



TODD HARMS
Fire Chief

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite 200 • Mather, California 95655 • Phone (916) 859-4305 • Fax (916) 859-3715

POLICY COMMITTEE – REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 5:30 PM

Remotely Via Zoom
Phone: (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 876 9923 9487#
Passcode: 846 782 578#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Grant Goold
Director D’Elman Clark
Director Walt White
Director Jennifer Sheetz - Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN COMMITTEE'S SCOPE INCLUDING ITEMS ON OR NOT ON AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is acted upon with one motion unless a committee member requests separate discussion and/or action.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| | Page No. |
| 1. Action Summary Minutes | 2 |
| Recommendation: Approve the Action Summary Minutes for meeting of February 10, 2022. | |

ACTION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Use of Force – Peace Officer Policy <i>(Chris Rogers, Supervising Investigator)</i> | 4 |
| Recommendation: Approve the revised Use of Force – Peace Officer Policy and refer to the full Board. | |

PRESENTATION ITEM

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Complaints Standards and Procedures - Peace Officer Policy | 24 |
| <i>(Chris Rogers, Supervising Investigator)</i> | |
| Recommendation: Review the revised policy for informational purposes, no further action required. | |

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Posted on May 9, 2022

Melissa Penilla, Clerk of the Board

* No written report



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ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022 SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT Remotely Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15p.m. by Director Goold. Committee members present: Goold, Clark, and White. Committee members absent: None. Staff present: Chief Harms and Board Clerk Penilla.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: Moved by Clark, seconded by White, and carried unanimously by members present to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- 1. Action Summary Minutes**
Recommendation: Approve the Action Summary Minutes for meeting of November 9, 2021.
Action: Approved the Action Summary Minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Election of Officers (Clerk Penilla)**
Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair to the Policy Committee for 2022.
Action: Moved by Clark seconded by White, and carried unanimously by members present to elect Director Goold as Chair, Director Clark as Vice Chair, and Director Sheetz as the alternate to the Committee.
- 2. Capital Improvement Program Policy (Dave O'Toole, Chief Financial Officer)**
Recommendation: Approve the new Capital Improvement Program Policy and corresponding updates to the Reserve Funding and Capital Asset Policies, and refer to the full Board.
Action: Moved by Clark, seconded by White, and carried unanimously by members present to refer the Capital Improvement Program Policy and corresponding policy updates to the full Board.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

- 1. Data Security Policy (Mat Roseberry, Director of IT)**
Recommendation: Review the newly created policy for informational purposes, no further action required.
Action: No action taken.
- 2. Password Policy (Mat Roseberry, Director of IT)**
Recommendation: Review the newly created policy for informational purposes, no further action required.
Action: No action taken.

3. **Electronic Mail Policy** (*Mat Roseberry, Director of IT*)
Recommendation: Review the newly created policy for informational purposes, no further action required.
Action: No action taken.
4. **Cell Phone Policy** (*Mat Roseberry, Director of IT*)
Recommendation: Review the newly created policy for informational purposes, no further action required.
Action: No action taken.
5. **Employee Personal Electronic Device Policy** (*Mat Roseberry, Director of IT*)
Recommendation: Review the newly created policy for informational purposes, no further action required.
Action: No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Director Goold, Chair

Melissa Penilla, Clerk of the Board



Todd Harms
Fire Chief

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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DATE: May 12, 2022
TO: Policy Committee Members
SUBJECT: New Board Policy
Policy 01.020.01 Use of Force – Peace Officers

TOPIC

To review new Board Policy 01.020.01 regarding Peace Officer Use of Force.

DISCUSSION

Attached is the new Peace Officer Use of Force Policy 01.020.01 that replaces Board Policy 652.11, which was approved by the Board on February 1, 2003. This policy was reviewed by the Community Risk Reduction Division, specifically the Fire Investigations Unit. Language has been added to bring the policy into compliance with Assembly Bill 392, along with updated formatting and new policy numbering. The original policy and the new policy are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the Policy Committee approve the new Peace Officer Use of Force Policy and refer to the full Board for approval.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Christopher Rogers
Supervising Fire Investigator

Lisa Barsdale
Fire Marshal



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

Use of Force – Peace Officer Policy

Revised Version

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

BOARD POLICY

POLICY TITLE: Use of Force – Peace Officers

OVERSIGHT: Peace Officer

POLICY NUMBER: 01.020.01 EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/2003

REVIEW DATE: 5/12/2022

Background

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (District) recognizes and respects the value of all human life. Fire Investigator-Peace Officers are involved in numerous encounters daily with a variety of people and may be called upon to use reasonable force in carrying out their duties in a manner that is fair and unbiased. Investigators must understand the limitations of their authority with respect to overcoming resistance from those with whom they come in official contact. Vesting Investigators with the authority to use reasonable force and protect the public welfare requires a careful balancing of all human interests.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide District Peace Officers with guidelines for the reasonable use of force, as well as procedures for after-force medical care, and reporting of the incidents after an application of force. This policy recognizes the use of force is a serious responsibility and requires constant evaluation.

