue about the potential misuses of the vehicle?

Why hasn't the mayor responded directly to Black Lives Matter and other activists about their concerns regarding the purchase of this vehicle?

Why were funds allocated to remodeling the police department reallocated to the purchase of this vehicle? Why was the purchase moved up from 2019's city budget to 2018's?

How many transport vehicles, and what type, does the BPD currently have, and are they sufficient to move a 150 person police force?

Why weren't other options for a non-militaristic armored vehicle presented to the public before a decision on vehicle type was made?

What other types of vehicles, apart from the BearCat, did BPD consider purchasing?

The BPD has said that CIRT is only deployed in times of "need." Who determines this "need"? I want to be sure that "need" is based on a real threat rather than on racial or other forms of prejudice. Do you have statistics that show how often CIRT is deployed against people of color, people with mental health issues, and/or people in poverty?

Who oversees the budget for the specialized CIRT teams, and what is their budgetary compliance process for equipment requests? Does the Mayor oversee this alone or is this part of the City Council budget oversight?

Apart from the Mayor, who oversees police activity and the complaint process if the police victimize a citizen? Why is there no timeline on the complaint form? How will you ensure that police brutality cases are dealt with fairly, and in ways that respect victims?

How many BPD officers are people of color (please provide statistics organized by ethnicity/race)? How many are women? Are there any non-binary individuals? How many BPD officers actually live in the communities that they police?

Lenco sells these to ALL branches of the Armed Forces, yet the Mayor insists that the CIRT vehicle is not a military vehicle. Lenco received a full military contract in 2017. I find your claim that this is NOT a military vehicle to be disingenuous, and Mayor Hamilton does a disservice to our community by misleading citizens. Do a better job of representing our community.

I want the city to cancel its order of the armored vehicle. I understand that we will not get all of our money back. I do not want this vehicle in our city, or in any city--that is why procuring it and then re-selling it is not an acceptable option and why I accept the loss of our tax dollars. The militarization of our police and unnecessary use of force against impoverished residents hampers the ability of people to live full lives, and the city should not support it.

Where is the oversight in this purchase? The mayor seems to have unchecked authority surrounding this issue and many more in Bloomington. How will the city council reign in his power, how will the BPD power be reigned in IF they mayor is the only one in control of them ultimately. The police needs a public oversight committee that has actual power to make policies for them and enforce policies separate from the mayor's office.

There needs to be more power separation in our local government as this purchase is a total break down of communication between local government & the public.

I think a city our size with a major university must have a CIRT vehicle. I have full confidence in Chief Diekoff and the administration to use one responsibly, as they have done with the retired Brinks truck. It's just another tool they can use to keep the community safe.

I support the Bearcat for Officer Safety

1992 I was on CIRT and the city was afraid to call it SWAT out of political correctness, for that same reason along with money they denied my request for a bullet proof body bunker, a week later 3 SWAT members, u read that right, were shot in front of me with rounds wizzing by my head in a hallway at Willow Manner, Rupe, Schmidt & Witmer....that body bunker was ordered the next day. In today's litigious atmosphere we officers should have sued the shit out of the city, but back then it wasn't like that, it is now. Pay attention Bloomington, it may cost u millions

I am fine with the purchase of a replacement vehicle. I don't think it should be outfitted with gun turrets. I also think that future purchases like this should be more transparent from the start.

Mr. Mayor,

I am a Bloomington Police Officer and a member of the Critical Incident Response Team. I have served the City of Bloomington for a total of about 9 1/2 years, and I have been a sworn police officer for about 13 1/2 years. I am married with 4 young children who are very supportive of me and kiss me good night every night that I tuck them into bed and head to work. While I could follow suit of many of the arguments for and against the purchase of the Bearcat by trying to play on the emotions of those involved in the decision process, I won't. I do not feel that emotions have any place in deciding the necessity of making such a purchase.

To the best of my knowledge, all of the proper and legal processes were followed in purchasing this vehicle. The only reason it has become an issue is because of a group of people who decided to become very vocal about how intimidating, oppressing, and militarized this vehicle is. There has been no public outcry of the millions of dollars the City has spent (justifiably so) on firetrucks, dump trucks, and other vehicles that are a necessity for respective departments to properly perform the requirements of their jobs. Please realized how small of a percentage of the City's permanent resident's have verbally opposed this purchase when compared to the full 85,000+ citizens of the City.

On intimidation, oppression, and militarization: These are not factually based claims and are words being used to in an attempt to defeat this purchase by trying to make you and others involved in the decision feel as though you, yourself, are inflicting these feeling on them. The purchase of the Bearcat would ultimately increase the safety of not only police, but the Citizens of Bloomington. As it stands, we do not have a vehicle that offers us, as officers, any protection to approach a suspect who is armed. By having the Bearcat as a tool, we will be able to move close to a suspect whether barricaded in a house or otherwise. While this might be intimidating to the criminal, it would allow us to communicate verbally with the criminal with the hope of negotiating a peaceful surrender. If negotiations were to fail, we would then be close enough to the criminal to utilize other less lethal tools that would be ineffective at a greater distance and potentially end the situation without the use of deadly force.. Please note that I have used the word "criminal" throughout this paragraph because it is criminals that this vehicle would be used to address. The Bloomington Police Department has shown no propensity or past history of oppressing anyone based on race or creed. I am very proud of the professionalism our department displays on a daily basis when addressing the criminals who have made the decision to break the law, not based on race or creed, but instead on the facts of the investigation. We are more than accommodating for those of all races that want to demonstrate and protest in the City. Even when those groups are breaking Indiana State laws and Bloomington City ordinances, our department refrains from confronting the groups and allow them to be heard. The claim that this vehicle will be used in any capacity other than to address criminals who are a risk to the safety of the public and officers are simply emotional fears with no basis.

I respectfully ask you to remove emotions from this decision and base it on facts and available data that shows, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the availability of an armored vehicle increases the safety of law enforcement and others involved in whatever incident the vehicle is being used for. Nationwide, police are under attack in multiple facets. Simply because we have decided to take an oath as Police Officers to protect our community, certain people attack us verbally, physically, and with weapons without cause. A recent local example was a male attempting to throw a brick through the windshield of a Bloomington Police car while the officer was driving lights and sirens to an emergency call. This male had no involvement in the call and was simply waiting along side the road to attack the officer as he drove by on his way to help. We live in a great City, but please don't for a second think that the National

issues regarding violence toward police and other major critical incidents will not happen in our town. It is only a matter of time before something very bad occurs, whether it effects numerous citizens or just a Police Officer's family.

You have a group of men and women who have selflessly chosen to devote their lives to protecting you, your City, and the other citizens of the community and they all do it very professionally every day. Why would you choose to make any decision other than to protect your officers to the greatest extent possible?

Thank you for your time

I do not support Bloomington's purchase of the armored vehicle. I believe that the safety of our community would be better served by spending an amount of this magnitude (purchase price is understood to be about \$225K) on the professionalism of our police. The funds could be used for training, for education, for additional personnel, for other specialized services to the citizens of the city, and/or to our police.

Bloomington NEEDS this CIRT Vehicle to protect the lives of our Men and Women who serve and protect US. Our Law officers are putting their OWN lives, their FAMILY'S Lives on the line EVERY time they walk out that door. We need this if EVER there was a situation at one of our schools, buisness's or residential to protect them. They are NOT going to bring this out at just ANY situation and WE are the ones that determines WHEN and IF it is USED! IF you DON't want this brought out to a situation DON'T be STUPID and put yourself IN THAT situation! It is NOT about Black Lives Matter, it is about ALL LIVES MATTER. I as a Monroe County Citizen I will NOT put myself in a situation and I am NOT at ALL Intimidated by this CIRT Vehicle because I am a Law Abiding Citizen, and if you need a few more of MY tax dollars for this, then take it, I'm willing! Be Safe Make the right choices and hopefully we will NEVER have to see BIG BUFORD on the streets of our County except in the Parade!!!

I fully support the purchase of this vehicle. With friends and family in law enforcement, I understand the need to keep them safe and give them the equipment they need to do their jobs. The CIRT team has had a vehicle they made work for this for years with no public outcry. Now a vocal minority wants to raise up and make this an issue. I'm all for giving them an armored vehicle that would allow them to enter situations where it's needed, do their job, and still come home to their families.

I completely, 100% SUPPORT, the purchase of a Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) vehicle (armored vehicle) for the Bloomington Police Department, so that our law enforcement officers can be SAFE whenever it's needed. I believe it will also help SAVE the LIVES of innocent victims in active violent crime scenes when the police find the need to use it. I trust our professionally-trained local law enforcement officers to use it wisely.

Certainly since this purchase has been planned, there also must have been plans made as to its utilization. Those plans should be made available to the public so that we know just what kind of situation this vehicle might be used for. This will shed light on its efficacy and need.

I feel that the purchase of a CIRT does not help foster the feeling of community and togetherness that I have come to know in Bloomington over the last 38 years. I fear that this will drive a wedge between the government and it's people like I've never seen. The money slated for this could be better put elsewhere in our community. If it must stay with the police department I'm sure it could be use to hire a new officer or two, community outreach or needed supplies of the non military variety.

If the money does not have to stay within the police department. I'm sure that they money could be put to use to help the homeless of our community. Perhaps funding more of the HOME program in conjunction with the Shalom center?

I have a foster son who was a Marine and who has now been with IMPD (Indy) for 16 years. I know some of the incidents he has been involved in and want him to go home to his family every night. I also hate the trend across the country to militarize policing and the ways that has impacted black people in other cities. This is a huge dilemma for me. After many conversations and much thought, I can still see both sides.

IF the purchase of the armored vehicle moves forward, the city/police must be extremely careful about when and how it is used. It should not be in the 4th of July parade! Police should not purchase camo clothing. Data on the past use of the vehicle they recently got rid of should be shared. (Maybe it has been and I missed it.).

The optics alone are so negative. The movie "Do Not Resist" showed a national police trainer who needs to be silenced. De-escalation strategies should be the FIRST response for police. For me, there is not an easy, clear answer. Proceed with caution and transparency.

Bad, Bad, Bad idea

I think it's a great idea! Keeping the city safe, you have my vote of confidence!

My wife and I strongly support the purchase. We must do everything possible to protect our officers. The consequences of not providing our police with maximum protection are not acceptable.

I 100% support the purchase.. should have been does years ago

I believe this armored vehicle would no doubt protect the police from a variety imagined possible harms. But these are imagined. Where is the evidence to show that this vehicle is practically needed? And I understand it is said that this vehicle would not be used for riot control or racially biased raids. But there's only one way to be sure and that is NOT to purchase this tax finances vehicle. If we in Bloomington called ourselves a progressive city, we need to set an example. Police militarization is systemic not isolated. Don't let Bloomington become another small piece of a big problem. This is not just simply about protecting OUR police, it's about retaining trust with the police. We have the chance to set an example and use our brains (facts and studies) not out emotion and gut. Mayor Hamilton, I urge you to stop the purchase of this armored vehicle and start to heal the public's distrust in the police.

There weren't any other public safety projects to fund with a quarter of a million dollars? How ridiculous.

I am disturbed by the choice to purchase an armored vehicle at all, and I am angry that this choice was made before informing the public and without requiring the BPD to present alternatives. This is a breach of trust between the public and the BPD. Not only do you need to stop this purchase, you should establish an independent oversight committee of citizens for the BPD, force the BPD to prove that they researched alternatives to this vehicle (and if they did not, to explain why they didn't), and release all correspondence between the mayor, BPD, Lenco, and the Public Safety commission. I also expect the BPD to admit that it disproportionately arrests and harasses people of color because the data shows that it does, and I do not see how we can move forward with this conversation until the BPD takes some responsibility for the hostile and discriminatory atmosphere IT has created (not other towns, not other cities -- the police HERE). They should take that quarter million dollars and spend it on implicit bias training, including hiring a lecturer to come in and talk to the officers about the historical relationship between slave catching and modern policing. The rest of the money should go to Narcan, domestic violence prevention, and affordable public housing. I'm sure city council can find a way to do that if it wants to.

I want to strongly encourage the City to seek an alternative to the BearCat. As a community that prides itself on being compassionate and open, I think it's especially important that we take heed of marginalized voices in our community, including people of color and people in poverty. Those of us with greater advantages may not always understand the concerns of people who are different from us, but it's important that we listen and important that we trust that those experiences are real. I believe there are compromise options available to the City, but the City has to be willing to give up on some of its goals to make such compromises possible. Bloomington's greatness emerges when we find a better way. Let's do that.

At the heart of this matter are two questions. What is good police work? What enhances public safety, police officers of course being part of the public? Good answers take a lot of space. But briefly I'd offer that bad police work looks like what we've done in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Lots of big equipment and high powered weapons are involved, and justice and truth are murky. Is it an accident so many municipal police officers wear U.S. flags on their shoulders? Is it an accident that so many in the U.S., and among police officers, can give short answers about right and wrong and the Russian invasion of Afghanistan? But their answers go in other directions if we ask about the U.S. invasion/occupation. SWAT teams, Prohibition II on many drugs.... these are other trends in U.S. police departments the last six decades. A quick word for this would be militarism. It's certainly not about peace and justice for an officer to be in a heavily armed drug raid at 3 pm, and sit in a bar drinking a beer at 5 pm., imagining he doesn't use psychoactive substances. The purchase of armored equipment which can be armed with special weapons looks, sounds and feels like militarism. It has appeal in communities concerned about crime; it has appeal in communities where officers buy into nationalism -- wear a federal flag on their uniform, as though we don't know what nation we live in. In my experience, there are many police officers and criminology professors who say that none of these things work or are good. Not Prohibition, not officers believing their drug raids and beer drinking are compatible, not a police department unaware of how a vehicle like this changes tone in a community. Is the question of buying this vehicle clear-cut? I'd say yes. An armored vehicle is a grey issue, but one with offensive potential sends us away from good police work and public safety. If there must be an armored vehicle, let it be one that is truly designed for good community police work.

I oppose

No! Terrible idea!!!!

NO!!! This is an expense for something we do not need. We do not want armored vehicles in our streets! We are NOT Nazi Germany....are we?

BPD Absolutely needs this vehicle....as Bloomington grows the less savory people move into the area....I remember when Bloomington was a very nice clean pleasant town.....I only go near town when I have no other choice....

I would prefer that we forfeit a deposit or put this vehicle in use as a utility vehicle for the Parks Department or Street Department, if we fell we must follow through with its purchase I realize this is unlikely so my following comments are made in a spirit of compromise.

If this vehicle is brought to Bloomington as a police vehicle I propose:

1. #PaintItPink. From the videos, documentaries, and actual advertising videos of the Bearcat model it is clear that these vehicles have a militarizing/warlike charged psychological effect on the officers in them and the public. This tension would be reduced by painting our Bearcat Pastel Pink. It would in no way reduce the safety value of the vehicle but would in fact bring cooler heads to both sides of a conflict/standoff.

#2. I have great respect for our Chief of Police and Mayor. I trust their statements of how this vehicle will and will not be deployed and used. Still one need look no further than the Obama to Trump administrations to see how one change in leadership can reverse the temperament of government. We need a memorandum of understanding that is legally binding and adhering to this vehicle through any leadership change. Violation of the agreement should contain legally binding terms that would require the destruction of the vehicle or at least rendering it inoperable until original operational agreements can be reestablished.

Please ignore the ignorant liberals who have no clue what the vehicle is or how it will affect public safety because its "scary looking." This vehicle is required for both officer safety and public safety. Thank you for thinking of the the public and officers families.

I strongly support the City's plan to purchase the replacement CIRT vehicle. This is an important asset that our City needs to protect our public safety officers and our citizens. The potential impact of any piece of equipment, whether an armored vehicle or powerful weapons, depends on policies, training and intent of the individuals using the equipment. Our city has a very long track record that reflects excellence in public safety services and respect for community it is charged to protect. I do not see any factual basis to suggest that the acquisition of this protective vehicle will change how our police departmet operates and engages with the people they protect.

On the contrary, national and state policy makers seem determined to increase access to more weapons by people with bad intent. Bloomington is not an island. For goodness sake, the number of mass casualty shootings should be alarming to anyone concerned about protecting our citizens. To deny this reality and remove a armored vehicle from the City's police department's inventory would be a profoundly reckless.

I lived in Bloomington for the past 5 years and while there I never saw any event that would require such a devastating militarized machine. However, there are plenty of locals who could benefit from additional affordable housing options. This city is showing the citizens that it prefers weapons and intimidating practices than empowering the citizens that call this home. If you want to create a more peaceful community try investing in: local long term programs, affordable housing, needle exchanges to reduce disease, increasing accessibility, reform sex education to address issues of rape/assault, focus on punishing violent crimes instead of spending tax money towards parking and loitering enforcements...

The CIRT armored vehicle has been billed as a replacement for a vehicle no longer in service. Did the citizens of Bloomington ever learn how that vehicle was used, and to what effect? I moved to Bloomington nearly 40 years ago and was soon dismayed by a police action shooting of a IU football player who was acting strangely, but had committed no crime other than threatening those who tried to apprehend him. I have since learned to fear the police because so often their actions seem officious rather than protective of the citizens they serve.

It is vital that we do not perpetuate the militarization of police with the acquisition of this armored truck. Rather, I urge the City of Bloomington to join to demonstrate a positive commitment to racial justice by joining the Government Alliance on Race (GARE), a national network of municipal governments committed to racial equity.

I am opposed to any further militarization of the police. Please do not purchase the CIRT vehicle unless there is a clearly demonstrated need.

I do not feel that this purchase is consistent with the values and culture that defines Bloomington as a unique and welcoming community, nor do I believe it would be a substantial asset for furthering public safety or facilitating positive relations between the police force and the public.

NO to military vehicles. And please invite public discussion before decisions are made.

Many of the answers from the council's listening session are incomplete because they assume that a crucial issue has been addressed that has not been: how will these ordinances, codes, legislation, policies, procedures, requirements, messages, agreements, guidelines, and plans be enforced? The council needs to get to the bottom of this issue. Anyone can identify which answers are incomplete by looking for those words such as "ordinance" in those very responses.

I fully support the police department's decision to purchase the CIRT vehicle.

The replacement of the old armored trucks with the CIRT (Bearcat) vehicle is entirely appropriate. Given the prevalence of right-wing terrorists, our police officers should be protected when fulfilling their law enforcement duties.

Just like to take a moment to relay some thoughts reference the CIRT vehicle that Bloomington Police Department is in the process of obtaining. I am a 45 year Law Enforcement officer Veteran that has witnessed numerous occasions when officers are put in arms way because lack of proper equipment to ensure a safe conclusion for both the officer or officers and the suspect we're not provided. The CIRT vehicle will provide transportation and protection for those officers involved in dangerous situations. After reviewing information on the vehicle this is not an attack or an assault type vehicle that will be used to intimidate the public but quite the contrary. This will be something that will save lives and help keep our community safe. I would encourage our Bloomington City leaders to continue with the process of purchasing the CIRT vehicle.

I am definitely against this purchase. I can see a possible need for an armored vehicle but the appearance of this vehicle is totally intimidating and wrong for the Bloomington culture. A plain white armored van with POLICE on the side would be fine. Or another used Brinks truck. The military style is wrong in every way.

