



Halt Police Militarization in CU

We are a coalition of concerned Champaign County residents working to demilitarize our local police. Since Ferguson, the public has become aware of the trend toward police militarization, especially how it impacts the African American community. The Federal Government's 1033 Program, providing police with excess military equipment, has been exposed in the media. Through this program M-16 assault rifles have been given to our local police, and, most alarmingly, a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicle has been acquired by the Champaign County Sheriff's Office. We have several recommendations:

- We urge elected officials to instruct our law enforcement agencies to withdraw from the 1033 Program.
- We call on Sheriff Dan Walsh to decommission the MRAP.
- We are concerned about the lack of accountability in past acquisitions of military equipment and weapons.
- We ask that in the future, there be a process of public consultation before local law enforcement acquires this dangerous equipment.
- We ask that police develop clear policies for how these items will be used before being acquired.
- We insist that such weapons are not used against minors (especially in schools), peaceful protesters, and in serving routine warrants of arrest.

For more read:

["An Asset for Area Law Enforcement, Military Gear Has Its Critics, Too."](#) *News-Gazette* (Sept. 21, 2014).

["The Banality of Police Militarization: How Champaign-Urbana Acquired Its MRAP."](#) *Truthout* (Aug. 26, 2014).