While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every Peace Officer of this district is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner (Government Code § 7286).

In addition to those methods, techniques, and tools set forth below, the guidelines for the reasonable application of force contained in this policy shall apply to all policies addressing the potential use of force, including but not limited to the Control Devices and Techniques and Conducted Energy Device policies.

Scope

This policy applies to all District Peace Officers.

Policy

1. It is the policy of this District that District Peace Officers shall use only that force which is reasonable, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control. The reasonableness of the force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officer may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.
2. Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an Investigator might encounter, Investigators are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in

determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. Investigators may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.

(Lettering and numbering throughout the remainder of this policy mirror the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Use of Force Policy Reporting Requirements as to reference each section accurately).

- a. District Peace Officers may use force in the performance of their duties when they reasonably believe any of the following conditions exist
 - I. In Self-defense;
 - II. In defense of another person;
 - III. To prevent the commission of a public offense;
 - IV. To effect a lawful arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance;
 - V. To protect a person from injuring themselves.
 - VI. To prevent the destruction of evidence.
3. District Peace Officers may use force in the performance of their duties pursuant to PC 835a. 835a. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
 - (1) That the authority to use physical force, conferred on peace officers by this section, is a serious responsibility that shall be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life. The Legislature further finds and declares that every person has a right to be free from excessive use of force by officers acting under color of law.
 - (2) As set forth below, it is the intent of the Legislature that peace officers use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.
 - (3) That the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated carefully and thoroughly, in a manner that reflects the gravity of that authority and the serious consequences of the use of force by peace officers, in order to ensure that officers use force consistent with law and agency policies.
 - (4) That the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.
 - (5) That individuals with physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities are significantly more likely to experience greater levels of physical

force during police interactions, as their disability may affect their ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers. It is estimated that individuals with disabilities are involved in between one-third and one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement.

- (b) Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance.
- (c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:
 - (A) To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person.
 - (B) To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.
- (2) A peace officer shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to themselves, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or to another person.
- (d) A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested. A peace officer shall not be deemed an aggressor or lose the right to self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force in compliance with subdivisions (b) and (c) to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. For the purposes of this subdivision, "retreat" does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation tactics.
- (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (1) "Deadly force" means any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.
 - (2) A threat of death or serious bodily injury is "imminent" when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how

great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed.

- (3) "Totality of the circumstances" means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.

4. Use of Force Options

- a. Examples of force options are provided to officers in Appendix A and do not imply any continuum for force. These examples are not exhaustive nor are they intended to limit an officer's reasonable response to a perceived threat (see Appendix A).
- b. Despite the options provided in Appendix A, the following should be noted:
 - Per California Assembly Bill 1196 (Government Code 7286.5), the carotid restraint and chokehold are not authorized; however, it is not the intent of Assembly Bill 1196 to take away the general right to self-defense or defense of others against great bodily injury or death.
 - Intentionally restricting oxygen or blood flow to the brain is prohibited unless deadly force is authorized. If an officer does restrict oxygen or blood flow to a subject's brain, and once the subject is detained, the officer shall:
 - a. Provide medical assistance if necessary (CPR, first aid, etc.).
 - b. Transport to a hospital and obtain clearance by a medical doctor prior to booking.
 - c. Advise jail medical and booking staff for monitoring.
 - Kneeling, placing bodyweight, or utilizing an object directly upon a subject's neck is prohibited unless overcoming active resistance, or other means of defense or standard weapons are not available or practical.
 - Kneeling or placing bodyweight upon a subject's torso is prohibited unless overcoming resistance. If officers place their weight on a subject's upper back or torso in order to apply handcuffs, once the subject is handcuffed and compliant, officers shall place the subject in a recovery position. Officers need to be aware of positional asphyxia. Officers should monitor the subject and address any medical emergencies should they occur.
 - Kneeling or placing bodyweight upon a non-resistive prone or supine subject's torso is prohibited.
 - Distraction blows, strikes, or punches done for the sole purpose of distracting someone in an attempt to gain control, detain, or arrest are prohibited.

- Ignoring a subject's plea regarding a medical emergency (chest pains, difficulty breathing, etc.) is prohibited.