Yes lots of cities have made this purchase and move towards police militarization and intimidation. We don't need to follow them. Now is the time to LEAD. Not follow.

Also, no more back room meetings and deals.

Also, our City Council is our City Council not the Mayors rubber stamp. I expect the Council to examine every detail in everything they vote on (like budgets with hidden line items) from now on out and forever. Do your job!

Since the previous armored vehicle has been out of commission for several years there may need to be a replacement. However this was approved without full transparency for the public it is now causing great upheaval. I think the best way to deal with the matter is to start the entire process of evaluation and request over with full transparency. That level of transparency needs to be standard operating procedure for all future governmental departments and programs.

I support the purchase of the CIRT vehicle. I understand the concerns expressed by some in the community, taking into consideration events happening around the country. I do believe, however, that this vehicle will be utilized for good and has the potential to save lives - those of law enforcement and residents alike. I don't think there are bad intentions or that this vehicle is being purchased to prohibit free speech or be used against the public. I don't think I'm naive about that. We did have one in Bloomington in the past and now we have to wait for other communities to send their's when we have need for one. That, coupled with the potential for good use, justifies the purchase to me.

Don't understand why our intelligent citizens would deny our police officers the safety provided them by this vehicle as they protect us from harm! This does not seem to be an offensive weapon.

I feel that police safety is important. I also feel that this assault vehicle is overkill. I think the cost is extravagant, and Bloomington isn't in need of such an item in order to keep our police safe. I am curious, if this is a replacement vehicle, how many times did we use the old one? I understand the old one has been out of service for , what, six years? If that is the case, I'd say we really don't need it! It is my hope that we do NOT purchase this assault vehicle. Thank you, concerned citizen.

i join a multitude of my fellow citizens in denouncing both the procurement process and decision to purchase a military vehicle for our local police force. this is a declaration of war on the people they are supposed to protect and serve. since the de-escalation skills that would be helpful when dealing with citizenry seem to be lacking in police training, this war machine would undoubtedly be called upon peaceful protesters or any gathering of people of color or low income status who made officers nervous or even worse, made them "fear for their lives". you know, the excuse that in their eyes, exempts them from accountability for any of their heinous actions. stop the cirt purchase.

I'm all for CIRT getting this vehicle to keep the community safe as well as themselves.

CIRT vehicle absolutely essential for officer safety. Any politician voting against should be voted out of office.

It's always better to have the tools and equipment you need. In today's world you never know what's going to happen. Better to have the tool and not need it then to need the tool and not have it.

Bloomington is becoming more and more dangerous. Not only is BPD understaffed but under equipped for the dangers they face. But they still do an amazing job of protecting our city. We should be protecting them. This is not a weapon! It is a vehicle that protects them! It can also be used to transport victims safely from active shooter situations. You cannot allow a few loud individuals to cloud your judgement. Cities all over the country have these. They are not used to run over or intimidate protesters! If the people who are against this would listen instead of scream and shout they would maybe understand this. Just because they are loud does not mean they are right. My soon to be husband has saved numerous lives and as an officer of this city. He and his fellow officers want the best for this city that's why they put their lives on the line everyday. The bearcat is a tool not a weapon. It is better to be prepared and have this and not need this then to not have it and need it. BPD was assisted in a stand off in Owen County just a few months ago where they were shot at over and over. That situation would have been over so much quicker and safer if they would have had the bearcat. People fear what they do not understand. You can't teach someone that doesn't want to hear you.

While most seem to agree that there needs to be something done bigger picture to decrease access to weapons for those who don't have the capacity to handle them correctly, the fact is that they are ALREADY out there. Our men and women in Law Enforcement deserve protection while dealing with such incidents NOW.

Please go through with the purchase of this vehicle. Yes, 225,000 dollars is a lot of money. However, in the event it is successfully deployed and is used to save just one life either civilian or law enforcement isn't it worth the expense? 225,000 dollars is a very minor price to pay to save lives.

Great purchase. This will be valuable to Monroe county. It will protect both officers and victims. I cannot stress how good this purchase came for our area.

Please go forward with the purchase of the armoured vehicle. The officers deserve to be safe.

Invaluable piece of Police equipment. Am absolutely necessary replacement for the previous vehicle which was not designed for that purpose.

It is a necessary tool and a small vocal portion of our community is against it, causing significantly greater outrage than is expected or necessary. The comparisons to other communities do not hold up based on many demographic and cultural factors that effect Bloomington specifically. We have good, honest police officers who want to have long, safe careers in this community. This is why they want this piece of equipment. To not provide it would be a poor decision. This will benefit the city, county, University, and all members of our community and region.

To protect your officers why not get one. If it was the police prot crying your family you'd want the best equipment.

We need this now, too important to delay!!

The city of Bloomington needs this vehicle to keep the officers and public safe. Everyone knows it is only used for dangerous emergencies and not used in everyday patrol. It is a tool for the officers just as everything on there belt.

I support the requested purchase. Let's start investing in protecting the rights of the innocent instead of the rights of the criminal. Protecting and empowering our police officers is a big part of that.

I would encourage you to look at the following link regarding the use of the Lenco Bearcat. This vehicle has been used to prevent the loss of life of officers, victims and suspects. Many non lethal apprehensions were made due in part of the fact that a Bearcat was present. It should also be noted that the Bearcat has played an interval part in many successful rescues. Our officers are the subject matter experts and deserve to be heard. Seek their advice the most.

https://www.indybay.org/uploads/2015/01/18/lenco_stories_presentation.pdf.

Like it or not this purchase is necessary in today's society. We don't need it in Bloomington you say. No we haven't but when the time comes, and it will, we can't run out and purchase it in just a few min. It's easy to say that won't happen here or it hasn't happened here until the first time. We cannot be in a position where we say "If only we had....". We expect our police men and women to put their lives on the line every day. Would this vehicle be offensive if it was your family in a hostage situation? I doubt it. And for those that find it offensive, don't break the law. I am certain they would be willing to drive this vehicle themselves if it would save their loved ones. We have to protect those that are charged with the duty of keeping us safe. How much is one child's life worth? How much is one officer's life worth? Up until a few years ago college coeds did not suddenly disappear or get murdered after a night out with their friends. This is our new reality even in Bloomington. Drugs everywhere, rapes, assaults and the list goes on and on. Vote your conscience. Vote as if the life of you or your loved one or one of our officers depends on it for it just might.

I'm in support of this purchase!!! Yes, it's a lot of money. However, if it saves one life it's well worth the money. As a community we need to support our police and stand behind them. They protect us day in and day out. Let's show some support to the people who put their life on the line every single day!!!

I think this would be a great purchase! Why would you even think twice about trying to keep our officers safe!

I believe an armored vehicle is necessary for a city the size of Bloomington. It would not only serve the citizens well but also the many thousands of students at Indiana University. I am also aware that Bloomington PD assisted in a hostage situation last fall in Owen County. The Officers that were there trying to preserve life, need to have armor to protect them and the citizens as well.

I know that the cost is high to purchase the vehicle, yet I also know that if it is used once and saves either the life of a citizen or of an Officer, the cost will have been worthwhile.

I have heard many of the arguments against the vehicle, and the vehicle referred to as a "tank". This rhetoric only serves to divide the community, as the vehicle is only protective with no offensive means. Fire trucks cost as much and many fire trucks cost many times more, with the reasoning being that lives and property can be saved. The Police deserve the same reasoning for their duty to protect lives. This vehicle's cost is minimal considering what is at stake and the many years it will be in service.

I support the purchase of the CIRT vehicle for the BPD. Keeping the people that protect us safe is invaluable. It's unfortunate that politics have to be involved. Politicians and the lay person have no idea of what a police officer sees on a routine basis in Bloomington, but they have to chime-in to a matter they no little about.

This is a needed tool, this isn't a matter of "We have never needed one before". It's almost a guarantee you will need this vehical/tool in the future. It's not how many times you might need it, it's about having it when we DO need it. Or maybe we can just wait and see, I mean I'd hate to be the one responsible for however many officers or civilization deaths it takes to prove that we should have bought one.

What happens in a world where hope is lost?

On June 12, 2016 at The Pulse nightclub in Orlando, hope was a rare commodity. 49 people died, 58 more were injured. A Lenco BearCat punched holes in the walls of the nightclub which allowed individuals to escape. How about the 2015 Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood shooting? A BearCat was there to help rescue people safely and effectively. There are plenty of other examples.

This may not be Orlando, but it isn't Mayberry either – and I don't think the community would want it to be.

A group of hard men and women suit up and put their lives on the line for this city each day – we expect them to protect us. Why are we arguing with them about the equipment they believe they need to carry out their job in the most efficient and functional ways?

I understand civilian oversight. I don't understand this madness. This is about right and wrong. BPD will be the same BPD that runs the Downtown Resource Officer Program regardless of what they have stashed in their toolbox.

Lets stop making this something it isn't, and remember what it actually is: The BearCat is a tool used by professionals doing a dangerous professional job. The better trained and equipped BPD is, the more likely we all are to go home at the end of the day.

Please keep in mind that the currency those folks deal in when things get really bad is blood. It is a life few understand, and virtually no one attempts to understand.

Officer William Abram could have been anywhere in the world in November of 2014, but he chose to be here. He could have taken the scenic route to a sexual assault in progress call, but he didn't. He may not have known exactly what was going on, but he knew enough to get there quickly. Two young women were being raped at gunpoint in our quiet little town. Officer Abram, a father of four, chose to sprint through the gates of hell that night and exchange gunfire with a couple of thugs from Indianapolis.

It is not, and has never been about race. It is - and always will be - about right and wrong. Let these people do their jobs.

Yes, definitely a necessary tool to protect our officers as well as those they serve and protect! Largo FL police department recently used in a gun, stand off incident. This vehicle not only protected the officers but also innocent bystanders, and saved the victim!

When I was a junior in college, 9/11 happened. I was living in New York City at the time. Obviously, this was a traumatic, but it also means that I am uniquely qualified to talk about what it is like to live in a city with armored vehicles on the streets. In my experience, having a military or military-like presence is disruptive and traumatic. It didn't feel like those vehicles were there to protect the citizens. It felt like we were under martial law, and we were being watched. It felt like we were the enemy. It is my opinion that CIRT vehicle should only be used in the most extreme cases. I do not see cause for such a purchase in this case. There is no reason for Bloomington to have a militarized police force. The funds set aside for this purchase would be put to much better use to train our police officers to address their implicit biases while on the job.

It's a GREAT idea, no question!!!!

Yes! Provide the protection for those who risk their lives protecting me! I support Law Enforcement 100%

It's not needed as much as some other things in the area. Militarizing the police is not the way to bring a more community oriented policing. All this does is make the police feel like they are soldiers. The last kind of police officer we need is someone who thinks they're in Afghanistan. I understand why the city feels it's necessary. Bloomington is the only Big Ten school who doesn't have one. How many times in the last 20 years could it have really been used in apprehending a suspect? No. Just showing up at scene doesn't count. Maybe 2. Leave the national guard stuff for the national guard.

Anything our officers can use to help them get home at the end of their shift is desperately needed. These vehicles can also assist in the event of a natural disaster.

I fully support the purchase of a CIRT vehicle.

I'm not sure what the discussion is about. Seems like a no brainer to me. We need to protect our police officers. I hope I never personally need them to use it to help me, but it's possible some day they might need it. This world is not a safe place.

Please give the police department the equipment they need to keep themselves and the public safe. Thank you

Support CIRT vehicle that can help keep police officers stay safe if needed in their line of duty.

I'm not sure what the discussion is about. Seems like a no brainer to me. We need to protect our police officers. I hope I never personally need them to use it to help me, but it's possible some day they might need it. This world is not a safe place.

Name Redacted

I fully support funding the CIRT vehicle to help protect those risking their health and safety for us - police officers and medical support staff. Most of us will NOT have to deal with the dangers these individuals will - but the danger is real and growing.

Any item that the PD can afford to purchase to protect it's officers from a baton to an armored vehicle is justified. PERIOD!

While I believe the purchase should have gone through more transparent policy approval, I believe our police should have every avenue available to make them safe as they try to protect the citizens of our community.

I support the city's purchase of the new CIRT vehicle.

I support the CIRT and the blue!

Please protect our friends and loved ones who lives are at risk everyday they go to work. As a Bloomington resident I would love the police department to be able to purchase this new armored vehicle.

Bloomington needs a CIRT armored vehicle because my husband is a medic on the CIRT team and protecting his life and the lives of the officers who respond to dangerous incidents is important to me. Most of the general public don't know what kind of danger these brave people put themselves into and assume this vehicle is for "militarization" of the police force when in fact it's simply to protect them during certain dangerous incidents that do indeed happen in our community.

Our police officers need proper protective equipment to continue to keep Bloomington safe. They put their lives on the line to keep its citizens safe. It is up to the citizens to provide the equipment needed to keep our officers safe as well.

I support the city purchasing a CIRT vehicle. It is not if something happens it is when. The city needs to be prepared for any event along with the personnel trained and ready at a moments notice. The CIRT needs to be as protected as possible because they are the ones that are going to respond, assess, and detain any person/s that pose an immediate life threat to the citizens of Bloomington.

I support the purchase of the vehicle

I support the purchase of the vehicle

I support the purchase of this vehicle.

Bloomington needs a CIRT armored vehicle because my husband is a medic on the CIRT team and protecting his life and the lives of the officers who respond to dangerous incidents is important to me. Most of the general public don't know what kind of danger these brave people put themselves into and assume this vehicle is for "militarization" of the police force when in fact it's simply to protect them during certain dangerous incidents that do indeed happen in our community.

This vehicle is so important to the men and women on that team. They need to be kept safe while they are keeping our community safe. Please consider purchasing this vehicle.

My best friend's husband is on SWAT for Btn. Please please keep him safe by getting this vehicle. There are crazy cop killers out there!

It is the duty of the police to protect us so allow us to protect them with the purchase of the CIRT vehicle.

Yes, please purchase the CIRT vehicle for BPD

This purchase would be an added safety benefit for the CIRT team. Officers could better protect the public, which in turn, would keep the streets safer.

Please get this vehicle, to keep my friends who are police officers and other officers safe out there on the streets everyday.

Yes -let's get our police & community the best equipment that will protect all. This city is where my family works.

We should always be protecting our officers and supplying them with top of the line equipment. The life they save maybe yours.

The safety of the Police Department is what people need to consider. They need to be safe to protect the public...If it was your child, husband, wife, brother, sister etc. You would want ever opportunity taken for them to be protected. They daily put there lives in danger to protect us and we should take every step to make sure they are protected.

I support the purchase of a Critical Incident Response Team Vehicle

The men and women who protect us everyday asked for a tool to help provide our community and loved ones support in critical moments. Understandably there are people who have the "Won't happen here" mentality. But I am sorry to say Bloomington is not the same quaint safe small town as it was 20 years ago. Our Police Men and Women fight daily to protect our community from the drugs, rape, and violence. So if these people who do not know if they will go home at night to see their families ask for a simple tool, you have my vote to buy it. This is not a social issue, this is a community protection issue. If there is a tool that these officers need to protect my family or any of my peers I want them to have it. Thank you to all of our officers for their daily sacrifices for our protection.

My thoughts on this matter is that ALL LIVES MATTER including our law enforcement officers and SWAT team. I have several friends who are officers of the law and I know that their husbands and wives would like them to be safer in desperate times as these that have been going on more frequently. I believe the townspeople are more upset about paying for this than anything. This has nothing to do with The Black lives matter movement. ALL LIVES MATTER and you can not put a price on any individual life, good or bad otherwise. I say take every precaution.

I fully support furthering of the safety precautions available to CIRT.

Please do whatever it takes to provide the Bloomington Police Department with the much needed CIRT armored vehicle. Our protectors deserve and must have the best tools with which to their jobs. Our goal should be #noliveslost!

If governing well is the art of compromise, the city administration is governing well. This proposed purchase already is a compromise between a free, full-military surplus armored vehicle and a civilian-model armored truck. The protection of the civilian populace and the law enforcement officers sworn to do so is paramount for an organization that has as its main mission the defense and protection of our residents. To not provide those officers with the tools to accomplish its mission would be dereliction on the part of the entire city administration.

The issue of transparency or process in purchasing any necessary equipment for any city department should not be conflated with the need for said equipment. This purchase is reasonable and, in fact, long overdue. Address any legitimate concerns about process or policy in a thoughtful manner going forward. Do not hamstring our police officers by reacting out of fear to a small minority of citizens who are uninformed on police tactics and policies who demand their way in opposition to the very real needs of the community.

This is a necessary and legitimate purchase in a time when officers need all the protection we can afford them. It is the right thing to do, at the right time, and in the right place.

Great idea!

I support this purchase. Why would you not want to purchase something that would help protect our law officers.

I support this purchase. It's time our government officials take a stand and support our officers.

I believe the CIRT vehicle should be purchased immediately. It is not "militarizing" the police force. It is replacing a piece of equipment that is used only in very specific necessary cases. This should not be a political matter. It is an matter of making sure the local police are properly equipped to deal with any and all emergencies. I work at IU and want to know that should an emergency occur that requires a CIRT vehicle, the police will have that resource on hand to use to assist myself and fellow Bloomington citizens.

Anything that will provide protection for the police I am in favor. To those who oppose this needed protection, I say SHAME ON YOU!!!

Due to increasing danger that our law enforcement agencies face, I absolutely without a doubt feel that it is NECESSARY for to supply the police with a CIRT vehicle!

Opposition to this based on how it looks is just silly. I question the motives if anyone who doesn't want to see our police officers protected. Keep it. Buy more.

I approve of this, it will be a great purchase for the city and community!

In a criminal world thats rapidly advancing, doesnt seem like a bad idea to be one step ahead of them.

A vehicle like this is like insurance. You hope never have to use it, but it is there if you need it. If we have a hostage situation this could be useful. If if we have an active shooter walking the streets this could be useful. Not to mention the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us. Should they drive up to a active meth lab and serve a high risk warrant in a Prius because it's less threatening to the public. Let them walk to the front door with revolvers because no one needs a military style rifle or a handgun with a high capacity magazine. This is to help and protect not to scare and kill. Criminals will arm themselves with the best weapons and technology they can afford and get their hands on. Don't our officers deserve the same. This vehicle will not be the answer for every problem we have. But if it is the answer for one, and saves a single life, wouldn't it be worth it.

Purchase the armored vehicle for the police department. They put their lives in the line for us every day. This decision SHOULD be a "no brainer".

Its hard to explain sometime just why this vehicle is a necessity. I have been on CIRT for the past 10 years and was present at the "Owen County stand-off." While we were on scene for 32 hours we were shot at 15 times, with some of those bullets passing by within feet of my head. It is without doubt we have needed this armored vehicle for years.

I believe the CIRT armored vehicle is very beneficial for our areas.

I think it will be critically useful, provided it's used responsibly.

Necessary for officer safety.

Please protect those that protect us. Is it not YOUR job to help protect those protecting us? Don't let a few outspoken people speak for everyone. They are entitled to feel protected when they are in harms way.

I value my stepdad's safety very highly. As a police and swat officer, he is often in dangerous situations. I don't pretend to know exactly what this vehicle does, but if he and his team will be more safe because of it, I support it. And I trust that they know what they need to be as safe as possible in life-threatening situations.

