



Policing and Use of Force Commission

Final Recommendations

November 25, 2020

The Members of this Commission, having been constituted through an Executive Order of Mayor James A. Diossa on July 27, 2020, and having thoroughly reviewed the Central Falls Use of Force Policy (April 7, 2020), reviewed proposed recommendations and held a public hearing in order to gather input from the community, hereby propose the following 11 recommendations to Mayor James A. Diossa for amending the Use of Force Policy:

1. **Updating Language on De-escalation** – Update C(1) from Camden, NJ: “Officers will use de-escalation and force-mitigation tactics and techniques whenever safe and feasible to do so. It should be every officer’s goal to resolve all situations without using force. To make this more likely, officers must use de-escalation and force-mitigation tactics and techniques whenever doing so will not put the officer or another person at undue risk.
2. **Updating language on the value of human life** – Update II (Policy) from Camden, NJ – “The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure officers respect the sanctity of life when making decisions regarding use of force. In situations where law enforcement officers are justified in using force, the utmost restraint should be exercised. Use of force should never be considered routine. In exercising this authority, officers must respect the sanctity of all human life, act in all possible respects to preserve human life, do everything possible to avoid unnecessary uses of force, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public.”
3. **Language clarifying Use of Force continuum** – Update (E)(1)(a) from Camden – “This Department trains officers on the following range of force options. The force options available to an officer fall along a continuum. Officers are not required to exhaust one type of force before moving to a greater force. Sound judgment and the appropriate exercise of discretion will always be the foundation of officer decision making in the broad range of possible use of force situations. This Department trains its officers on the following force options, from least to greatest force: a. Police Presence (least) b. Verbal Control Techniques c. Physical Contact d. Holding Techniques e. Compliance Techniques f. Control Instruments g. Physical Force h. Impact Weapons i. Canine Apprehension j. Conducted Energy Devices k. Deadly Force (greatest).
4. **Requiring Annual Training** - Making in-person, use of force training annual and focusing on reality-based training by changing to “annually” in E(2)(a).
5. **Language incorporating Mental Health policies into Use of Force policy**, including Excited Delirium by inserting links to the Policy on Individuals with mental illness (220.20) and the Policy on Excited Delirium (220.29) in a newly created section (4) on page 4.
6. **Update Chokeholds language** in E(1)(b) to be consistent with the city’s Racial Justice Ordinance by stating that all chokeholds are prohibited unless lethal force is authorized.
7. **Language supporting research and development for both Body and Dash Cameras** by adding (f) on page 8: “When body and dash cameras are adopted by the city, all reported uses of force will require a review of an officer’s body-worn camera footage or dash camera footage to ensure the force was necessary, proportionate, and reasonable.”



8. **Reform No Knock Warrants** by requiring detectives to have affidavit reviewed by a member of the Attorney General's Office prior to applying for warrant in the Vice, Narcotics and Organized Crime Policy.
9. **Duty to Intervene.** All officers present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances, shall intercede to prevent the use of such force when in a position to do so safely. Officers shall report these observations to a non-involved supervisor without unnecessary delay, which should never exceed the end of the shift, unless circumstances beyond the officer's control prohibit it.
10. **Shooting at a moving vehicle.** Discharging a firearm at a moving vehicle shall be avoided unless a person in the vehicle poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. Officers shall avoid intentionally placing themselves in a position where a vehicle may be used against them. Escape from the path of an oncoming vehicle should be considered prior to, or in lieu of, the implementation of lethal force whenever escape is possible. However, whenever a situation exists where an officer must consider discharging a firearm at a moving vehicle in order to stop an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself/herself or others, the use of lethal force by the officer must not constitute a greater hazard to the public than does the imminent threat, and must be the most reasonable course of action under the circumstances. Officers must weigh the need to use lethal force against the potential harm to innocent bystanders caused by such use.
11. **Updating Use of Force Reporting** - Officer will ensure notification is made prior to end of shift unless extenuating circumstances beyond the officers control exist.