IV. De-escalation and Intervention

- A. Officers must also recognize situations, which require de-escalation and/or crisis intervention. When such situations arise, officers shall consider and use alternative tactics to try to persuade the individual to voluntarily comply to mitigate the need for a higher level of force to resolve the situation. In these situations, officers shall attempt to de-escalate the situation, use crisis intervention tactics by properly trained personnel, and other alternatives to force when reasonable (Government Code § 7286(b)(1)).
- B. As time and circumstances reasonably permit, and when community and officer safety would not be compromised, officers should consider actions that may increase officer safety and may decrease the need for using force:
 1. Summoning additional resources that are able to respond in a reasonably timely manner.
 2. Formulating a plan with responding officers before entering an unstable situation that does not reasonably appear to require immediate intervention.
 3. Employing other tactics that do not unreasonably increase officer jeopardy.
- C. Additionally, any employee present and observing another employee using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intervene to stop the use of unreasonable force. Additionally, any employee who observes another employee using force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law shall immediately report those observations to a supervisor.

V. Displaying of Firearms

- A. Given that individuals might perceive the display of a firearm as a potential application of force, officers should carefully evaluate each tactical situation and use sound discretion when drawing a firearm in public by considering the following guidelines (Government Code § 7286(b)):
 1. If the officer does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such threat exists, firearms should generally be kept in a position not directed toward an individual.
 2. If the officer reasonably believes that a threat exists based on the totality of circumstances presented at the time (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, armed encounter), firearms may be directed toward such imminent threat until the officer no longer perceives such threat. Once it is reasonably safe to do so, officers should carefully secure all firearms.

VI. Deadly Force Applications

- A. Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify him/herself as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts (Penal Code 835a(5) (c)(1)(B)).
- B. If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers shall evaluate and use other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. To the extent that it is reasonably practical, officers should consider their surroundings and any potential risks to bystanders prior to discharging a firearm (Government Code § 7286(b)).
- C. The use of deadly force is only justified when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary in the following circumstances (Penal Code § 835a):
 - 1. An officer may use deadly force to protect him/herself or others from what he/she reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.
 - 2. An officer may use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.
- D. Officers shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to him/ herself, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person (Penal Code § 835a).
- E. An "imminent" threat of death or serious bodily injury exists when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. An officer's subjective fear of future harm alone is insufficient as an imminent threat. An imminent threat is one that from appearances is reasonably believed to require instant attention (Penal Code § 835a).

VII. Shooting at or from a Moving Vehicle

- A. An Officer shall not fire at or from a moving vehicle unless there is reasonable assurance that such firing will not endanger innocent persons.
- B. The use of firearms from, or against, moving motor vehicles is inherently dangerous and often times ineffective.
- C. Officers should, whenever possible, avoid assuming a position in the path of a moving vehicle. A department member threatened by an oncoming motor

vehicle shall, where reasonable, consider moving out of the vehicle's path to mitigate the threat.

VIII. Medical

- A. Immediately following any application of force officers must promptly provide and/or obtain medical care for persons injured or claiming to be injured in a use of force incident, when reasonable and safe to do so.

IX. Reporting

- A. Any use of force which results in an apparent or reported injury shall be documented utilizing an Automated Field Reporting (AFR) or Versadex Mobile Report Entry (MRE) incident report, which may include, but is not limited to, a crime/arrest report, a casualty report, a 5150 report, or an information report.
- B. Any Application of Force or Use of Deadly Force, as described in sections II.B and II.C of Appendix A of this order, against any person by an employee of this Department (sworn or non-sworn) shall be documented utilizing an AFR/MRE incident report which may include, but is not limited to, a crime/arrest report, a casualty report, a 5150 report, or an information report.
 1. Exception- AFR/MRE documentation is not required for the use of control/compliance holds handcuffs, shackles, or other restraint devices when used to restrain persons for security or transportation purposes unless the application resulted in an apparent or reported injury.
 2. In instances where officers used firearms, Electronic Control Devices, and/or 40mm type launchers, a Weapons Discharge Form shall be completed no later than the end of watch.
 3. In no circumstance will a standalone supplemental report be sufficient to document a Use of Force, an Application of Force, or Use of Deadly Force.
- C. The complete use of force report, whether an incident, pursuit, casualty, or crime report, should include, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. Reason for response or enforcement activity;
 2. Witness/suspect behavior reported prior to and upon arrival of officers;
 3. Suspect actions and statements prior to arrest/use of force;
 4. Descriptions of physical stature and behavior; i.e., height/weight, appearance of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, demonstrated fighting skill;
 5. Type and amount of resistance offered;
 6. Type and amount of force used to overcome resistance;