Militarizing the police with an armored vehicle is contrary to the the needs of the city of Bloomington. It has been proven time and time again that police militarization only makes people edgy and defensive expecting conflict-which makes the situation more dangerous for the police. What possible good can it do to polarize the citizenry and police by making such a purchase in Bloomington? The money would be better spent on training and education for the police force, who deserve to go into situations with the ability to handle it wisely, not with only the blunt tools and expectations of violence. The police deserve better, the citizens deserve better, and in a city know for its compassion and education we certainly have the resources to do better.

Please do not purchase the CIRT vehicle.

Our protectors need all the protection and tools available so as to perform their tasks safely... AND arrive home every night to their loved ones!!!

I can't believe this is even up for debate. Our law enforcement should be provided with every tool that is available to protect us and them selves. Too many terrible tragedies are going on in our community . I completely support and think that the city should stand behind it as well . I would be ashamed to be a member of any city Council or city government that doesn't back this up .

I support this purchase

I support this purchase

I support the purchase of the CIRT Vehicle for the protection of the officers who protect us daily. They deserve this.

Absolutely a good investment

CIRT is need to save lives - it would be irresponsible if delivery was not allowed because of a few outspoken people - these people need to be protect - they will come to understand in time

I think we should support anything that would keep our officers safe and not be harmful to the public. We have purchased it, now let them use it. Thanks to all those that risk their lives daily to keep the rest of us safe!

The Bloomington Police Department has responsibly owned and operated an armored vehicle in the past. I support the purchase of this vehicle to protect officers and victims in emergency situations.

I support this purchase.

I support local police in obtaining and using CIRT vehicles. Please don't allow the few "squeaky wheels" out there to sway your decision in this matter which would result in less protection for our officers. Give our officers what they need to do their job safely. Too many die in the line of duty. If a CIRT could help keep that from happening then why is it even a debate. Just do it for goodness sake.

You ask cops to put their lives on the line every day when they come to work. You expect us to run towards the sound of gunfire and danger when any other person would run away. So heres my question, why are you listening to the people who get to run away when the gunfire starts? Why should they have any say in this? Listen to the guys and gals who have to go toe to toe with the threat. We need this armored vehicle to do our jobs safely and effectively. It will save more lives, both criminals and officers, then not having it. It allows us to get closer to the threat safely so we can use less lethal munitions to subdue threats, it allows us to protect hostages and innocent bystanders that are caught in the cross fire, and at times it can be an intimidating force that may convince a gun man that he should give up because there is no way to win. All in all its a great asset for BPD CIRT to utilize. After the recent events in parkland florida we know how bad it can look when officers arent trained or equipped to handle a scene. I would hate to see the headlines on national news read " Bloomington Indiana police officers ill equipped to handle school shooter X number of children dead" that is a tragedy we CANNOT allow. To be honest this city needs to grow some balls, piss some people off, and do what has to be done to ensure the safety of this community. That is all.

If it can save a life get it! We need the equipment to protect our officers and citizens.

I think the CIRT Vehicle is a great idea! The vehicle would keep Bloomington much safer. I don't really understand what the big fuss is. Good investment for the police. I am originally from the DFW metroplex so I am used to the police having these types of vehicles.

I struggle to understand why this is even a conversation. If our law enforcement needs something to keep them safe, they should have it. If it looks "scary," then GOOD. We should use whatever deterrents available to a make criminals think twice.

I am adamantly against the purchase of a BearCat for use by the Bloomington Police Department. I feel like there are better ways in which to spend the amount of money being used in order to protect our police. This issue, as well as others, was handled very poorly by BPD, the Office of the Mayor, and City Council. Lastly, I see no need to go down the rabbit hole of police militarization. Do the right thing and stop the purchase of this vehicle.

This is absolutely absurd and completely unnecessary; a complete waste of public funds and an embarrassment to our city.

I am asking that the purchase of the Lenco BearCat be stopped. Aside from the lack of transparency by the mayor and the chief, this is something our city does not need. The report by the chief does not sufficiently provide enough proof for a need of such a vehicle in this town and I am finding it hard to believe that there are no other option that keeps our officers safe than a vehicle we've repeatedly seen used as a weapon against civilians. I'd like to see this purchase put to a halt and an ongoing community conversation started about better practices that keep our community and our officers safe.

Please purchase the CIRT for the Bloomington Police Department

I support the purchase of this vehicles

The debate that is presently going on over this vehicle has been drawn out long enough. The Bloomington Police Department is a professional organization that strives to protect the citizens of Bloomington. Knowing that BPD has a TOOL to be used ONLY in high risk situations provides a degree of protection for the officers of the CIRT team. I am sure the families have some degree of relief knowing their spouses, significant others, Family etc are being protected by this vehicle.

Please help protect my kids grandpa!

There should be no question. If this vehicle saves one life then it is worth every penny. This is for the safety of civilians and officers.

It's hard to believe the voice of a few would be allowed to jeopardize the safety of your Police Officers. If they protest the Officers wearing body armor will that be next?

I support the purchase of this vehicle

Yes

I think it is important to support the BPD. If the city decides to forgo the bearcat due to public opinion by misinformed and easily outraged individuals then you will send the message to our officers that their safety means less to the city than the loud and ignorant opinions of a few in our community. The bearcat is needed to provide safety to the officers who have chosen to assist in one of the most dangerous police teams we have. They run into situations with active shooters and other very dangorous situations. They deserve our protection and our support. The vehicle isn't being used to harm peaceful protests, it's simply a tool to keep our officers in the CIRT team safe.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I really do not think One vehicle is enough. With the size of this city and IU. If you let these vehicles drive around the city by showing a strong force. You will cut down on crime. Ever been out of the country? Check out the guards at every bank and you will see why no one in their right mind would mess with them. If you show that this CITY is protected then there will be less crime. If people see two all over driving day and night, they will get the message. Drugs are here, crime is going up or at least getting more dangerous, and everyone should feel safe in this city. This will get the message out.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

I do not want the City of Bloomington to move forward with the militarization of the police or the purchase of the Lenco BearCat.

These kinds of vehicles are symbols of oppression and violence. This is one more choice exposing the progressive facade of Bloomington, Indiana.

I think an armored vehicle is definitely needed in Bloomington, with the drug problems and the homeless people some of whom are mentally unstable. It would be an asset to the community and would last for many years . There are many men and women putting their lives on the line daily in our community. We should all be willing to protect them with every bit of safety equipment in these trying times. I know if I had family members on the Bloomington Indiana Police Force I would be constantly worrying about their safety.

The Chief of Police as well as officers on the CIRT team have clearly and logically articulated their need for this piece of equipment in order to safely perform their jobs. It is a truck, not a "symbol of repression." Please provide these officers - who go into harm's way to protect us all - with the tools they need.

I fully support the acquisition of the Lenco BearCat CIRT vehicle by the Bloomington Police Department. Our fine officers deserve no less.

Honestly this is a no-brainer we need to protect our men and women of law-enforcement especially when they're risking so much for us safety is key in this type of work especially if you can potentially prevent any harm.

Dear Mayor Hamilton,

My name is Name Redacted. You were the President of Shalom Community Center when I was completing my undergraduate social work field experience as a casework intern. I remember the excitement I felt when you announced you were running for mayor. I was hopeful that under your leadership, our local government would take a more nuanced look at the crisis of housing insecurity, mental health and addiction, and interpersonal violence in our community.

I am writing you today to speak specifically to the police department's decision to use public safety funds to purchase a militarized vehicle. I urge you to halt and reverse this decision. Whatever logistical complications may arise from that action will not outweigh the dangerous impact this vehicle would have on our community.

I care deeply about the safety of this community. As a violence prevention educator, I help students grapple with the ways in which structural systems of power and control influence our interpersonal relationships. As an LGBTQ+ youth services professional, I help local youth make sense of bigotry and build self-advocacy skills to imagine a future beyond mere survival. As a low-barrier shelter site director, I help individuals who are consistently blamed and stigmatized for their inability to succeed in a community that is trying to erase them (1).

As a social worker in the anti-domestic and sexual violence field, I was shocked to see domestic violence used as a scapegoat for justifying the purchase of this vehicle. Domestic violence scenarios are often used to pressure lawmakers and city officials into decisions that increase police power (2). This is particularly frustrating when according to the National Center for Women & Policing, studies find that at least 40 percent of police officer families experience domestic violence, compared to 10 percent of families in the general population. Many survivors of domestic and sexual violence feel unsafe around police. The students I teach, particularly those of marginalized identities, regularly question whether or not the police will protect them.

Which brings me to the subject of "public safety." To many, "public safety" has become synonymous with race and class privilege. A quick assessment of our public spaces (e.g. Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington Transit Center, Parks & Recreation Department spaces, Monroe County Community School Corporation) reveals how much our most marginalized community members rely on them. With an increasingly gentrified city (e.g. expensive apartments, hotels), our public spaces have become sacred (and vulnerable).

our black and brown neighbors are disproportionately policed and arrested. In our college town, community members break the law every day. Anyone living here more than few years has seen white, wealthy college students be publicly intoxicated, physically threatening, and sexually aggressive. Yet, white, wealthy college students are not responsible for the Monroe County Correctional Center's overcrowding. "Crime" occurs where police decide to patrol. Bloomington Police Department officers are not shining exceptions to the white supremacist foundation of modern U.S. policing.

Mayor Hamilton, with your wealth of experience in social services and nonprofits, I urge you not to pretend that this militarized police vehicle is in the best interest of the public. Please help Bloomington join other communities across the country in shifting norms around policing, patriarchy (i.e. #metoo), and white supremacy (i.e. #blacklivesmatter).

Please halt and reverse this purchase.

If you would like to reach out for further comment or discussion, do not hesitate.

With urgency,

Name Redacted, MSW

(1) I use the language of "erasure" to refer to the ways in which Bloomington's "Safe & Civil City" initiatives have prioritized the comfort of college students and middle to upper-class families over the safety of one of our most vulnerable populations. When police roll calls and constant patrols prevent people experiencing homelessness from existing in our downtown public spaces, the only other option is isolation (which exacerbates many causes of homelessness, including addiction, mental health, and domestic violence).

(2) In 2016, the privacy of domestic and sexual assault survivors was used as the primary justification for increasing the cost of a single BPD video from \$20 to \$150. Ironically, this decision prevents the vast majority of domestic and sexual assault survivors from obtaining BPD videos.

We should not be militarizing our police forces. Get the CIRT vehicle out of Bloomington.

The purchase of this vehicle will do nothing for so called "public safety". This vehicles main purpose is to bulk up the police force against "threats" to the state, aka people of color, poor folks, folks experiencing homelessness, undocumented folks, etc. This vehicle is just another step towards the militarization of the police in our city and will do much more harm than any supposed good folks from the government think it will do.

This is a dangerous and terrible idea. Increased militarization is not the answer to a happy and healthy Bloomington.

I tend to align with the liberal/progressive view but in this instance, I am 100% in support of the City of Bloomington purchasing the CIRT, or whatever equipment they deem necessary, to protect the officers and public servants. The police department is the experts in their field and their needs--I'm inclined to let them determine needs and purchases. Worries about militarization of the police department are unfounded.

Police vehicle purchases should be DECIDED by the professionals who will be using the vehicles for their safety. The public doesn't decide what kind

of garbage truck to use...this is all absurd and just a protest game.

I cannot be more in support for this vehicle. It is well needed. Unfortunately, I get to witness how many people in this town do not care about anyone else but themselves. Police need all the protection that they can get, especially since their pay is laughable for what they are expected to do. They put their lives on the line, the least we can do is help protect them. For those who are against this defensive vehicle, it's the same concept as a bullet proof vest. If you do not break the law you should not have a problem with it.

I am NOT for this purchase. I'm an IU student learning lots about how police are being militarized across the country, and how this does *so* much more harm than good. This is a shining example of what militarizing the police looks like in real life, in our city. I'm angry about this.

The March 18 edition of The Bloomington Herald-Times had articles that to my mind demonstrated the probable need for a well armored vehicle to transport CIRT teams safely to the scene of crisis incidents. Whether the Lenco BearCat is the only way of meeting such a need, I do not know. A rival company, the Armored Group, makes vehicles, including for the United Nations and for liberal cities including Lawrence, Kansas. Whatever the vehicle make, it is important that it not be fitted for offensive use (e.g., it should have no gun turrets) and that it be painted a non-threatening color (some have suggested pink, but even white looks very different from black or camouflage green).

I believe this issue has become so passionate because the CIRT vehicle, accurately or not, has become a proxy for other, very real issues. I hope that the City will regard a just resolution of these issues as an integral part of the package of whatever decision it makes on the Lenco BearCat. The March 19 edition of The Washington Post has an article by Malcolm Lowry, "Police Are Still Killing Black People." [Please see URL at the end of this comment.] The article, of course, is not about Bloomington, but it describes an experience that is searing in the minds of Bloomington residents, especially minorities. I have assumed it is not true here, and I have the greatest admiration for Chief Diekhoff. Friends have cautioned me, however, not to assume that my very positive experience as a White middle class peace activist would be the same if I were a homeless person of color.

I therefore suggest that accompanying the City's announcement of its final decision on the CIRT vehicle, it also announce concrete actions it is taking to ensure the safety and well being of African-American and other minority residents in their interaction with the Bloomington and Monroe County police forces. Obvious steps would include appointing an independent commission to review every putative incident over the past few years and make recommendations. Another measure, which could be implemented immediately, is to reinforce the training the Bloomington Police Department already provides to its officers on anti-racism and the de-escalation of incidents where cultural factors may be contributing to tensions.

I believe in the good intentions and real needs of all parties in the current dispute and continue to hope for a resolution that, if not immediately satisfying to everyone, does meaningfully address everyone's real needs and honor the worth and dignity of all.

Reference:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/police-are-still-killing-black-people-why-isnt-it-news-anymore/2018/03/12/df004124-22ef-11e8-badd-7c9f29a55815_story.html?utm_term=.3c94df629a4f

Please consider the difference between the two front-page articles in Sunday's Herald-Times: One entitled, "In Harm's Way, and the other, "Enough is enough." The first article argues for the purchase of an armored vehicle to protect law enforcement personnel and the public. You could say the argument is that the increasing use of military-type guns calls for an increasingly armored military-like counter-force. The 2nd article is about the 45 high schoolers in Bloomington who are going to Washington D.C. to join thousands of others protesting the shootings at schools and elsewhere. They have lived with the devastation guns have brought all of their lives, and they want no part of a future where pugnacious ways will keep them from living productive lives where the love and care of family, country, and their brothers and sisters throughout the world is paramount.

The two approaches to the issue of guns in our society are clearly shown by these articles: Use more force or appeal to logic. It should be obvious by now that using force only calls for the increasing force of one's opponent – i.e. we've spent the bulk of our resources on our military for years (more than the next 7 countries combined) but are still in a war that's lasted longer than WW II. Plus we're bogged down in the terrorism this has helped cause, in the physical deterioration of our country in all areas, and in the disillusionment of our people.

But instead of using our minds logically to get at the root causes of violence, we now are calling for war-like guns and vehicles to enforce our laws across the country. Will this really "protect" us when in our increasingly polarized society many are finding it harder to express their 1st Amendment rights to speak, write, or march against the status-quo? Might these instruments be used against them?

Our youth are not completely jaded by these conditions– let's help them not to be. They are forgiving of us, and so they don't want to push too hard – let's help them not to have to. They need our help in the solidarity of a shared vision of "what can be" – so let's join their calls to ban certain guns and work on the real issues behind the increased violence in our world

I do not support the purchase of a CIRT vehicle. It is an unnecessary, reckless, and dangerous use of funds. It will only cause more issues than it solves.

Bloomington does not need a CIRT vehicle. If funds intended for this purchase are tied to our police department, then why not focus that money towards mental health counseling and training for the BPD? We all know police departments could use more training on working with the homeless and those suffering from mental illness, especially in de-escalating situations.

If the armored vehicle saves only one life, it will be worth the cost.

I believe a professional and efficient police force needs a vehicle like this. Question the motives of those who are opposed to the purchase. Law abiding citizens have nothing to fear.

The mayor's office should request Council approval for the armored vehicle purchase and give people time to make their concerns known to their council representatives so that it can be properly approved or denied, as it should have been in the first place. This purchase was made in a way that was not transparent, which is a significant red flag. Steve Volan described it well in his open letter. The funds used to buy the armored vehicle were not appropriated for that purpose, they were appropriated for headquarters repairs. When those repairs were estimated to be more costly than what was budgeted, the funds were used instead to buy the armored vehicle - a decision that was not presented to or voted on by the city council. "The City did not approve this truck...the administration did, unilaterally and without oversight...if public confidence in the police is permanently eroded by this incident, it will be cheaper in the long run to send the truck back, eat the breakage fee no matter how high, and start from square one, than to maintain this poorly-made, divisive decision...I urge you to heed the above recommendations, starting with bringing forward legislation requesting Council approval for a Lenco Bearcat, as early as the Council schedule permits." It's even more worrisome that our police show not only 1) unnecessary force with minorities, as in the case of the BPD arresting an entire family just for being black and upset, rather than de-escalating the situation as they should be trained to do (see https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/news/crime/shooting-threat-posted-by-bloomington-boys-leads-to-arrests/article_97d8e60a-14ff-11e8-8967-57db6b4584d1.html) but also 2) they work under a clear conflict of interest with Judge Diekhoff, the wife of police chief Mike Diekhoff, signing warrants for her husband's men to continue such behavior. Some kind of additional checks and balances should be put in place for them, considering their relationship.

I certainly agree that the police need to be protected. But was the Lencoe BearCat armored vehicle the only one available, one at hopefully a lower price? I read in one article that additional fitments have been ordered, so this is not the cheapest version. Since this is paid for by citizens' taxes, the whole process needed to be conducted at public meetings. Another reason for public meetings is that this type of vehicle represents to the African-American citizens, the violence that nation-wide has been perpetrated by police against people of color. This shows a lack of sensitivity on the part of the administration. I think that the whole process is another example of the public being given a *fait accompli* by this administration: annexation planned without working with county government; the Bear Cat purchase, and not talking **ahead** of time with the Perry Township trustee, Dan Combs, about the changes in traffic patterns on S. Walnut, so that jointly they could make plans to keep the office accessible to patrons. Instead, Mr. Combs hears about when it's announced in the paper. Three strikes against this administration!

Please stop this militarization of the police force. It is not safe to have this around citizens. It smacks of fascism and suppressing the voice of the people.

It's not something that should be a priority. Would have been better to hire more/better laborers to fix our damn roads

The armored vehicle represents a level of militarization that is both absurd and dangerous. It is an unnecessary waste of money that says more about the fears of the police than about any real danger it is meant to fight. In fact, it is dangerous for the residents of Bloomington, and will undoubtedly negatively affect people of color the most. Militarized policing is part of a system of racial oppression that creates more problems than it solves. Please stop this unnecessary and dangerous purchase.

When, not if, Bloomington has a major incident (it can't happen here is NOT an answer) and people need rescue or retrieval from inside a "kill zone" such as in the famous Hollywood bank robbery, or the night club shooting in Orlando, or even the abortion clinic shooting in Colorado Springs an armored car

becomes a necessity, not a luxury. Perhaps you think you can rely on the good will of an armored car company such as Brinks or Garda. Better to own one to your specs. These are not tanks.

