

Does your department allow officers to use chokehold techniques?

NO, chokeholds are NOT permitted. Intentional strikes or pressure to the throat with the hands, feet, legs, elbows, knees, or any implement are strictly prohibited.

Does your department require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor?

Yes. A member has the duty to intervene to prevent or stop another member's use of force if he or she knows or reasonably believes the use of force to be excessive, and to report this action to his or her supervisor. Failure to do so is a direct policy violation.

Does your department train and require de-escalation techniques?

Yes, de-escalation is taught in the recruit academy and in annual trainings for ALL officers. The goal is to verbally diffuse situations before there is ever a need to engage in physical contact or force.

How do officers determine the appropriate use of force in any situation?

Officers are permitted only to use the minimal level of force that is necessary to effect lawful purposes – no more, and for no other reason. Officers are required to constantly evaluate the situation to determine what, if any, level of force is needed and to stop immediately when the threat is over. This is taught in a Use of Force Continuum in the academy.

Does your department require exhausting all alternatives before using force, particularly deadly force?

Yes, officers are trained and expected to use verbal techniques first, and if necessary, the minimal amount of force needed to maintain safety and only in direct response to the actions of another. Officers are taught to only use or escalate force as absolutely necessary to ensure safety, not to inflict harm, and stop IMMEDIATELY when the threat is over.

Deadly force may ONLY be used when an officer's life or the lives of others are in imminent danger. In 2021, officers discharged their firearms ZERO times in any use-of-force situation.

Does your department require a warning before using a firearm?

Yes, officers are required to give a verbal warning prior to the use of deadly force except in articulable exigent circumstances, such as being fired upon. A verbal warning also is required before an officer deploys a TASER.

Does your department ban shooting at moving vehicles?

The discharge of firearms at or from motor vehicles, either stopped or in motion, is strictly prohibited unless necessary to protect the officer's life or the life of another.