7. Medical treatment requested and by whom provided;
 8. Time of supervisory notification and to whom;
 9. Third party witness statements;
 10. Evidence collected, to include description of injuries if applicable.
 11. If applicable, include any attempts at de-escalation. Documentation should include a description of what efforts were attempted, the suspect's response to the attempts, and why the de-escalation procedures were not successful.
- D. Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practical following the application of force which, at the time, appears likely to have caused physical injury. Medical assistance for any injured persons shall be obtained as soon as possible.
- E. It is the responsibility of the Sheriff's "on-duty" supervisor shall enter any reportable use of force into the agency's Blue Team software. The purpose of Blue Team entries is to track reportable use of force incidents. Data collected by Blue Team entries will be used as an evaluation tool to identify trends which may call for modified tactics, training or changes in policy.

Additionally, certain use of force incidents, officer involved shootings and incidents involving use of force resulting in serious bodily injury will be reported to the California Department of Justice as required pursuant to Government Code § 12525.2, by the Sheriff's Professional Standards Division.

1. Blue Team entries are required on specific use of force incidents. Refer to the Blue Team Quick Reference Guide located on SSDWeb under Supervisor Resources.
2. If multiple officers applied force, the supervisor will enter that information into a single Blue Team entry for the incident.
3. Blue Team entries shall be thorough and complete. All applicable information should be entered into the appropriate entry field within the software.
 - a. Supervisors should not summarize the event in the "summary of occurrence" entry field but refer the reader to the attached documentation for details.
 - b. Any additional information such as availability of video, notifications, or the supervisor's presence at the incident shall be documented in the "summary of occurrence" entry field of Blue Team.
 - c. Supervisors shall attach relevant reports preferably in PDF format. Digital media (photos/audio/video) can be attached if not retained via other means. Digital media which is available in other department

systems should not be attached, but referenced in the "summary of occurrence" entry field.

- d. The supervisor shall forward the Blue Team entry, through the chain of command, to their Division/Bureau Commander or designee. After review and approval, the Division Commander or designee shall forward the Blue Team entry to the Professional Standards Division.

X. Debriefing

- A. Management and/or supervisory personnel shall plan and facilitate debriefings of any use of force incident, which results in serious bodily injury or death to a citizen, officer, or suspect. The debriefing shall include personnel involved in the incident and any other concerned personnel at the discretion of the coordinating manager/supervisor. Debriefings shall occur as soon as possible after the incident, but no later than 30 days afterward.

XI. Training

- A. Officers, investigators, and supervisors will receive periodic training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding (Government Code § 7286(b)).
- B. Subject to available resources, the Professional Standards Division shall ensure that officers receive periodic training on de-escalation tactics, including alternatives to force.
- C. Training should also include (Government Code § 7286(b)):
 1. Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly persons, pregnant individuals, and individuals with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.
 2. Training courses required by and consistent with POST guidelines set forth in Penal Code § 13519.10.

XII. Use of Force Analysis

- A. At least annually, the Professional Standards Division should prepare an analysis report of all Use of Force incidents. The report shall be submitted to the Sheriff and Fire Chief for review. The report will not contain the names of peace officers, subjects, or case number. The report should include:
 1. Any identified use of force trends identified
 2. Training needs/recommendations
 3. Equipment needs/recommendations

4. Policy review and revision recommendations

XIII. Public Records Requests

- A. Requests for public records involving an officer's personnel records shall be processed in accordance with Penal Code § 832.7 and the Personnel Records and Records Maintenance and Release policies (Government Code § 7286(b)).

XIV. Use of Force Complaints

- A. The receipt, processing and investigation of civilian complaints involving use of force incidents will be handled by the Sheriff's Office Professional Standards Division in compliance with the Personnel Complaints Policy (Government Code § 7286(b))

XV. Policy Review

- A. The Sheriff, Fire Chief or their designee will regularly review and update this policy to reflect developing practices and procedures (Government Code § 7286(b)).