As a resident of Bloomington, I am concerned that the acquiring of a CIRT vehicle for the police department without public understanding and input in the formulation of usage guidelines will be dangerous. I don't think that anyone is disagreeing with keeping our law enforcement officers safe, but if we consider this as a public safety issue more broadly, the social consequences of this decision are much less clear and concerning. Rather than addressing the root problems that result in violence against citizens and police alike, it is possible that this purchase will escalate tensions in and surrounding Bloomington and may increase violent incidents in the long term - is this really our goal?

I am opposed to the purchase of the bearcat vehicle. The city should cancel the purchase and investigate alternative options that do not have the effect of militarizing the police. These options should be clearly and timely communicated to the public for comment.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the police department's budget hearing last year where this purchase was approved by the City Council. I had a feeling at the time that something like this was going to be brought up, and wanted to attend that specific part of the budget hearings for this very reason; now I regret deeply that I was not able to make it.

I see the Council did not think to question the expense, or at the very least whether there were policies in place to address the repeatedly proven, widespread, disproportionate, unjust, and violent effects that the indirect paramilitarization of small-town American police departments, through purchases such as this, have on minority populations. Regardless of whether this was a replacement or upgrade of a previous purchase from a decade ago, Bloomington of all places should be cognizant of the growing national awareness of the problem with police militarization. Not to mention the lack of transparency in the process, as the majority of the country finally wakes up to its long-ignored racial injustices and withdraws unearned trust in complicit law-enforcement institutions.

This does not bode well for leadership in Bloomington, especially after its recent crass and regressive attacks on its people who are homeless. If you want to follow some pseudo-progressive ideas about "community policing," fine, but you should at least know that this sort of purchase is counterproductive to building any bridges between the police and the public. It does not make anyone safer in the long run; it makes us all less safe. If you're going to cite a few anecdotal situations to justify yourselves, be aware that the money would be better spent on de-escalation and other "soft-power" training.

I have followed the story of the BPD's purchase of an armored vehicle with great interest since it suddenly came to light, after the fact, a few weeks ago. It's important to me that our police officers have the protection they deserve when going into dangerous, volatile situations. I respect the responsibilities of Police Chief Mike Diekhoff, and know he has the trust of people I trust. In particular I appreciate his and the mayor's acknowledgements that the way the decision to purchase the CIRT was made was far from transparent, and should have been conducted differently. And I really appreciate the work of the brave people who raised their voices loudly enough to hit the pause button on this whole process and offer us, as a community, the chance to think together, out loud, about what we're doing here. Attempting to educate myself, I've done a lot of reading, spoken to members of the city council and Black Lives Matter, and listened to the WFHB radio program featuring BLM's Vauhxx Booker, Chief Diekhoff, William Hosea, and Jim Sims. I've watched the POV documentary "Do Not Resist," and if you want to take a deeper look at these vehicles, would suggest you watch it, too.

There appears to be little to no data supporting claims that militarizing municipal police departments increases safety for police officers or the public. There is plenty of evidence that it achieves the opposite, while driving a bigger wedge between communities and the police. Situations tend to escalate, and when the police purchase the "hammer" that is a Lenco Bearcat, they tend to find a lot of "nails" to use it on. This is especially true where the historically fraught relationships between police and people of color are concerned, and there is no excuse for not taking that into account. I understand that we live in a world where the public is more armed and dangerous than previously, putting the lives of our officers at greater risk. I would like to see the city purchase, therefore, a purely defensive vehicle that can achieve the important goals of allowing the police to get in close when necessary while still being protected by the vehicle's armor. A new Brinks truck would meet those needs at a much lower cost than that of a CIRT. And at the same time we need serious investments in police training that is focused on de-escalation tactics and undoing the harms caused by implicit bias. I'm concerned by the lack of racial diversity on our police force.

I find the rationales for the CIRT purchase offered by the city, the police, and expressed on their behalf in the Herald-Times less than convincing. Most -- not all -- of the examples offered seem highly dubious. We need to keep our police officers safe in dangerous situations, but we've got to do it in ways that don't make it look like the police are at war with the public. Do the right thing, and pull the plug on this purchase.

I support the purchase of the CIRT vehicle. I believe the Critical Incident Response Team is crucial to the protection of Bloomington and its surrounding communities, and value the safety of the members of CIRT.

I attended IU, I am a male in my mid 30's and I am considering relocating back to Bloomington to start a wellness business. I am an open minded person who believes in strong law enforcement and public safety. The most vocal anti police activists I am sure have made it known how bad it is to have a semi-militarized vehicle in town, but these are the same people who hate all authority figures, rebel against any form of structure, and screech the loudest like petulant children. Please do what is best for the tax paying, reasonable and law abiding citizens and support the police by continuing to meet their needs.

Extreme activists (on the far left) seems hell bent on supporting policies and positions that destabilize the culture of Bloomington, Indiana, and a civilized world in general. The silent majority of law abiding, non emotional, very grounded citizens Thank You.

The CIRT vehicle is needed to protect our officers from armor piercing bullets when they are confronted with dangerous situations. My understanding is that the purchase has been in the budget for nearly two years. I would like our Bloomington officers to have the basic equipment needed to protect our residents and themselves. -- to keep us _all_ safe --- as in some recent hostage situations. If Bloomington has to wait for another jurisdiction to provide an armoured vehicle, not only would it likely arrive too late to help save lives, our officers may not be familiar with operating the vehicle, the best officers graduating may choose other jurisdictions with better equipment, we may lose current great officers to those same cities, etc.

I absolutely trust our police Chief and our CIRT team to work in the best interests of our residents. It was extremely unfortunate that the recent protesters refused to speak with the many good and sensitive people (from the community, the city, the council, the police chief, the mayor) who tried to talk with them about the fears that had been stirred up by someone extremely unfamiliar with our Bloomington police force and our city.

They seemed to be acting out and behaving unreasonably, then treating our police and mayor as "The Other" by their repeated blanket refusals to engage in dialog with the many truly sensitive people who attempted to speak with them. If it were not for the protesters claiming to be part of the Black Lives Matter movement I would have never guessed it, since they did not display the dignity, the strength of character and informed good judgement that movement has made great efforts to stand for in other cities.

None of my relatives work for the police or government. My sons are becoming young men; like most mothers who cannot live closeby they are always in my thoughts. Though my skin is olive, many of my relatives have dark to black skins. We all strive to avoid pre judging any person or treating them as "Other". My hope is that several of the protesters, or any residents who they have made worry about the purchase of the CIRT vehicle, will attend one of the free Bloomington citizen academies hosted by our police department (and the city and the county citizen academies) to educate themselves about the community they live in and want to participate in.

I am in support of the armored vehicle purchase with the policies governing its use as laid out by BPD in recent months.

I believe that the purchase of a CIRT vehicle is absolutely unnecessary, and a complete misuse of funds that would be better allocated for other purposes. As a citizen, I would feel uneasy knowing that such a vehicle was in the hands of BPD, and am calling for the immediate cancellation of the CIRT vehicle purchase.

I feel very strongly that the purchase of the BearCat is the wrong decision for the city of Bloomington and am requesting that the mayor listen to the opinions of the people and put an immediate stop to this purchase. This vehicle is an obvious step towards the militarization of Bloomington police and will disproportionately impact people of color, those experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized groups. In addition, I think the situation is made worse by the way it was handled with no transparency and done behind closed doors, when this money could have been used to help Bloomington in other ways, such as providing non-bias training to police officers.

Halt the purchase of the Lenco Bearcat. If we cannot stop the purchase, then destroy the vehicle once it arrives and sell the parts.

The purchase of this vehicle is absolutely unnecessary. It is an affront to the citizens of Bloomington and obviously unwanted. The lack of transparency surrounding the purchase is disappointing to say the least, and at most deceitful and unethical. It is especially disappointing that this mayor, who claimed to care about the less privileged members of our community, sneakily approved this purchase.

Definitely oppose. Do not want to be militarized city.

As a former Bloomington resident and a continuing visitor (who may well live in Bloomington again at some future point), I am extremely dismayed at the notion of militarizing or otherwise arming the Police Department with an armored vehicle. The type of right wing approach to crime the presence of this vehicle necessarily entails is anti-democratic, misguided, and repressive. It has no place in a community like Bloomington. I strongly object to any measures like this being taken, and I urge the city and its citizens: NO.

I don't think adding this vehicle will save lives on both sides of the badge, if anything it puts both at a higher risk when it is deployed.

History has shown us that it is a very good idea to keep a big distance between a nation's military and their police. The military is not a police force. Their power is the threat of large destruction of life and property and one's population should not feel that threat in times of peace. For this reason, it is absolutely frightening that police departments across our country, including small departments like our own in areas without a lot of criminal violence, are purchasing military surplus for the use of their police. Not only do these acquisitions create expensive maintenance costs for taxpayers, their mere presence gives the police a militaristic look and encourages military tactics that fit the tools at their disposal.

I encourage you to not waste our money on this military tool because it does not make us more safe but makes us inch closer to those troubled nations where the police and military were not clearly separated.

I have grave concerns about the CIRT vehicle purchase. I want our officers and our community members to be safe, however, I do not believe that the vehicle will increase public safety and although it might keep the officers inside safer it will not make the officers not in the vehicle or the community better and it does not increase trust in the community between police and the community. I am especially concerned about the lack of discourse before the purchase.

No to police militarization. No.

Dear Mayor Hamilton and others with decision-making authority,

Thank you for broadly advertising this opportunity to provide feedback on the purchase of the armored vehicle for our local police department. I hope this is just one of many steps that you take to build trust and understanding between our dedicated police officers and the diverse public whom they are hired to serve.

I understand the need to provide protection for our police officers. I pray that they will now embark on additional training to help them act with respect and restraint. It has been said that power corrupts, so it seems to me that training in de-escalation and alternatives to lethal force should accompany this purchase. If that kind of training is already taking place on a regular basis, then I ask that you continue that practice.

Finally, I fear that a central issue behind the opposition to the CIRT vehicle is hidden from our decision-makers, namely the trust gap between our police department and some of my neighbors of color. I ask that our leaders dedicate time, energy, and resources to bridging this trust gap. From my understanding, trust needs to be intentionally built and continually nurtured, especially in light of the systemic forces in law enforcement agencies that lead well-meaning police officers to act in ways against their own better judgement. Local experts like Dr. Jeannine Bell from the Maurer School of Law, as well as national reporting speak to these systemic forces. Some examples include an NPR Hidden Brain program on how the “broken windows” theory has contributed to mass incarceration (<https://www.npr.org/2016/11/01/500104506/broken-windows-policing-and-the-origins-of-stop-and-frisk-and-how-it-went-wrong>), how officers themselves are reflecting on this trust gap in interviews with WNYC (<https://www.wnycstudios.org/series/serve-and-protect-life-behind-blue-line>), and how well-meaning police are grappling with the distrust of communities of color (<https://www.npr.org/2017/11/19/565211134/d-c-s-school-for-young-boys-of-color-tackles-mistrust-between-students-and-polic>).

I hope that Bloomington can become a model for how the police and the entire community can work together to build both a widespread sense of trust (including with my neighbors of color) and a safe and civil community.

This is ridiculous and unnecessary. I don't understand the reasoning behind this purchase. The militarization of police in this country against its own citizens has caused more harm than good and perpetuates greater hostility towards minorities especially. There is no reason to think this will not happen in Bloomington as well.

I oppose the city's purchase of a CIRT vehicle for the Bloomington Police Department.

I oppose this unjustified expense

I am totally in favor of the city purchasing the armored vehicle for the Bloomington Police dept. With the present activities of the entire country, anything could happen at anytime. They have already been put in danger in the past, so why not help them be prepared for now and the possible future. Better safe than sorry. They absolutely deserve the best that is available when it comes to safety. I think at this point there should be no discussion when safety and lives are involved. This is reality, unfortunately. Thank you! Go, do the right thing. It was obviously felt at the beginning that this needed to be done.

I am against the purchase of this armored vehicle for Bloomington. I feel it is an unnecessary addition that militarizes our community. Something that can be equipped for a war zone and has been used to squash demonstrations is not appropriate for our city.

Our city needs this

I would like to see the process of acquiring a Lenco Bearcat halted at the time. Based on news sources, it is not clear that the office of the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the City Council were clear and consistent about the use of funds or reasons for acquiring an assault vehicle. There was also extremely limited opportunity for the community to learn about the proposed purchase at the time it was proposed. There should be a more extensive opportunity for the community to have answers from the city based on data and research as to why this is a weapon the police department must have. I believe that purchasing this vehicle is not the most effective use of these funds to fulfill the police department's mission--a safe and civil society. Please halt the process of purchasing the Lenco Bearcat at this time and listen to what the community is saying.

I am against the city's decision to purchase this armored vehicle. These vehicles have been used within the last few years to intimidate peaceful protestors. They escalate confrontation between police and demonstrators. The expense of the vehicle means that funds that could have gone to other important causes within the city. And where's the evidence that such a vehicle is necessary here? In addition, I'm disappointed and angry that the process of acquiring the vehicle was largely hidden from the citizens of Bloomington. For an administration that considers itself to be progressive, this is an affront and a stark failure of accountability to constituents and taxpayers. I am disappointed in Mayor Hamilton's leadership on this issue, and disappointed that he seems to think Bloomington needs a vehicle that can only serve to escalate tensions, and which has a chilling effect on democratic expression.

I do not support this armored vehicle. We are a peaceful people and not in need of such machinery. Please direct these funds to more worthy resources--like city schools.

I'm in support of the purchase. The officers on the CIRT team need adequate protection when dealing with dangerous situations and this vehicle is the best one for the job, from a maintenance standpoint, and for the city's budget. This isn't to say that BLM and other commenters' concerns about bias and use of force are entirely unwarranted, but those issues can and should be addressed through a collaboration between the city and BLM on how to improve community policing and community relations, and by working with BPD to identify training areas that are lacking and improve upon current implicit bias training and deescalation tactics. This situation should be seen as an opportunity to make our whole community better instead of ab "them against us" attitude from both sides. Collaboration and honest and empathetic dialogue from both sides would be far more beneficial to furthering the needs of both the police and our community.

I believe this is a major waste of money, buying equipment that will never be used. It also increases the distance between citizens and the police, at a time when community-based policing has become the standard. I can think of dozens of ways the money could be better spent.

The purchase of this armored vehicle is a breach of public trust and a waste of money. I am whole-heartedly against the purchase of this and any other armored vehicle.

I am not in favor of the BPD purchasing the armored vehicle. It is an intimidating vehicle and just the possession of such a military vehicle undermines the public's trust in the Police Department.

I am deeply concerned by this purchase. First, the fact that the City Council had no part in the conversation suggests that power is being consolidated in the executive administration in a way that should worry us all. We should all worry about the process here and advocate for a more transparent and participatory process. Secondly, while I understand that the vehicle is armored and may support negotiation, the size of this vehicle seems far beyond what the police may need and carefully deploy here.

I strongly urge the city not to purchase this vehicle.

On what grounds does the City justify purchase of this vehicle? I have seen no protest, march or public display that suggests that police need an armored vehicle to protect themselves or to protect peaceful citizens from violent protestors. I feel that this purchase arouses fear more than allaying it. Certainly, black boys especially have reason to fear the misuse of this vehicle more than any others. I suppose the City prefers to err on the side of "just in case"? I understand this but am sorry that Bloomington is taking such a step. The day that this vehicle is rolled out will be the day that I will want to pack my bags ...

I am against the manner in which this purchase was initiated, and I am troubled by the absence of transparency and the subsequent efforts of the Hamilton administration to obfuscate what had happened. Put the purchase on hold and have an open debate involving the City Council and the public, as opposed to engaging in justifications ex post facto.

Militarized police vehicles do not belong in civilian life, and should not be present on the streets of Bloomington. Racial minorities, especially African Americans, have overwhelmingly been the targets of policing and police violence. Over-armed police vehicles have exacerbated this problem, and will continue to do so. This is an unacceptable use of our taxpayer dollars.

I do NOT support the purchase of this vehicle. Hyper militarization of the police helps no one, and a town like ours, which is supposedly doing well with civilian/police relations, only invites trouble with such a purchase. It shouldn't have even been considered, and there are many other ways these funds could be used.

BPD's decision to purchase a BearCat without public or city approval is unconscionable and, whether intentional or not, points to a blatant disrespect for the citizens of Bloomington, the democratic process, and local efforts to keep the local police department a transparent, non-militarized public service. Mis-budgeting on building renovations to buy such a vehicle either points to gross incompetence, or an intentional miscarriage of public trust, neither of which should be rewarded with a military tool that has largely been used to intimidate and oppress this country's own citizens. I am also deeply concerned that the city keeps referring to the BearCat as a "Ford 550 with plated armor," downplaying its militarized use, when the Lenco webpage for the BearCat clearly and explicitly states that the BearCat is "employed by military and law enforcement agencies worldwide."

The BPD has operated without fatalities and without a military-grade vehicle for over a decade now. Bloomington is not a combat zone and has never seen a tragedy that a bank truck couldn't handle, and there are plenty of statistics showing many cities' over-use and mis-use of such vehicles, simply because they have access to them. Do you part to stop the trend of turning our nation into a fear-driven police state. We're better than this.

I strongly oppose the purchase of the CIRT vehicle, which unnecessarily militarizes our community. In the 23 years I have lived in Bloomington, we have not experienced the need for an armored vehicle. Indeed, we sometimes experience hostage situations which have been resolved through negotiations. An armored vehicle would not be helpful in these situations. The purchase of a CIRT vehicle sends the

wrong message to the community, particularly to the people of color who disproportionately are the targets of state violence.

This armored vehicle was purchased behind the community's back. BPD must not know our community in the slightest to think the majority of residents would support such an exorbitant purchase. We are a free thinking, liberal community conscientious of the rise of police brutality against people of color, especially Black men. Invest the 1.7 million dollars into affordable housing in Bloomington so those who live here more than 4 years can have the chance to live prosperously in this town without being shut out of our own community. If BPD is concerned about tensions in the community, please try collaborating with communities at risk using a community policing model. This armoured vehicle will only raise tensions, increase backlash, discord between the public and BPD. Hear us, Black Lives Matter and we do not support the militarization of the police force in our community. Thank you for your service, time, and consideration.

I back the purchase of the Cirt vehicle and efforts to protect our officers. With the prevalence of weapons on the streets today and almost daily occurrences throughout the state and nation involving their use, I believe the vehicle is a sound safety investment. If I were an officer responding to a call that involved an active shooter, I would like equipment available, that would keep me as safe as possible, while doing my job of keeping citizens unharmed.

Purchasing the CIRT vehicle is a waste of taxpayer money that could be better used elsewhere. Additionally, the militarization of the civic services is very disturbing. It is ultimately unwinnable. Police escalate to response to the perception of greater threats which leads to individuals arming themselves more heavily. Providing better city services is a better use of the money.

I do NOT support the purchase of the CIRT vehicle for the BPD.

