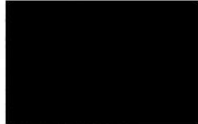




Dave McEvoy
Weir Estate Tenants' and Residents' Association (WERA)



30 October 2009

Dear Dave,

You may be aware of recent media stories suggesting armed police are to be deployed on Lambeth's streets and estates. I am writing to bring to your attention a letter from Lambeth's Borough Commander, Nick Ephgrave, issued to reassure the local community that there is no intention for such police deployment, other than the normal operations which are already carried out from time to time in response to gun crime in the borough. I have attached his letter below; you may wish to place this on your notice boards or within your newsletters in order to reassure residents.

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you all in response to the press and radio interest in the alleged plans for firearms officers from CO19 to patrol in town centres and local estates. The same story has been reported in various versions, and some articles have named Brixton as a venue for such patrolling.

In summary,

(a) I have made extensive enquiries this morning with CO19 and senior officers at New Scotland Yard and have been reassured that there are no plans for armed officers to routinely patrol our town centres or estates. The press reporting is entirely inaccurate in this respect.

(b) CO19 officers are deployed on Lambeth Borough in support of my officers as and when there is a requirement for armed support for a specific operation and I or my senior team request such support. This has always been the case and no doubt I will continue to request armed support as and when necessary, as is the practice across all London Boroughs.

(c) From what I know at the moment, the press appear to have misinterpreted a news update from CO19 on the MPS intranet site, describing a tactical option that has

been used for some time by CO19 whereby CO19 armed officers are deployed in support of Borough officers on specific, intelligence led operations targeting weapons recovery. This is one of a series of tactical options that were developed in response to serious violence involving firearms. One of the examples quoted in the CO19 news update related to a successful search in Brixton that led to the recovery of two rifles. We have deployed CO19 officers on Lambeth Borough on such operations since October 2008, with good success in terms of weapon and ammunition recovered. The tactic is NOT a routine tactic, but only used in response to specific intelligence.

(d) The news update from CO19 was posted on 22/10/09.

I understand the upset and concern that this media story has generated but hope that this message has gone some way to reassure you.

Regards

Nick Ephgrave
Borough Commander

Lastly, I would like to again reinforce the commitment Lambeth Living and Lambeth Council have to creating and maintaining safer communities within all of our estates and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Deplessis
Chief Executive
Lambeth Living