Bloomington should prioritize their citizens more than their police. There is no reason BPD needs a vehicle like this. What we need is more affordable housing, renovations to the crumbling infrastructure, and actual better protections for its citizens. Please do not order this vehicle and use the money earmarked for fixing the terrible roads and pipelines for exactly that.

I am categorically opposed to the purchase of the CIRT armored vehicle: a dark day for Bloomington! Not only does the decision need to be reversed, but those officials responsible for the decision need to be "reversed," i.e., fired and/or voted out of office. A police department that claims to need this sort of weapon desperately needs new leadership.

Bloomington does not need this vehicle. Nobody wants to see an armored vehicle for "aggressive off-road performance" on our streets--neither residents nor visitors. There are alternative options that have been suggested by the community that won't instill fear, distrust, and resentment in said community; not to mention there are causes in this town that have a higher need for the money.

I am strongly opposed to the purchase of this vehicle, unless and until a full public discussion can be held and a compelling rationale offered. The lack of transparency in the planned purchase of this vehicle, and the lack of demonstrated clear evidence for need, is truly troubling.

I oppose the purchase of the CIRT vehicle because it is unnecessary and will incite, rather than quell, violence. I was surprised to hear Mayor Hamilton justify the vehicle on the grounds of rising levels of gun ownership. The way to curb violence is not to take up more arms, but to disarm. That is the premise of nuclear weapons control, and, as Mr. Hamilton well knows, since he claims to be a proponent of gun control, the premise of curbing gun violence by limiting gun ownership. Militarizing our police force will only intimidate citizens and frighten them into reckless violence. As others have pointed out, dealing with individual shooters requires getting out of vehicles, not taking cover in one. Such a vehicle might be useful if the police were facing an invading force, but in day-to-day policing, the vehicle has little value. And, given the rampant racism in our community (exemplified by our local newspaper's decision to run a front-page photo of a black opponent of this purchase kneeling at the feet of the white police chief), this vehicle would not be trotted out at gatherings of local fraternal organizations; it would be used against people of color. This is a wasteful, unnecessary purchase. The fact that it was made in secrecy (again, in stark contrast to this mayoral administration's vow of openness) indicates that the idea was flawed at its inception. One doesn't hide expenditures of which one is proud; one cites them as examples of prudence and wisdom. Clearly, the police force and other members of city government knew this was a shameful, controversial purchase and sought to cover it up.

Please DO NOT invest any funds to purchase an armored vehicle or otherwise amplify the police force's armaments. There are so many worthy social services and people in need who could greatly benefit from such funds. I urge the City of Bloomington to invest in the support and enrichment of the humans who live here, not equip the police department with tools of warfare.

The purchase of this vehicle is unnecessary. Please use the funds for building maintenance as intended.

I do not support the acquisition of this armored vehicle for our town. Such a vehicle militarizing our police. We should be working to deescalate conflict and to demilitarize our community and our country, and put our public money into measures that protect the vulnerable (homeless shelters, etc).

Do not purchase this unneeded armored vehicle

This seems like a terrible investment of city resources. How many incidents have happened recently where police response would be aided by such a vehicle? There seems to be a modern knee jerk desire to militarize the police and I have yet to see any evidence that it produces positive results. Once police have military grade equipment they find ways to use it, but usually those aren't positive.

Yes ! I think it's the right time and very smart to purchase a vehicle such as this. If this CIRT saves just one life! It's paid for itself in more ways than one. Those who oppose such a vehicle, please ask them if a relative such as a Son or Daughter is held under their will and this vehicle is able to penetrate and rescue such victims and save their life by being able to ward off criminal intent and fire. There should be no opposition from that person or family in a case like this! So again, PURCHASE THIS CIRT VEHICLE!!! You have my vote...

We do not need to spend public funds on an armored vehicle. Our local police should not be militarized.

I believe if used appropriately this could be an ok purchase for the city to make, especially if it helps save lives of officers or civilians. What concerns me is the militarization of the local police force. I know the current city leaders are acutely aware of the concerns of citizens regarding militarization of local police forces and has put in place robust guidelines and measures for how, when, and where this vehicle will be used. What is of concern is future city administrators who may not keep these same stringent guidelines in place, and begin using such a vehicle for other purposes, like intimidation or display-of-force tactics. In my opinion, this vehicle should never be used to intimidate protestors, to control acts of civil disobedience, in parades to display force, or any other situation where lives are not directly at risk by an active shooter or explosives situation. If the public can't be guaranteed this (both now and far into the future) then I do not support the purchase of this vehicle. If there can be usage guidelines put into law and guaranteed for the lifetime of this vehicle, then I support the purchase.

Please do NOT purchase and waste taxpayer money on the Lenco BearCat. Thank you.

While I certainly appreciate the need to provide the necessary tools to our police, I truly believe that it is vitally important to the well-being of our community to prevent the militarization of our police force. De-escalation should be the number one tactic in their toolbox, not aggressive military style posturing. It also seems painfully obvious that a quarter million dollars could go much further in keeping Bloomington safe by funding other programs than by purchasing a tactical assault truck. Thank you for your time.

The City should implement strict policies against the use of the armored vehicle when it's use could be perceived as a state-sanctioned act of intimidation against any assembling group. Such a presence could unintentionally escalate a social situation to the detriment or harm of non-police citizens. While BPD has acknowledged that internal policy will necessitate the deployment of a trained crisis negotiator along with the vehicle, the department has not included the council or guidance of a crisis negotiator in the decision making process before the vehicle is deployed to begin with. A lack of accountability in the decision to deploy the vehicle in the first place contributes as an enabling mechanism for police in cities elsewhere to abuse the technology when mitigating crowds in an urban area.

This purchase is unnecessary and would only serve to further reinforce a police state that targets people of color. Shame on John Hamilton's administration for considering this in the first place, and especially for trying to sneak it past City Council and Bloomington residents without transparency or vetting.

Unless there is a war zone that no one has heard of or you are wishing to resemble the streets of Brazil a CIRT is unnecessary spending for this community that will either only go to waste from disuse or will escalate violence against citizens who do not possess the proper threat that warrants an armored vehicle.

Please do not purchase such a violent weapon. Bloomington police should focus on de-escalation techniques instead. This purchase would be a needless waste of money and probable waste of human life when the police are rarely if ever really at risk in our town.

I interpret the purchase of this vehicle as an effort to militarize the Bloomington police department and as aggressive signaling against activists. The decision to purchase this armored waste of money was done undemocratically and will be vigorously resisted!!

This armored vehicle is not needed. We need these resources for services to help disadvantaged residents of Bloomington instead.

I am strongly against the purchase of the CIRT vehicle, and oppose the militarization of police nationwide. Police need additional training in de-escalation.

I am a Bloomington resident, and I strongly disagree with both the purchase of this vehicle and the shady way it was ordered without public comment or oversight. Vehicles of the type used against protectors and protestors at Standing Rock and Ferguson do not belong in this town. Research demonstrates that even the appearance of police militarization creates fear and foments violence in communities and are more likely to be used to target people of color. Please cancel this sale. I do not approve of this misuse of our tax dollars.

This is an unnecessary and dangerous purchase that seems to be targeted at student protestors. I'm not an active protestor but I believe that they should be able to gather without a threat of police violence.

The purchase of the CIRT is not only fiscally irresponsible and completely unnecessary, but also actively forwards the militarization of our police and government, leading to brutality and deaths. This purchase cannot happen.

I do not believe this is a good use of City funds. Please do not purchase this useless vehicle!

This vehicle is totally unnecessary and is part of a dangerous national trend in police militarization. Bloomington has many problems that a quarter of a million dollars could fix. Do the right thing and rescind this purchase.

we do not need a literal war vehicle in bloomington indiana please use the money to help the homeless that's more of an issue here

This is wrong and an abuse of taxpayers dollars! If you surveyed the entire population of Bloomington they would tell you the same. NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

Although I understand that police may encounter highly violent events, the city must think of our specific circumstance. The city of Bloomington is a generally safe place. A place where MILITARY equipment is not need. What you want to buy would not be out of place in a warzone, but would most definitely be out of place in the state of Indiana. This is a gross misuse and misallocation of the citizen's tax money. Instead, maybe focus it on problems that actually do exist, i.e. homeless population in Bloomington, ongoing opioid crisis. Our police are adequately equipped to handle the problems encountered in this town, but I implore you to tell me a situation they have encountered where a CiRT would be of need.

We do not need this vehicle, and the funds would be better spent elsewhere. At a bare minimum, these types of vehicles are a symbol of police militarization of the last decade or so, and are not welcome here. BPD will do a lot to spoil their repoire with the community should this purchase proceed. And in the future, the city and BPD need to be more forthcoming with public inquiry on the front end when making such purchases. It saddens me that officials in this city see this purchase as a necessity in any way.

Do not buy. This is dumb.

this would be deeply unnecessary and excessive. please do not waste public funds on the further militarization of the local police

When looking at footage from all over the country, including that in the recent Austin incident policing communities chose an armored vehicle that looks less militarized while still protecting those needing transported as well as the responding personnel. Buying a weapon and calling it something else is disingenuous. Please give us as citizens another option. Thank you.

This is an unjustified use of tax payer money, and will require further expenses for officer training and maintenance. No precedent exists of a situation in which such a vehicle would have been necessary or useful in de-escalating a public disturbance, preventing property damage, or preventing injury to officers or citizens.

There is absolutely no need for this type of militarized machine in the Bloomington community unless you plan to target and abuse low-income, homeless or communities of color.

As a member of the Bloomington community I am completely against the purchase of this vehicle. I do not support the militarization of the BPD and acquisition of a weapon that will be used disproportionately to target people of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized groups. Stop this purchase or you will have to answer to constituents who have now told you time and time again that we are adamantly against the presence of a BearCat in our city.

This is a terrible idea and it goes against the interests of literally the city's _entire_ constituency, save for the police force. Which. The police are supposed to be _public servants_; purchasing the BearCat is the opposite of a public service, it's a tool that enables further violence enacted by the state upon its citizens.

I think this City needs a vehicle like this law enforcement protection. Maybe could have looked into getting a used one but they ate required in this day and age.

Police militarization hurts communities. I am strongly against purchasing an armored vehicle for the BPD, and I am very unsatisfied with the City's response to community opposition to this purchase.

Our law enforcement needs to be protected because not all protests and situations are peaceful.

Speaking only for myself, I strongly urge you to renounce the purchase of the CIRT armored command vehicle for these reasons:

1. If there is a need for such things, one is not enough. Obviously, if there's no need, it's a waste of money. But if there is such a need, one such vehicle is not enough. It can only be in one place at a time, and has no backup if it's down for maintenance. Besides, nobody has deployed armored vehicles singly since World War I.

2. It looks like a scam. Secrecy and an alleged need for speed are the hallmarks of con games. As an individual, I have expertise in scams, with over ten years' experience as a journalist, recognized twice by awards from the Society for Professional Journalism. I strongly suspect that the seller could have employed unfair tactics in order to make a profit, even if no laws were broken. The slickest way to lie is to speak the truth, but not all of it. Even if it was all done in perfect good faith, the deal looks bad, and that is a serious problem.

3. It's very dangerous in much wider ways at this moment. This is a divisive political disaster for local government, and for the Democratic Party, at a moment when unity of purpose is urgently needed. The controversy has seriously eroded confidence in all of our local government authorities, not just the Mayor. It has made our city less safe and civil, not more so.

The only way to cauterize this and repair it is to abjure this purchase and apologize. I feel sure this will do much to repair the damage by demonstrating that our local representative government is just that. Many are beginning to doubt that it really is.

4. It's not a now-or-never situation. The purchase could still be completed in future. If the case for such equipment can be made, doing so in public will succeed, and further strengthen confidence in our local government.

I have lived here for over forty years, and at times have been active in local politics. Despite living outside the city limits, I have three times been a major -- in at least one case the largest single -- donor to the election campaigns of three Democratic Party Bloomington Mayors - McCloskey, Allison, and Fernandez. I am shocked to my shoes by the announcement that our police are to be militarized to a much greater degree, and especially disturbed that the decision to do so was made in secret. I do not see any reason for this purchase -- although I'm willing to listen to the reasoning, if the decision is to be made in public and approved publicly by all our elected representatives.

I always vote in every election. If this purchase stands, I am strongly considering protesting further by withholding my vote from any Democratic Party candidate, and privately advising my friends to do likewise. That would be an extremely painful move, at a time when extreme right-wing elements have captured the Republican party and are threatening our American way of life. I can not bring myself to vote for any Republican, but if the Democrats are going to behave just as badly -- and this obviously avoidable, wretchedly-timed imbroglio certainly looks like it -- there will be no good choices.

Please cut this controversy short and let it start to die away. Admitting and fixing your mistakes is heroic, even if nobody gives you a medal for it.

I wish to emphasize that I am speaking strictly as a private citizen and not as a member of, or on behalf of, any organization or political party.

It's ABSOULELY ridiculous this has been purchased without telling the public first. Its unacceptable that the city believes it needs war machines to maintain its population. What is your point? Do you not value the life of the people who live here? It's pretty obvious you don't. It's disgusting you would presume to murder us with your war machines.

Please do not follow through with this unnecessary purchase.

Please support your department and officers that protect you every day and night 24/7. The world is becoming a crazier place and it is better to have something and not need it then need it and not have it. This department does not "abuse" its power. Of course the criminals don't want officers to have protection. Majority of Bloomington residence would want their police to have this. The squeaky wheel should not get the oil in this case! This city has big city problems!

Please protect our officers, they deserve the best tools to protect themselves.

We love BPD! Why is this even a debate! So many cities have these! It's not militarization, it's not a weapon! It's protection! It can also be used to rescue victims safely. It's pretty sad when grown adults cry and say they are afraid of a vehicle.

Protect our officers AND our citizens by getting the BearCat!

What is the deal? Why is this a debate? BLM is a bully group that is crying over this because why? You can't educate them over this matter because they don't want to be educated. They just want to be loud. This is the most liberal city with wonderful understanding officers in Indiana. They serve and protect and put their lives on the line 24/7. They would run towards gun fire when everyone else would run away. Give them the tools they need. BLM I don't see you trying to improve or protect this city!

I cannot show enough support for the police department and it's officers. The city has good strong, competent leaders in charge of the police department and I wholly trust their decision to purchase the armored vehicle.

Protect our men and women in blue!

Love BPD! We wouldn't expect a fireman to go into a fire without his protective gear on...don't expect an officer to go to a stand off with a guy with a gun popping off rounds without the right protective equipment. They need this VEHICLE

As the team leader for the Crisis and Hostage Negotiation Team for the police department and a resident of this county, I am in full support of the purchase of the armored truck. The ultimate mission of negotiations is to preserve all life, both that of the hostages as well as the suspects. We are prepared to interact with mentally ill subjects, distraught and unstable person's, suicidal subjects and much more. To effectively carry out this mission, I have to sometimes put my team in harm's way to carry out this process. To procure this vehicle and allow my team to do their very important job from a position of safety if needed, would allow us to remove that barrier of worry and issue if we were able to work from a secure vehicle such as this one.

Personally, yes, I support this purchase. However, professionally, I am telling you that this is a needed purchase. I am confident, that given the responsibility I have been entrusted with as the supervisor for the Crisis and Hostage Negotiation Team, I would hope you would give merit to my professional opinion. I thank you respectfully.

NO! THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO NEED FOR THIS KIND OF MILITARY VEHICLE! Our cops are hardly trained correctly and the funds were SUPPOSED to be for building maintenance. Quit spending tax dollars on militarizing police!

I believe the police department should have a vehicle this type for several reasons. The number one reason is because we live in uncertain times and I would want our first responders to be prepared for any eventuality. Second is that a vehicle of this type not only is helpful in police duties but can be indispensable in aiding a natural disaster such as a blizzard or flood.

I have seen other cities in the US with armored vehicles in use by their Police Departments. I believe properly used, the vehicles provide a greater level of safety for our Police Officers in their efforts to make the citizens of our communities safe.

If you read the news you will see that criminals are using rifles more often. This isn't some tank, it is an armored truck. I think it is a good idea to protect the officers and the community.

If you read the news you will see that criminals are using rifles more often. This isn't some tank, it is an armored truck. I think it is a good idea to protect the officers and the community.

Do not buy the CIRT vehicle. Other portions of the budget need the money more.

We do not need an armored assault vehicle in Bloomington, IN. What we *do* need is a transparent budgetary process and field sensitivity training for every officer on the force.

We do not need an armored assault vehicle in Bloomington, IN. What we *do* need is a transparent budgetary process and field sensitivity training for every officer on the force.

We do not need an armored assault vehicle in Bloomington, IN. What we *do* need is a transparent budgetary process and field sensitivity training for every officer on the force.

We do not need an armored assault vehicle in Bloomington, IN. What we *do* need is a transparent budgetary process and field sensitivity training for every officer on the force.

Bloomington is a great city full of great people and a great community. We understand what it's like to be in a strong healthy community, and purchasing this vehicle is not that. This vehicle is a machine of war and will make law abiding citizens feel like they are living in a war zone. It's a waste of money and we don't need it. Please don't buy it thank you.

Seems like a rolling "safe space" for rescue personnel and victims is a great idea!

This piece of equipment is necessary to safeguard the lives of officers who would put themselves in harm's way. The police department has provided more than enough information and assurances pertaining to the intended use of this tool. The argument against its purchase is unreasonable and irrational. What is the life of one officer worth? A small number of the members within the Bloomington community are putting a higher priority on their emotional cost of the purchase of this tool than they are on the life or lives of the officers. The fear-mongering and hate directed towards BPD is senseless. The silent majority of citizens in this community support the police and whatever tools they need to keep the community and themselves safe. The City Council and Mayor Hamilton should and must make a decision based on logic and not on the emotional and hateful pleas of a small group that spreads hate and discontent towards police nationwide, and furthermore condones violence towards police.

Simply put, the general public does not have to risk their lives in tactical situations.

Radical police hater groups who want police officers killed don't have to risk their lives in tactical situations.

The city administration does not have to risk their lives in tactical situations.

So to deny police officers the protection they need especially in this day and age of killing police officers at a rate of about ten per month, is to say to them that public opinion matters more than their lives.

The general public doesn't really have a dog in this hunt. If the city administration denies the PD this potentially life saving tool because of public pressure, shame on them. You may be sentencing an officer to death while they are trying to protect citizens of Bloomington.

I'm a retired assistant chief of police and a proud father of an active duty police officer. I would like my son to go home to his wife and child. I don't want any police officer killed because public opinion is more important than their life.

This armored vehicle is an embarrassment to taxpayers and a testament to how the city Bloomington operates. Instead of attempting to fix homelessness, it's relegated to police to criminalize. Instead of listening to concerns from residents, Bloomington buys a BearCat to run them down in case they protest. Learn how to do your jobs without wasting money on militarizing the police. Fix the slumlord problem, opioid epidemic, homelessness, food insecurity, or transportation access instead with the \$225,000.

I fail to see how a CIRT vehicle could be misused- anymore than other Police equipment. I do see the value in such a vehicle in it's intended purpose: safe guarding citizen lives & property- not mention the lives of the incident responders...including medical & other specialists.

This vehicle will save citizen's and officer's lives. It is designed for defensive use. Bloomington PD has used armored rescue vehicles in the past. This purchase is simply a replacement. Bloomington PD needs this vehicle.

I'm in very strong support of the purchase. The safety of our CIRT officers is more important than the hurt feelings of a small minority of bloomington's population. The people that are against it with have no effect with the purchase. However the officers will lose a very valuable piece of equipment.

This vehicle purchase is beneficial to the safty of our officers. The public perception of what the vehicle will be used for should not out weigh this fact. This is merely just another tool that officers will have at their disposal to ensure they go home to their families that day. This should not be in question.

The Bloomington Police Department is a well educated group of individuals that strive to protect the lives of the the citizens of Bloomington, IN. The armored vehicle will only bring more training and protection to this great community. With the recent shootings in schools/colleges it is important that we provide the Bloomington Police Department with every tool necessary to protect the lives of our city.

BPD should absolutely have an armored vehicle. For their safety in today's day, on SWAT callouts especially when there are subjects who have already shot at police or have threatened to do so, both of which which are too common now, they need a vehicle to protect themselves.

Anything to keep our officers safe!

I believe this is a necessary purchase for the department with a wide array of possible uses, especially as a rugged, highly mobile vehicle for flood or snowstorm response. Thanks flooding following the hurricanes last year showed how versatile these vehicles can be in assisting with response in adverse conditions.

BPD and the citizens of Bloomington deserve equipment that will keep the city safe and the purchase of this vehicle is absolutely needed to ensure that safety. It will save the lives of both citizens and officers and is simply a replacement of a previous CIRT vehicle. In no other job would a purchase of vital equipment be opposed like this and to do so here is completely unconscionable.

Reinforced Rescue Vehicles are critical in ensuring that public servants have options when dealing with armed threats. Whether to assist in evacuating citizens or injured law enforcement personnel, they are a viable option that will lead to less use of deadly force by responding elements. If you are getting shot at, and yet are not threatened, you don't need to shoot back. This allows leaders to develop deliberate efforts to either de-escalate the situation or, if a threat to local safety, employ direct efforts against the threat.

I am adamantly AGAINST the purchase of the Military Vehicle. We could easily think of better ways to spend that money, and perhaps should have a public meeting to discuss that. But I am absolutely certain that spending that money on a Military Vehicle would be among the very worst things we could do. It will damage us in more ways than we can imagine.

This vehicle purchase is necessary for the safe delivery and recovery of emergency personnel.

The vehicle requested by the CIRT Team will assist in Officer and civilian rescue. It will not be used nor is its intended to be used as a civil disturbance vehicle. In the last few years vehicles like this have been used to rescue people in Texas, Louisiana, and California.

Yes, please protect every officer in any way possible. They put their lives on the line to protect us every day. Every protester of the purchase should spend a day in a ride along; it would be an eye opener to the daily dangers they face.

It is our obligation to protect them as they protect us.

I am all in favor of this purchase. We must do everything to keep our officers safe. If they have deemed this vehicle necessary, then I trust their professional judgement. We need to give them the necessary tools to keep not only themselves but all of us safe too.

Please do not use our funds to purchase a "CIRT" vehicle! As a long time resident of Bloomington who works with the public (a nurse at the hospital) I believe that this level of militarization is unnecessary and frightening. Allocate the funds for domestic violence training or narcotic administration training for officers and purchase narcotics for them to carry. These are better ways to serve and protect.

Why would we not have an armored vehicle available for emergencies? I trust the police department to use it judiciously and not abuse it. If the police department can't be trusted with a bullet proof vehicle then why do we trust them to have guns and the ability to make life or death decisions on a regular basis?

I strongly disagree for the need for an armored vehicle in Bloomington. Do not purchase.

No armored vehicle!

Why do we need an armored vehicle? Seems an outrageous unnecessary expense.

Absolutely, the city needs to buy this protective vehicle for our officers. Why would anyone not want the officers to be protected? As an alumn of Indiana University, I understand the scale of policing in Bloomington - this vehicle will make it safer for the officers to respond to the worst situations. Maybe the worst types of situations never happen, but maybe, the day they do need it (and only something with this much protection), but don't have it, people will lose their lives. This protection is absolutely vital to the Bloomington Police Department.

I fully support this. It will be a vital tool for the protection of the CIRT Team members.

As a regular visitor to the city for work, I am in support of the police being provided an armored vehicle in support of their lawful enforcement duties. I have on numerous occasions seen similar vehicles used successfully in other locations for rescue operations—of police, other public safety workers, and civilians—where others could not due to unusual dangers. An armored rescue vehicle is a key piece of safety equipment for the police department, and needs to be an organic asset of the city police; when it is needed for rescue, minutes may count when borrowing another may take hours, or days.

I think this purchase is very important. The police department needs a vehicle like this that will help protect the police when dealing with a critical incident. The Bloomington Cirt team has been shot at before. Do we really want something to happen to our officers, and say man if we would have had that equipment then we could have saved a officers life. The question is do you listen to the few people yelling and interrupting city hall meetings, or do you protect your officers? The men and women that go out there day in and day out putting their life on the lines. The ones who have been shot at. Also they are under paid according to the national standard for a city this size.

My name is Name Redacted. I am a social worker in the community and a business owner. My husband is Officer name redacted. He has been with the Bloomington Police Department for over eight years. He is a Senior Patrol Officer, a Field Training Officer, a member of the Civil Disturbance Unit, and the Range Master.

I have been following the discussion regarding the vehicle in question for several months. As a social worker, it is important to me to understand everyone's points of view and the reasons that they may feel a certain way. I work with many of the same individuals that BPD does on a daily basis. Many of these individuals are from a minority or poverty experiencing population. I understand that this vehicle may scare certain populations and I understand why. I understand optics and perception.

While watching the discussions, I observed the same individuals speak over and over. Many of these individuals have criminal history and a disdain for police in general. These individuals are not from a law enforcement background and have no idea what a police officer does on a daily basis or what it takes to keep a city safe. They do not understand the policies or understand how the policies dictate how the vehicle would be used. They do not understand that the policies would prevent any of their "what ifs" from happening. They don't understand that a brinks truck will not stop high powered rifles.

Unfortunately, I feel that these individuals are putting their feelings of being unsafe as being more important than actual physical safety. I don't feel that feelings are more important than a person's life. I've heard over and over that BPD is not transparent enough and has not earned the community's trust. I don't feel that those statements are accurate at all. BPD in general has gone above and beyond what most police departments do regarding public engagement and transparency. They have events in the community such as "touch a truck", coffee with a cop, forever friend Friday, and others. BPD has the citizens academy and the teen academy. They also instituted the downtown resource officer program. Most other departments have none of that. Every officer that I know is honest, hard working, and has integrity.

Every day I watch my husband come home exhausted and overworked due to a department that is chronically understaffed because the police are not supported in this city. Some days, he comes home covered in dirt and beat up by citizens. He gets cussed out and called a racist on a daily basis. He has to fight to take a sick day or a vacation day. Last rotation, he worked every one of his days off. 15 days in a row of work. Every single day, throughout the day, he receives calls, emails, and text messages regarding work. Two days ago, he got home at 7AM from his shift and then had to go back to work by 1 PM. He got less than 5 hours of sleep. He came home for dinner and then back at work by 9PM.

Many of the individuals that have been speaking, also bring up that Bloomington has never needed this vehicle before and it is a safe place. I am from a town in Ohio with a population of approximately one thousand people. There is zero crime and a church on every corner. Last year, there was a school shooting there. If that is not enough evidence that anything can happen anywhere, I'm not sure what is. This vehicle is about protecting our officers. Nothing more. Officers that sacrifice their safety, personal time, time with their families, and their physical and mental health for BPD and the citizens of Bloomington. The officers of BPD are owed and have earned this protection. To deny them this protection is a slap in the face to all of the officers and their families. Denying them this vehicle is saying that the opinions of a few, are more important than a life of an officer. To deny them this protection is saying fuck you to the men and women who put their lives on the line every day.

I'm totally supportive of this purchase. I feel that BPD needs that extra protection when it's necessary. Too many stories these days of cops being killed and that's unacceptable.

Advances in Police ballistic protection, to include armored vehicles, and less-lethal force options have lead to a decrease in Police use of deadly force. That's not theory or conjecture, it's statistically backed fact.

Case in point: When I first got assigned to SWAT in 2005, we had no armored vehicle. We would get called out to jobs and, unfortunately, when we received gunfire, we did not really have an option other to return fire. It's unfortunate, but it's not in our job description to be bullet traps. Now fast forward down the road and we purchased a Lenco BearCat. We still go to call outs, we still receive gunfire, usually we just sit in the BearCat as the rounds harmlessly hit the side. This also provides a tremendous opportunity for our Negotiator to point out the futility of shooting at the armored truck. Do you know what generally happens next? The person surrenders and either gets arrested unharmed and/or sent for a mental health evaluation. I cannot quantify how many times this has played out with just my guus alone, but it's worth mentioning that we serve inside the 7th most populated metropolitan area in the US. Our armored vehicle has literally saved lives but not putting us in a situation where we must use lethal force to protect ourselves.

A second use for our BearCat has been a causality collection point. Often on jobs, we have paramedics inside and they are able to then stage very close to the target structure. How does this benefit everyone? Their response time to a injured subject (Police, innocent, or suspect) is seconds. No more waiting at the perimeter to be called up which takes time when seconds count. Instead, we either pull the injured party, to include a suspect, into the BearCat and our paramedics immediately begin rendering aid or they are brought to the injured party.

Like it our not, Police use of armored vehicles saves lives. I've seen it with my own two eyes many times which is more than can be said for many people that all too often weigh in on matters of which they are woefully ignorant on the topic.

Just remember, when the time comes that you really need an armored vehicle right now, the National Guard should be able to deliver one within a few hours.

When we fail to prepare, we prepare to fail.

The fact is that by having an armored vehicle available to use results in fewer injuries to peace officers and the people they are attempting to apprehend. This is a common sense solution that saves tax payer dollars.

This specialized vehicle is indeed one that Bloomington's highly trained CIRT team requires (a) for their safety, (b) for hostage rescue and (c) for perpetrator capture or neutralizing to protect nearby citizens. I live in an area where these types of vehicles are used and needed.

There must be alternatives that can be considered. It seems like this is a move to a more militarized police force.

The police department has not justified the need of such a vehicle with evidence based data. How this vehicle was acquired was a perversion of the democratic process. Bloomington community members will not stand for this.

This is clearly a waste of my taxpayer money. There's no justifiable need for our city to have this type of resource on hand. Any situation serious enough to require this sort of vehicle, we'd be calling in state

and federal law enforcement resources. I'll be taking this unnecessary spending, and the city government officials who support it, into consideration in future elections.

Yes

I think the city should reconsider the purchase of the Bearcat. I am of the opinion that a couple of used armored vehicles, while not as flashy, would offer the same protection as this purchase would. While saving taxpayer money in the process. Our police are hired to protect and serve us the public, buying and aggressive military style vehicle at an inflated price is not in our communities interest.

Let's start this process over, consider alternatives openly with completely transparent process. Citizens of Bloomington deserve a voice in this process.

Great asset for law enforcement in times of need to protect the public.

Gives the Police Department the protection they need to help keep the people safe.

Regardless of its stated purpose, the presence of this item will in fact contribute to an environment of intimidation and militarization. We should implement other forms of providing portable cover (and other functions the Bearcat would fulfill) that do not contradict or distract from the city government's core mission of enhancing our community well-being.

Kill this purchase. The process, or lack of process in deciding to make such a purchase is more than suspicious. In reality, if it is true that the city council wasn't aware that this purchase was being made prior to it happening, the Mayor should resign. FYI, I am a lifelong Democrat.

Don't sacrifice safety based on the opinions of a very small minority. Keep the Bearcat

A resounding YES that the city should keep and use the armored vehicle. If one of the naysayers spent one minute in front of a potentially deadly situation without such protection, no doubt they would change their minds. Protect our law enforcement staffs!

I approve of the purchase. Give the good guys what they need.

I respect BPD and am concerned for officer safety, but I fear that this vehicle will make everyone less safe. There must be safer ways to get the job done.

I'm extremely disappointed in the city and mayor's office during this entire process. Originally, the lack of public comment before purchasing the vehicle was extremely alarming. This was compounded seeming total lack of understanding as to why members of the community were upset by the purchase, and refusal to consider other proposals. I'm never been more appalled by local government or felt less represented.

do not go through with the Bearcat purchase. Our community does not need a militarized vehicle to assault citizens, and this purchase would promote the use of violence against innocent people. Please put the money towards community needs in housing, healthcare and harm reduction. Buying the CIRT vehicle shows Bloomington Police Department is more committed to brutality than helping people lead meaningful lives in our community. Do not set a precedent of militarization here.

These types of vehicles are not needed in Bloomington, we have two, that's right two police departments in Bloomington. These departments being the IUPD and BPD. Having been a victim of a crime under the IU police department and seeing how well they work with the Bloomington Police Department is only one small example of why these vehicles are not necessary in the city of Bloomington. Additionally this funds used to buy these vehicles can go to a better cause such as building repair for public housing, or creation of more affordable housing. That is the legitimate solution to the they vagrancy and homeless problem that this city seem so obsessed with, in regards to peoples Park on Kirkwood and seminary Square on second street. In a time where police behavior and trust is being examined on a national level I am shocked and appalled that the city of Bloomington is even considering purchasing these vehicles, I love this city too much to let it become another statistic of police brutality.

this purchase was shadily done because you knew the citizens would object to the local police force being militarized against said citizens. since the proper process was not followed in aquiring this vehicle, the purchase should be stopped. the agression this portrays against local residents is only a secondary, though strong, objection. stop the cirt acquirement now!

Bloomington doesn't need an armored vehicle-- a huge waste of taxpayer money. The suggestion alone is shameful.

This vehicle should be purchased. It's silly that this is even a topic up for discussion. If we are expecting law enforcement to keep us safe, we should return the favor. This vehicle will allow for our police to work more efficiently. They should not have to worry about staying safe and only worry about the task at hand and deescalting the high risk incident. Please allow the purchase of this vehicle. Lives are at stake without it.

I support the BPD and I want them to be safe. I understand the need for an armored vehicle to ensure the safety of the CIRT personnel. However, I do not support the purchase of the Lenco Bearcat. I do support the purchase of a Lenco Tactical SUV or something similar, i.e. not a militarized vehicle. Intent is important, but so is impact. The impact of purchasing the Lenco Bearcat is that the most marginalized community members feel threatened. There is time to mend some of the deep wounds inflicted on this community by this pending purchase. I sincerely hope the Bloomington Administration/Mayor will rectify this situation in a way that protects both the BPD and the residents of this community, i.e. choose an alternative, non-militarized vehicle. Thanks for your consideration!

This piece of equipment is as essential to saving lives as bullet resistant vests and trauma kits. The Bearcat has a proven track record of saving both LE and civilian lives during quick, tense, rapidly evolving, and dynamic situations. While I can see the opposition to it on an emotional level, there really can be no realistic opposition to it when viewed from a factual perspective. We often hear after mass casualty events that "how much is too much to spend if it saves one person or child's life?" I would ask that same question here. Indeed how much is 1 citizen's or police officer's life worth? It certainly is worth more than the cost of 1 Bearcat. It certainly is worth more than the emotional feelings of a small (but vocal) group of perpetually offended people. Especially those who have openly called for dead police officers. Especially those who have called for removing all police officers from their cities, neighborhoods, or even from their states. From watching these events unfold, it is clear to me that most of the vocally opposed to this are opposed to police in general and wish them serious harm if not death. They have enlisted their associates from across the state if not the country to flood these comments with negative feedback in order to skew the results in their favor. BPD needs this piece of equipment in order to keep Bloomington citizens and officer safe, now and in the future.

This is an amendment to the comment I made a couple of days ago, in which I voiced the opinion that a new Brinks truck seemed to be the best means for meeting the needs of our officers for protection in dangerous situations. Having become better informed, I would like to see the city purchase Lenco's armored Suburban. The least offensive -- but best armored -- vehicle possible to protect our safety officers is the wisest choice.

This is a very expensive purchase to militarize the Bloomington Police. I can't think of any reason this is necessary and in fact it's actually scary. I don't agree with this purchase.

I believe that the purchase of a CIRT vehicle is essential for the safety of the community. Not only does this provide protection for law enforcement officers who are protecting our community, it is also used to protect citizens. With the seemingly more violent society that we live in, having more safety equipment is always a good idea. Evacuating citizens for the area of a critical incident is much safer for all involved when using a CIRT vehicle. There is much less risk of injury when one of these vehicles is utilized. It can also be used in other disaster situations as well (floods, heavy snowfall, etc) like we have witnessed around the country.

Totally unnecessary and a waste of money. It would only contribute to the militarization of the U.S. police force and act as an image to scare the population rather than build any type of trust. Hard pass.

I do not think we should be purchasing this vehicle. It can easily be used against our citizens and those of nearby municipalities. There are other options for protecting SWAT teams including other armored vehicles that aren't designed to be weaponized against people. I do not believe the BPD is any better than other police departments across that country that have been over-militarized and show implicit (and at times explicit) bias and racism. In fact some data have shown that we are worse.

BPD should have a CIRT vehicle to protect officers. This is a no brainer.

YES BUY IT

I understand that an armored vehicle might be a scary thought for some in Bloomington, but if it could be introduced in a user friendly way then maybe people could get past that. Give these specialized members of your law enforcement community the equipment that would potentially save lives in a serious situation. The type of situation I'm referring to would be what we all have seen on the news recently. And unfortunately it seems to be happening more frequently. I absolutely think these men and women should have access to this equipment. Not only for the communities safety, but for theirs as well.

This vehicle is not only useful but necessary for critical incident response in serious incidents that are sure to occur in Bloomington in the future. With all that is going on in the world today, we should not shy from it but welcome it.

What an unconscionable waste of public funds, and in a political climate, too, in which weapons like these are doing SO much irreparable damage. This is a public tragedy waiting to happen. Bloomington will be on the national news—its just a matter of time. The very idea of an armored vehicle shows how little attention BPD pays to public welfare or current events. Not endorsed.

Purchasing a Bearcat is absolutely unnecessary and a blatant militarization of our police force I 110%oppose purchasing this.. instead use thr money to train and hire new police officers and RE-TRAIN the entire force! You guys have an uphill battle to regain the public's trust.. might as well start now.

Why the lack of accountability in the funds used for the purchase of this armored vehicle? In other words, why can't the city explain WHY the truck is needed? Is Bloomington known for violent protests? (Answer: No.) Is the 1/4 of a million dollars for this truck a good use of taxpayer money, "good" referring to a consensus reached by conversations with the community writ large (Answer: Also no.)?

i am a citizen of Bloomington strongly opposed to the CIRT vehicle purchase. The militarization of police departments is not in the interest of public safety and this is a waste of tax payer dollars.

As a resident of Bloomington, I'd like to say that this purchase for an armored vehicle is not what this city needs. This will only cause further tensions in our community. Just this week a man of color was shot in his grandmother's backyard when his iPhone was mistaken for a gun. Is buying an armored vehicle going to fix this problem?

Good afternoon,

I do hope that I'm not too late to submit a public comment on the police vehicle's purchase. It isn't easy to look at issues like this that involve public safety and public concern without emotions running high. The impulse, it seems, on both sides of the debate that I viewed in city chambers is to appeal to the strong emotions surrounding the decision, rather than a practical look at the matter. I don't pretend to know what goes in to policing, its myriad challenges and often thankless efforts keeping the public safe. What I do know is that by design this vehicle seems to instill more discomfort, more discord, and more worry than it does comfort or security. That the decision itself seems riddled with missteps and subterfuge, whether intended or unintended. For these reasons and for genuine concern for its value in a college town like Bloomington, I would strongly and respectfully urge you to cancel the vehicle's purchase at this time.

Tragedy and violence are not experiences I am unfamiliar with in my personal life, and the cynical suggestion of some in favor of the vehicle that it is ultimately naivete or delusion that drive those against this vehicle's purchase are being, I think, more than a little unfair. While I do not pretend to grasp all the present struggles of law enforcement, I still maintain this vehicle fails to provide the measure of safety against the discomfort and strife its very presence represents.

Bad things can, of course, happen anywhere and any time. Yet an armored truck designed for military use cannot be a talisman against tragic events. It cannot keep those most at risk of harm safe. And it seems, worst of all, to inherently promise a lurking threat of harm to those who already suffer the most in our civil society. I would challenge you and the city government to use your unique position (a small liberal oasis in a red state) to be audacious in the face of such challenges. Ban the sale of guns within city limits; use the funds from the vehicle to increase domestic abuse outreach programs; add sensitivity training to BPD and IUPD cadet courses; engage regularly in discussions with disenfranchised people and groups. These are just vague examples, but hopefully my general intent is clear: Bloomington needn't seem ill-equipped to face current national woes, it can instead lead by example as a sanctuary from the horrors of our current executive administration and its rather ghoulish vision of law and order. At least that is my hope. There is virtue in seeing another path forward.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. You have my gratitude for giving citizens like myself the opportunity to share opinions on this troublesome matter.

With best wishes,
Name Redacted

Militarization of our community police makes me feel less safe. I would ask that the city not purchase an armored vehicle.

While Bloomington may have fine intentions for this vehicle, the reality is that these vehicles are used disproportionately against minorities. The history and context of these vehicles does not reflect the Bloomington I've come to love, and I am strongly against its purchase. The city should have done a

much better job at communicating this purchase and should now listen to concerned citizens and find another option.

The vehicle should not have been purchased in this fashion, without the community being involved, and the effect it would have on the community researched. The city of Bloomington should withdraw from their contract with the makers of the vehicle as the the city's primary "contract" is to do right by its citizens, all of them.

The purchase of supplemental military hardware has often escalated a lack of trust between a police department and its community. I come from a police family, this vehicle is not a high priority item. Bloomington does not have a history of high intensity hostage or SWAT situations. To make this clear, I am against tje purchase of this vehicle. I vote, and I will vote against the Mayor who approves this purchase. Community based policing is the better route over police escalation of paramilitary policies.

I oppose the purchase of this armored vehicle. It is a symbol and a tool of police militarization that is dividing our community at a time that we need to be coming together. Our current administration has assured us that it won't be used against the people, but we have no knowledge nor control of the choices future administrations may make. The only way to prevent this from being used against the people is to not have it at all.

I believe our city does not require this vehicle to improve policing. I believe the funds could be better spent in supportive ways that would strengthen community-police relations, as opposed to creating an atmosphere of distrust and antagonism via military-like tactics.

I am opposed to the purchase of a Lenco Bearcat armored vehicle by the Bloomington Police Department. I believe that the lack of transparency in the purchase and the general militarization of our police is not how we build the Indiana that we deserve. Police militarization, and policing in the US at large, has had a historically disproportionate impact on people of color and other marginalized communities. This vehicle has been used in Ferguson and Standing Rock, and there is little evidence that the presence of this vehicle would help in any of the situations cited by the mayor and the Bloomington Police Department.

My god, \$250,000 for a vehicle whose only possible use would be police suppression of peaceful protests? This is embarrassing, but not as embarrassing as the mayor and police chief's assurances that it won't be used against non violent protesters. Do not purchase this, do not embarrass our city.

Good afternoon. I'm writing regarding the purchase of a replacement armored vehicle for the Bloomington Police Department. I whole heartedly support the replacement purchase and that is from the perspective of being a career peace officer (currently a supervisor) as well as a military veteran.

The Office I work for has had armored vehicles for well over a decade. The first was a military surplus vehicle, the current one is a civilian made, purpose built armored vehicle built on a Ford truck chassis. This vehicle is not a tank of any kind, rather it is a large pick-up with an exceptional capability.

We have repeatedly our vehicle to get close enough to structures do a number of things we could not do with any other vehicle – our negotiators have been better able to communicate with individuals in crisis, we have used it protect those we have had to evacuate from the immediate vicinity of individuals in crisis. My Office's vehicle and others were recently used to do just this during the tragic hostage taking and murder at the Yountville veteran's home.

Other agencies have used their vehicles to evacuate the public during extreme weather events – because of their capabilities.

I understand there have been ideas floated suggesting local police do not need this and if an event happened where one was needed, they could just call the National Guard. Having served in several infantry leadership and staff positions in the Guard, there is no way a civilian specific vehicle with these capabilities could be reliably obtained in any sort of reasonable time frame during an event.

Please, listen to the officers and leadership of the Bloomington Police Department and fund the purchase of this replacement vehicle. Thank you.

Name Redacted
Sheriff's Sergeant
Northern California

This vehicle has no place on the streets of Bloomington. It has been shown that militarization of the police force does not result in greater safety for communities and police officers, but rather the opposite. Too often this affects communities of color far more negatively. If an armored vehicle is necessary for our police, why not look at a non-military vehicle that is not going to have the possibility of being used against citizens? We have seen time and time again these vehicles being used against citizens. It's not a question of IF but WHEN.

Another matter that is gravely concerning is the manner in which this decision was reached and carried out. The mayor has no right to go behind the backs of city council and singlehandedly make a decision like this without the input of the city, elected officials, and professionals. I voted for him and deeply regret it now that I have learned that this is typical behavior for him. This behavior is not okay.

This is a much needed purchase for the department! It will greatly benefit the team along with the citizens of Bloomington and Monroe County.

I am very much in support of the Bloomington Police Department purchasing an armored vehicle. The vehicle is erroneously called a tank by the ignorant or those intentionally stirring negative opinion. Armored vehicles have been in service in law enforcement since the 1920's. They are not any different than those vehicles used to transport cash. Armored vehicles often are used for rescue purposes as has been documented in numerous recent incidents across the country where they were used to rescue citizens. I am currently a police officer, and I have an admitted bias. But I have seen situations where armored vehicles could have been utilized to bring about safer resolutions, and I have seen way too much lately of intentional movements designed to handicap local law enforcement, often in ways that affects their safety and the safety of the public. I will say again, that the Bloomington Police Department needs to be allowed to purchase an armored vehicle for the purposes of having it available to safely resolve situations that require the additional resources for the benefit of the public at large.

There is no reason for a city police force to have a military grade vehicle. That money would be better spent actually tackling the problems that plague the town, like providing long term solutions to supporting our homeless population or battling the opioid epidemic, not turning us into a police state. Get your priorities straight.

No. No no no no no no.

The BPD has always worked with the community peacefully and I'm proud to brag about that. I have attended a fair number of rallies and the police response to that is commendable because there is not a huge presence. I'm having a hard time wrapping my mind around when a vehicle like this would be necessary In Bloomington. The militarization of our police force is the opposite direction we should focus our dollars if this peaceful relationship should continue. I am against the purchase.

Not necessary

A CIRT vehicle is an absolute need for the Bloomington Police Department. In today's world police need all the protection they can get. They go out every day and risk their lives for everyone's safety. I have heard that there have been some issues rising about this vehicle and I would invite anyone who believes this is an unnecessary purchase for BPD to participate in a ride along or SWAT call out. I would venture to say that everyone who says no to this vehicle has never been in a life or death situation. This vehicle will not only assist in the safety of BPD officers but Monroe County and surrounding officers as well. To those who believe this is unnecessary, please ask for a phone call on the next SWAT call out so that you can drive your own personal vehicle to the scene and take care of the incident with no protection. Some may say this vehicle makes Police look to scary. I say that is a good thing, maybe people will start thinking twice about the decisions they make and remember there are laws we all have to live by. If you still feel this is not needed please join your local police force and learn what the job really is like.

The BPD has always worked with the community peacefully and I'm proud to brag about that. I have attended a fair number of rallies and the police response to that is commendable because there is not a huge presence. I'm having a hard time wrapping my mind around when a vehicle like this would be necessary In Bloomington. The militarization of our police force is the opposite direction we should focus our dollars if this peaceful relationship should continue. I am against the purchase.

I stand with the Bloomington chapter of Black Lives Matter (BLM), Monroe County Standing Up for Racial Justice (MCSURJ), Bloomington Solidarity Network (BSN), Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Hoosier Action and other local activist organizations, in opposition to the purchase of a Lenco Bearcat armored vehicle by the Bloomington Police Department. I believe that the lack of transparency in the purchase and the general militarization of our police is not how we build the Indiana that we deserve. Police militarization, and policing in the US at large, has had a historically disproportionate impact on people of color and other marginalized communities. This vehicle has been used in Ferguson and Standing Rock, and there is little evidence that the presence of this vehicle would help in any of the situations cited by the mayor and the Bloomington Police Department. It does not take an armored vehicle to protect our police and community. We are at our safest when police work in communities that know they can be trusted. That trust is fragile, and the circumstances surrounding this vehicle acquisition put that trust in jeopardy. Let's put that money into better training and better facilities that encourage restorative justice.

My statement replicates those of many others, because our statements are similar. The previous vehicle and then the lack of that vehicle demonstrated that our community does not require one of these vehicles.

I strongly oppose the purchase of this vehicle. It serves no practical purpose, and there are no realistic situations in which it would be useful. It is a marker of the militarization of our police force, and a needless expense when that money could be spent improving our community in countless other ways.

First, it is absolutely unnecessary to spend tax dollars on a machine that is designed to oppression of tax payers. Second, there is clear evidence and research that shows police militarization has categorically negative impacts on the communities that purchase unnecessary weapons. No good will come from this purchase for the people that will pay for it

Cancel the order for the armored vehicle. The purchase was a typical bait-and-switch to get the vehicle without real input from the citizens of Bloomington. Because of this, the Police Chief should be fired and the Mayor should resign.

I do not support this purchase or the way the purchase was handled by the city. If the mayor approves this action, then I most definitely will not be voting for him next election.

It has been a month and my questions at the "listening session" have not been answered as promised. The city council has only provided watered-down answers to watered-down questions that presuppose, falsely, that the police enforce the law. You have been informed that the police are not trustworthy. To assume otherwise is to be complicit.

Although the vehicle was budgeted for by the police, it is still taxpayers money being used for a machine of war. The lack of transparency, unwillingness to take into consideration the councilmembers positions, and lack of real public forum for this issue which is clearly one that so many Bloomington citizens feel agency over is unacceptable from our local government. Mayor Hamilton ran on a platform of being of the people. He needs to stand behind that promise and allow for public input on this issue.

BPD needs this for the safety of their officers and the community. There is a silent majority of people who are fine with the purchase of this vehicle and it would be a shame to deny this vehicle over irrational opinions

I oppose the militarization of the Bloomington police department. I'm not aware of a situation in Bloomington (other than, perhaps, a natural disaster) that would require an armored vehicle such as a Bearcat.

I do not support the purchase of an armored vehicle for Bloomington Police. I believe this unnecessarily raises tensions between police and historically marginalized communities.

We keep our communities and officers safe through prevention and de-escalation of conflicts. Militarizing the Bloomington police force is a step in the opposite direction. A quarter of a million dollars (more money than many Bloomington residents will earn in a lifetime) is better spent on prevention than on militarized responses.

Please spend our resources responsibly or we can find someone else who will.

I don't feel we should ever cut corners as it relates to Public Safety. The world we live in is a sometimes evil place. Plan and Protect. Buy the vehicle as it will save more lives than it would ever take!

I believe this is a justified and prudent purchase.

Bloomington does not need this. It's terrifying. Money can be spent much better on programs that will help your citizens, not terrorize them. For one, this money could be much better spent on addiction resources.

This would be a great addition for the police department. There are dangerous situations in this city and this can help protect our officers!

This vehicle purchase is antithetical to the kind of city Bloomington purports to be. It is financially irresponsible, culturally incongruous, and sets a dangerous precedent for the civil workings of this administration. The process was wrong, and this alone should be cause to cancel the purchase. It is representative of an increasingly militarized police force that has lost a lot of trust from the public in the last year, at least, and this does more to widen that vacuum. We cannot be a welcoming city with a community-responsive police force while arming for war. There are other alternatives, and even at a loss of deposit for the vehicle purchase, these must be pursued to maintain any kind of positive relationship with the public and a positive reputation for the Hamilton administration.

I support getting this

Please do NOT purchase an armored vehicle. Not only could that funding be used for community policing and outreach activities, but that type of militarization of our local police force and community is not who we are as Bloomington residents. More militant approaches to public safety will invite more militant response. I didn't move to Bloomington to see armored vehicles policing our street. Purchasing a CIRT will just serve to further alienate law enforcement from the people they are duty bound to help. Thank you.

As a life-long resident (25 years) of the city of Bloomington, I oppose the purchase of the Lenco Bearcat armored vehicle by the Bloomington Police Department. It is completely unnecessary for the protection of our community and will only serve to further divide the police from the wider community.

CIRT input

Concerns:

- Opposition is based on emotional arguments and assumptions
- None of that research indicates there would be a problem in Bloomington
- Losing officers who do not feel supported with proper equipment
- Opposition has promulgated many incorrect statements

It is not an attack vehicle

It is not a tank

Similar proposed vehicles do not meet the BPD needs

There is no evidence BPD acts outside of protocol

Despite their social media posts, BPD has not been guilty of police brutality, unfair or biased policing

Reasons to support

- Needed by police for their protection
- Needed by the community for our protection
- COB will be a model for other cities in how police departments can manage this vehicle fairly without trampling rights
- Bloomington is an example of a balance between civil rights and public safety
- Bloomington is already a leader in exemplary police tactics and practices

I believe the purchase of the armored vehicle for CIRT should be reconsidered or reversed. There was very little research done to consider other options, and it was executed without the knowledge and consent of Bloomington residents. This purchase has led to a deepening mistrust of local law enforcement as well as local government, both of whom seem unwilling to listen or respond to resident concerns. Current evidence suggests this purchase will lead to greater escalation of violence toward marginalized communities. Please, consider reversing the purchase of this vehicle until it can be determined whether it will benefit or harm our community.

Please, the purchase of this vehicle does not make feel safer, it makes me feel embarrassed for my community. What we need are more organized efforts to work together for peace through trainings, discussions, prevention efforts, etc. I implore you to put more consideration into alternative safety measures.

I am opposed to the purchase of this vehicle. Our police force does not need to be militarized.

I am opposed to the purchase of a CIRT vehicle by the BPD and support a re-do of the entire process including: halting the purchase, studying data to weigh the pros and cons of a purchase, exploring alternatives, and presenting the proposed solutions for public comment and approval

I strongly oppose the purchase of a CIRT armored vehicle, and think it sends the wrong message to the community, especially those who have always been marginalised. Please DO NOT authorise this purchase.

I support the purchase of the CIRT vehicle. However the lack of transparency in the purchase process was absolutely inappropriate, and sadly just the latest in a string of PR disasters by the current city administration. Please be open and improve communication with the public, even if it makes things harder to do, because they elected you and it's their right to know what is going on in the city.

I strongly oppose this purchase. It is fiscally irresponsible, has not been discussed with the taxpayer public, and is a step in the wrong direction for Bloomington community policing.

No matter what you call it, this is a military-grade vehicle. If you're not trying to militarize the BPD, you don't need the vehicle. If you are trying to militarize the BPD, we need a new police chief and administration. Either way, don't buy the vehicle.

I am not supportive of the City's purchase of the Critical Incident Response Team armored vehicle.

Based on the reported incidents in which law enforcement could have used this vehicle, I counted one or two where I thought the purpose we were being told this vehicle was being purchased for made sense. I am concerned that once we purchase this vehicle, more uses for it will be found, unnecessarily escalating incidents.

I am an elected public servant with oversight of public safety via a fire department. I recognize that the city electeds, whether the Mayor or the City Council, depend upon the expertise and experience of their department heads and staff to provide reliable and sound information and recommendations regarding major purchases. One responsibility I take seriously, and I am sure Chief Dietkoff does as well, is ensuring the safety of staff. I am confident that police chief believes his department needs an armored vehicle and believes that he and his staff will use it responsibly and sensitively.

All that may be so. However, the insularity reflected in this purchase and how it was handled is concerning. The lack of transparency. The lack of understanding of what this type of vehicle means to members of the public is concerning. This type of vehicle has been used against communities of color as well as citizens protesting government and corporate action such as the Keystone Pipeline. This mayor and police chief may be committed to only using it in hostage situations where lives are in peril, but their time with the city will come to an end. What about the next administration, the next police chief?

As a public official, I am also aware that being transparent and engaging the public in meaningful discussion about governmental policies and actions are more difficult than most people realize. Requiring time and resources which are not always there. Abiding by laws regulating elected officials and their contact with each other and the public surprisingly create challenges to public discourse and transparency. However, I believe, striving to do better and to look for and implement innovative ways of public education, awareness, and participation in decision making are what we are required to do.

As leaders, we must also lead the way in understanding how our "whiteness" and class makes some realities invisible to us. There are organizations locally and nationally that are working on helping us with that. I encourage the police chief, the mayor, the city councilmembers, and city staff to take advantage of these opportunities and resources.

I'm disturbed by the purchase of an armored vehicle for the Bloomington police force both because it posits the police as a pseudo-military force in opposition to Bloomington's citizens and because funds were not requested through appropriate channels, undermining representation, public comments, and the very point of our democracy representing citizens rather than controlling them.

Absolutely the police should have this vehicle purchased for them. They protect and serve this city and deserve to have the city look out for them for a change.

I oppose the purchase of a Critical Incident Response Team armored vehicle for the Bloomington Police Department. I acknowledge that police regularly face the threat of substantially armed resistance, but spending massive amounts of public funds on a tank isn't going to change that. A more transparent research process before purchase will help to identify if there are any other solutions or better uses of these funds, preferably ones which don't increase the risks to people of color and other marginalized communities which are inherent in police militarization.

This vehicle should definitely be purchased! I know I would appreciate it keeping officers safe and able to do their job if needed.

This vehicle would be an extremely valuable asset to the LEO's that protect and serve the community. It would be one of the best and most beneficial investments for not only the officers who are responding to emergency situations but for the safety and betterment of the citizens by reducing the hazards of whatever situation may arise.

I believe that the presence of this vehicle will visibly increase hostility between the citizens and police of our community. Based on what I've read & researched, similar towns that have increased their militarized-type technologies within police departments have seen higher rates of violence. Additionally, the money for this vehicle could better be used providing PROactive assistance to those individuals who are in hostile/violent enough situations that the CIRT team is necessary. REactive and escalating techniques do not help the blood to stop flowing, they may provide a bandaid for the surface, but the wound is much deeper.

Our police DO NOT need to be militarized. Please, say no to the purchase.

Completely unnecessary.

I think that officer safety and officers coming home to their families after CIRT call outs takes priority over some people in the community being in denial that bad things do happen

Historically, the national, state, and local governments that have styled their policing to mimic the military, through protocol or the use of certain tools (weapons, vehicles, armored vests) in the interests of increasing public safety, have overwhelmingly racially targeted communities of color. Read some history books, and tell me that somehow, Bloomington will be different. Because it won't. What plausible threat could possibly scare the city into thinking it needs an armored vehicle? Because I certainly can't think of one.

BPD had an armored vehicle before. The city wasn't an authoritarian hellscape then, and it won't be after purchase of a new one. The city should go through with the purchase they already committed to make. BPD needs this capability to handle high-risk situations. If the city backs out, Lenco is fully within their rights under contractual law to demand payment anyway. Bloomington should not throw away money to appease alarmists. If, lord forbid, I am wounded in a mass shooting or other incident, I want BPD to drive out in a Bearcat and save me instead of watching me die because they don't have anything solid enough to evacuate casualties under fire.

I strongly oppose Bloomington's decision to purchase a CIRT vehicle without any community input. Return the vehicle (taking a loss in income, if necessary) and respect the wishes of the community!

I fully support the use of armored vehicles for law enforcement. I have first hand military experience with armored vehicles as well as military police and civilian law enforcement experience. The civilian population voting against these armored equipment usages need to understand that they help ensure safety and security for both law enforcement officers and the public. These vehicles are also valuable for

rescue operations during natural disasters, floods, tornadoes, etc., same as the National Guard, but with a much quicker response time. Again, I fully support the purchase of armored vehicles for CIRT.

Why do you need an armored vehicle to protect against drunk college kids? How about spend our money on food for homeless shelters or better roads, no one cares about the police they don't need any more means to terrorize people

They should get it! They need tools to help protect the community. It's not about money, it's about serving the city of Bloomington. When people need tools to ensure the safety of all, it is a must! When tools are required/ needed for any other profession... they are purchased, no questions asked. Tools help us advance... & do better! Why would the safety of Bloomington not be a priority? Purchase it! Thank you for protecting us.

Spend the cities money in places where Bloomington actually needs it. This vehicle is a waste of money and will get most of its use through scaring away peaceful protesters. It is, at best, an unnecessary purchase, and at worst, harmful to the free speech of the citizens the police are supposed to protect.

Absolutely! I'm a paramedic for IU Helath and I fully support the CIRT vehicle!

I don't believe this vehicle is necessary and I feel like there no transparency in its purchase.

When the trade off for improved police efficiency and safety comes at the expense of the sense of safety for others in the community, regardless of the size of that group, the choice to pursue the equipment becomes a divestment in the community. I strongly oppose the acquisition of military-grade equipment for a local law enforcement and the connotations of escalating violence it projects on our community.

I believe the purchase of the armored vehicle for CIRT should be reconsidered or reversed. There was very little research done to consider other options, and it was executed without the knowledge and consent of Bloomington residents. This purchase has led to a deepening mistrust of local law enforcement as well as local government, both of whom seem unwilling to listen or respond to resident concerns. Current evidence suggests this purchase will lead to greater escalation of violence toward marginalized communities. Please, consider reversing the purchase of this vehicle until it can be determined whether it will benefit or harm our community.

I believe the purchase of the armored vehicle for CIRT should be reconsidered or reversed. There was very little research done to consider other options, and it was executed without the knowledge and consent of Bloomington residents. This purchase has led to a deepening mistrust of local law enforcement as well as local government, both of whom seem unwilling to listen or respond to resident concerns. Current evidence suggests this purchase will lead to greater escalation of violence toward marginalized communities. Please, consider reversing the purchase of this vehicle until it can be determined whether it will benefit or harm our community.

I believe the purchase of the armored vehicle for CIRT should be reconsidered or reversed. There was very little research done to consider other options, and it was executed without the knowledge and consent of Bloomington residents. This purchase has led to a deepening mistrust of local law enforcement as well as local government, both of whom seem unwilling to listen or respond to resident concerns. Current evidence suggests this purchase will lead to greater escalation of violence toward marginalized communities. Please, consider reversing the purchase of this vehicle until it can be determined whether it will benefit or harm our community.

I believe a CIRT vehicle is needed and necessary in order to protect the lives of Bloomington police officers, when responding to situations where deadly force may be used by the perpetrator(s). Bloomington is the only Big Ten college city without a CIRT vehicle. I do not see the purchase of a CIRT vehicle as militarization of our police department, but rather one of many tools necessary in order to protect the lives of our very well trained police force. I value the lives and the expertise of our Bloomington police force. It has been six years since Bloomington has had a CIRT type vehicle. In my opinion, the retired CIRT vehicle should have been replaced long ago. Bloomington needs this protection!

I believe the armored vehicle is a common sense way of protecting the officers in a situation that may offer Less confrontational with an explosive situation that has a better chance of safety for the subject and police and give time to negotiate a peaceful outcome.

I believe the purchase of the armored vehicle for CIRT should be reconsidered or reversed. There was very little research done to consider other options, and it was executed without the knowledge and consent of Bloomington residents. This purchase has led to a deepening mistrust of local law enforcement as well as local government, both of whom seem unwilling to listen or respond to resident concerns. Current evidence suggests this purchase will lead to greater escalation of violence toward marginalized communities. Please, consider reversing the purchase of this vehicle until it can be determined whether it will benefit or harm our community.

My question is to the people who are complaining. How many of you have ever been involved in a critical incident response situation? How many of you ever been shot at? How many of you have ever been a first responder? How many of you in your professions and trades have to have specialized tools? I have been involved in both and was very thankful that the specialized tools were available.

Yes it's a shame that we have to have these tools, but it's a plain fact that the acts of violence by people who wish to do harm to others have brought this about. As a law enforcement officer myself I can assure you we would rather drink coffee and eat donuts and be home with our family's instead of going to battle with the evil of the world. BUT GUESS WHAT that's what we swore to do. We defend the good and bad. So please get off our backs about wanting our SPECIAL TOOLS, WE NEED THEM. It may be your life or the life of one of your family members we are trying to save. Thank you, have a blessed week.

Public tax dollars should not be used on the CIRT vehicle. The vehicle which is meant to plow through crowds of people and use high powered weaponry, poses a threat to anyone belonging to a marginalized group who may be targeted by police or who are demonstrating in public. State violence is a real concern for many of us and the purchase of this vehicle does nothing but threaten our lives and our voices.

The internet, with its immediacy and its culture of trolling, has been one force among many that has bid up the sense of fear and threat in the country. Crime rates are down, but incarceration rates are up. While the sense of insecurity and dread that comes with our growing social inequality is understandable, the answer clearly is not to spend more on guard labor and instruments--both symbolic and real--of state violence. I urge the city to take a stand against the increasing culture of fear. We are always vulnerable--humans are--but there is a cost, born disproportionately by poor and minority communities, to wasting resources chasing a chimera of invulnerability. Invest in people, invest in building a community of trust, invest in community health care, affordable housing, public spaces, educational and art opportunities. I oppose the purchase of the CIRT vehicle.

We should not militarize our police force. Return the vehicle.

I think the purchase of a CIRT vehicle was a great move for the Bloomington Police Department. The amount of extra security this provides for the officers is substantially more important than the immediate costs of the vehicle. The purchase of this vehicle was critical in advancing the police department and in making Bloomington a safer area for all parties.

This should NOT be purchased - this is insane! What a waste of money!

Please do not buy this vehicle. Our city does not need an armored vehicle. This money could be much better spent on things our community actually needs.

Please do not buy this vehicle. Our city does not need an armored vehicle. This money could be much better spent on things our community actually needs.

Please do not buy this vehicle. Our city does not need an armored vehicle. This money could be much better spent on things our community actually needs.

Please do not buy this vehicle. Our city does not need an armored vehicle. This money could be much better spent on things our community actually needs.

Please do not buy this vehicle. Our city does not need an armored vehicle. This money could be much better spent on things our community actually needs.

On November 2, 2017 at 11:23 PM I responded to a call with the Owen County Sheriff's Department. I was the first officer on scene of what became a hostage situation. I along with 3 other officers was shot at while I was trying to communicate with the suspect. I was greatly relieved to see the armored vehicle arrive on scene and provide a safe environment for officers who continued to receive gunfire during the negotiations. If this vehicle saves the life of one officer or civilian it will have saved your city thousands of dollars and will give your officers greater ability to return home to their family. This vehicle may also be the first point of safety for a hostage. Please bring this vehicle to Bloomington so that if once again me or any of my fellow brothers or sisters in law enforcement are under fire we will have a vehicle to help protect us while we work to protect our community's

Law enforcement in today's world is a dangerous place! Your officers need all the protection they can get from the evil that lives in dark society. If you care about your officers you will give them every opportunity to come home safe.

These vehicle are being used all over the U.S. with great success. It is sad to see that the city was on the right path, and now is stepping back because of pressure from a small group.

How will you feel when you have to tell an officers family that he or she will not be coming home again.

Are you willing to take away the ballistic vest your officer wear?? Tell me what the difference is? It's all about protection, not militarization!!

If the mayor isn't going to allocate funds to increase the number of police to even get us to the national average number per capita, then the police probably need tools such as this vehicle to help properly do their jobs and protect the community.

I support the purchase of an armored vehicle for use by the BPD CIRT. It will provide enhanced protection for officers and will allow them to more quickly and decisively move in to a dangerous area to address the situation and protect the citizens of Bloomington.

I support the purchase of the Bearcat armored vehicle by the City of Bloomington. Recent tragic events that have occurred nationally, but more important locally, are showing the need for a vehicle like this. Protecting our officers should be a priority of the city council, not caving into the demands of a hate group. The police department in Bloomington is a top notch department that has shown respect and professionalism to the citizens that it protects. The public should be proud of the officers the city (and county) employees, rather than being scared that they are going to turn Bloomington into militarized city. In no way will this armored truck (not a tank by any stretch of the imagination) be used in a negative way. It will be used as a pieces of equipment to keep police and others SAFE. As a police officer in a neighboring jurisdiction, I'm asking you to continue to allow this purchase to continue. While I hope it sits in a building and never gets used, the unfortunate reality is that it does have a need in Bloomington and Monroe County

I do not feel comfortable as a resident of bloomington to spend our funds on this type of equipment. Our external resources are outweighing the very visible fact that our officers can be successfull if we turn the resources towards our internal abilities. Better ideas would be better training and more specialized training within the field and our officers

I'm all for it. If the people who are against it had a loved one in law enforcement, I think they might have a different opinion. I'm thankful every day for all of our officers.

Ridiculous. Maybe we should focus on helping the homeless in Bloomington before we waste money on a war machine. I

We are not at war here in Bloomington. Fix the roads, invest in our schools, pay for more trainings for public servants, fund an initiative for the needy in our town. Anything is more productive than this.

I am an absolute supporter of this purchase. This is not an item of want, it is necessity. We can march and wave all the signs we want and hope for an end to violence, but we are signing the death warrants of our law enforcement officers if we do not give them the equipment they need to address a threat that is now.

The addition of an armored vehicle for the Bloomington CIRT is the right choice for the city. The department having this tool immediately available as a rescue vehicle is a must in today's society. Not only for the protection of officers but those injured in ever more tragic situations we see more each day. Having the ability to safely and quickly evacuate injured and innocent bystanders is expected of Law Enforcement from the public. If the City of Bloomington does not obtain such a life saving tool I believe they are putting officers and innocent residents at risk who will at some time require assistance where this tool can and will save lives.

I think this vehicle would be a great addition to your city. You never know when you may need a tool like this, but when you do need it you don't want to be wishing you had it.

I have been a SWAT team member for 17 years in a surrounding county, and the armored vehicle is a necessity for any team. The philosophy of the criminal element currently leaves no room for chance. The lives of your police/swat members, as well as first responders, and the citizens you are charged to protect, should never have a price put on them. These vehicles protect lives....period.

This is a bad use of our cities' resources, and the transparency is questionable, even if intentions were good. No one I've talked to supports this purchase; people think we should be focusing on doing better in other ways.

An armored vehicle is an absolute necessity for law enforcement, this day in age. I often see comments about the militarization of law enforcement, which is in my opinion , ridiculous. Just by watching national news, one could figure out that vehicles of this nature can be used to protect the public, and the officers from those wishing to harm them. An armored vehicle can be used as a protective barrier between a gunman and law enforcement or a large crowd of injured citizens. Without an armored vehicle, the rescue of an injured person or police officer is nearly impossible. To have the ability to use an armored vehicle for a rescue situation would likely be the difference between life and death of the wounded person. These vehicles are designed for law enforcement and the practicality is proven, daily! It would be a disservice to the City of Bloomington if this vehicle is not purchased!

For the safety of the CIRT, I think this is a great tool that can be used as you never know when shots are going to be fired at the officers. With this vehicle it will help keep the officers safe! I believe this vehicle will benefit the community as well.

I believe that there is no justification for the use of taxpayer money on an armored vehicle. It is simply not necessary and actually more likely to do harm than good as it pushes our city and state towards a more militarized police force. This is the opposite of what our city, state and country need right now. There are many other much better ways to spend taxpayer money, please reconsider and find a better use for the money available.

Dear Mayor, I was appalled that \$225,000 of taxpayer's money was used without prior approval to purchase this armored "tank" to be used by an elite group of individuals, most of whom are law enforcement officers. To the best of my knowledge the tactically train CIRT team was used on only ten actual times last year. Twice to serve warrants on suspected heroin dealers with an alleged history of gun violence. Alleged instances of domestic violence, alleged use of guns during the alleged commission of crimes and one real hostage situation hours old in Owen County. The situation in Owen County was already under control by the OCSD, Spencer Police Dept, the Indiana State Police. The hostage taker was a recently stateside combat veteran and he, unfortunately, was unstable and OCSD was forced to kill him. Would an armored tank deployed from Bloomington have helped? No. The officers have shown confiscated weapons as their justification for needing this vehicle for their personal safety when their specialized, specifically trained, equipped marksmen (& trained health workers) are immobilized. 25 vs 1. It seems a huge tactical advantage for this team is already in place. The examples given in interviews with the CIRT officers about the number of actual call outs and their display of confiscated weapons actually confirms this vehicle is NOT necessary for the CIRT team to do its job in our community. Were all those guns from the less than ten calls made by the CIRT team? Their confiscation of guns included a rifle with a "well worn" wooden stock. That's a squirrel gun. "Shiny new bullets" haven't been used. I do see the need for law enforcement to interact with our communities in a more positive way. I do see a need to educate our citizens, especially our younger population to respect an officer's command. Hands up. STOP. Don't move. Don't speak unless it's "yes sir or no ma'am." This \$225,000 could be better used at the local boys and girls club to EDUCATE. Develop a curriculum for our young people, sponsor neighborhood get togethers, educate our citizens in how to police ourselves. Get the officers out of the cars and walking their designated areas. Educate our law enforcement to serve, not just protect us. Teach them how they can fulfill both parts of their sworn commitment. Give bonuses to officers that save lives, develop good community relations, use conflict resolution skills and not deadly force. Another suggestion to resolve the fears the CIRT cited to justify this unauthorized \$225,000 purchase is to buy back the weapons! Other cities have used it. No questions asked, turn in your gun get cash, turn in a rifle, get cash, turn in your shotguns, assault rifles, etc get paid. I am a constitutionalist, a voting property owner. Armored vehicles like this controversial "tank" are for war, where mortal peril exists and soldiers have military training. A tank has no business on our streets, at the discretion of officers who did not go

through the proper channels to seek permission before such an expenditure to be used against untrained & perhaps unarmed civilians. Thank you to those exemplary officers who first serve and are not afraid to die protecting our citizens and children. God bless you. Citizens VOTE. Get involved.

We should if anything make more jobs or fix the roads. We are in Bloomington a town that can't even have a hookah bar. Come on we don't need this police vehicle.

Bloomington DOES NOT need an armored vehicle fit for a war zone. That is a terrifying thought. This money could be used much more effectively for its original purpose of building maintenance.

I strongly support the purchase of the Lenco BearCat for use in dangerous encounters. Our officers need to have access to a vehicle with ballistic protection so that they are less likely to be killed or injured approaching a situation with a suspect with a firearm.

The police need many types of equipment to do their job safely. This includes weapons and other items which can stand up to the guns the criminals have. The police know what they need.

Provide the police with the equipment that will protect them while they are doing their jobs. The police protect the citizens, the criminals and their own life. The criminals only protect their life with no consideration for others. If the police have asked for this, please provide it. Although I am no longer a resident of Bloomington my nephew is a police officer in your fair city and whatever is needed to protect and help the policemen accomplish their job, I am all in.

Equipping those who risk their lives with the necessary tools to succeed is of the utmost importance. I believe that this vehicle will provide safety and protection during the worst possible scenarios while giving operators a tactical advantage to resolve these dangerous situations. Firemen have firetrucks. Hospitals have ambulances. Armored vehicles enable those trying to help innocent citizens.

This is an opportunity to empower those trying to literally save lives. Why squander it?

Law enforcement agencies from across the United States, including Bloomington, have used armored vehicles to protect their communities since at least World War I. The private sector has done the same, without comments of "racism" or "militarization," simply to protect money- an ironic disparity in thought. I have been inside Lenco Bearcats (or other armored vehicles) in another Indiana city on a regular basis for 19 years. During that time period my agency has not deployed the vehicle for crowd control purposes or warrantless firearm confiscation. They have been used to rescue civilians or police officers placed in danger. In the last two-three years the Bearcat I have been in has been shot at twice- once by a suicidal murder suspect, the second by an emotionally disturbed person who fired at least 50 rounds after shooting a police officer. One white suspect, one black, both arrested without lethal force because the protection of the armored vehicle gave officers options they would not have otherwise had. I cannot speak to emotional arguments, only to the fact that our Bearcats SAVE lives of officers, suspects, and innocents. In the same time period, 5 of my coworkers have been shot, one twice, during high risk warrant services with weapons ranging from a .45 caliber handgun to an AK-47. The risk is very real, no armored vehicles were used then, but they are now present for every event. Thank you for your consideration.

As the wife of a police officer, I am for anything that will protect my husband and his blue family. Most don't understand what it's like to send your spouse out the door every day knowing that they may not come back. These men and women not only need, but DESERVE to have anything that will help protect their lives and get them home safely every night to their spouses, children and parents. Please allow the purchase of this vehicle. It is just another form of protection for these brave men and women. Thank you.

I've been in law enforcement for nine years and am an active member of my agencies Special Response Team. We utilize a fully armored vehicle in almost every "call out". I'd like to remind the public what the real reason for this paramount piece of equipment is. Coming from one of the people inside the vehicle I'd like to stress SRT teams (SWAT, CIRT, SRT) are a life SAVING team. Preservation of life is always the utmost concern... whether it's the innocent public, police officers or the person creating the "special situation". This tool would drastically help ensure the safety of everyone involved. Officers are forced to inject themselves into extremely dangerous situations, so they deserve to be as safe as possible while doing so. For those against this vehicle purchase... if you were in the officers boots wouldn't you and your family want the up most protection?

Don't buy this unnecessary vehicle.