References

1. Use of Force Policy Appendix A attached.
2. County of Sacramento General Order Use of Force Policy.

Appendix A

- I. Examples of Factors Which May Affect an Officer's Use of Reasonable Force:
- A. Number of suspects/officers
 - B. Suspect factors (age, size, gender, relative strength, skill level)
 - C. Officer physical condition (injury, exhaustion level)
 - D. Influence of drugs, alcohol, or mental capacity
 - E. Proximity to weapons
 - F. Availability of other options
 - G. Seriousness of the suspected offense
 - H. Potential for injury to citizens, officers, and suspects
 - I. Actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight
 - J. Prior knowledge or contact
 - K. Environmental factors (lighting, footing, traffic, terrain, bodies of water, hostile crowds)
 - L. Other exigent circumstances
- II. Types of Force Which May Be Applied Include, But Are Not Limited To:
- A. Displays of Force – Physical contact may occur, although physical injury is not likely.
 - 1. Display of impact weapons
 - 2. Display of an electronic control device, display of the electrical arc or display of the laser
 - 3. Display of chemical weapons
 - 4. Display of firearm
 - 5. Mere presence
 - 6. Canine or mounted presence
 - 7. Voice commands
 - 8. Physical contact: directional touching or physical separation of persons, absent the use of a compliance hold
 - B. Application of Force – Force used may or may not cause injury, depending upon the actions or resistance level of the subject.
 - 1. Use of chemical weapons
 - 2. Use of an electronic control device in probe or drive stun mode

3. Use of restraint devices
 4. Use of kicks/punches/strikes/grabs/takedowns
 5. Use of carotid constriction – limited to situations of self-defense or defense of another only
 6. Use of control/compliance holds
 7. Canine or mounted application
 8. Use of vehicles
 9. Use of impact weapons, including weapons of necessity*
- C. Deadly Force – Any force that creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.
1. Empty hands
 2. Firearms
 3. Impact weapons, including weapons of necessity
 4. Vehicles/legal intervention

*In situations of self-defense or defense of another where standard weapons are not available or practical, officers may use any weapon at hand, if necessary.



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

Use of Force – Peace Officer Policy

Original Version

defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.”

II. Policy

A. It is the standard of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District that District Peace Officers shall use only that force which is reasonable, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the District Peace Officers at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control. “Objective reasonableness” of the force used must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable District Peace Officers on the scene at the time of the incident.

1. District Peace Officers may use force in the performance of their duties when they reasonably believe any of the following conditions exist:
 - a) In self-defense or in defense of another person;
 - b) To prevent the commission of a public offense;
 - c) To effect a lawful arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance;
 - d) To protect a person from injuring him/herself;
 - e) To prevent the destruction of evidence.

2. District Peace Officers may use deadly force in the performance of their duties when the following conditions exist:
 - a) In self-defense or defense of another person when the District Peace Officers has a reasonable belief that there is imminent danger of death or great bodily injury;

 - b) To effect an arrest, prevent an escape, or recapture an escapee, when the District Peace Officers has a reasonable

belief that the suspect has committed or attempted to commit a violent crime involving the threat of death or great bodily injury, or may cause death or great bodily injury to a District Peace Officer or another person, should the suspect escape.

- c) In each situation above, where feasible, District Peace Officers shall issue a verbal warning prior to firing.

- 3. The objective in applying reasonable force is to control persons and incidents, thereby minimizing injury to all persons involved. Nothing in this standard requires District Peace Officers to actually sustain physical injury before applying reasonable force.

III. Use Of Force Options

- A. Examples for the application of various levels of force are provided to District Peace Officers and do not imply any escalation scale. These examples are not exhaustive, nor are they intended to limit a district-armed personnel's reasonable response to a perceived threat.

IV. Reporting

- A. Any use of force, which results in a visible or reported injury, or involves the use of firearms, impact weapons, chemical weapons, carotid control holds, or vehicles shall be documented, on a District "Report Of Occurrence"(ROO). The use of particular weapons, such as chemical weapons, may also require the completion of additional forms as required by district standard and/or state law. This includes any incident as outlined in California Penal Code Section 835(a).
- B. The complete "Report of Occurrence", whether an incident, pursuit, casualty, or crime report, shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Reason for response or enforcement activity.
 - 2. Witnesses'/suspect' behavior upon arrival of District Peace Officers.
 - 3. Suspects' actions and statements prior to arrest/use of force.

4. Differences in physical odds; i.e., height/weight, alcohol/drug intoxication, demonstrated fighting skill.
5. Type and amount of resistance offered.
6. Type of force used to overcome resistance.
7. Medical treatment requested and by whom provided.
8. Time of supervisory notification and to whom.
9. Third party witness statements.
10. Evidence collected, including description of injuries.

- C. Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as possible following the application of force, which at the time, appears likely to have caused physical injury. Medical assistance for any injured persons shall be obtained as soon as possible.

IV. Debriefing

- A. The Fire Chief or designee shall plan and facilitate debriefings of any use of force incidents, which results in serious bodily injury, or death to citizens, officers, District Peace Officers or suspects. The debriefings shall include personnel involved in the incident and any other concerned personnel at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee. They should occur as soon as possible after the incident, but no later than 30 days afterwards.

I. Examples of factors which may affect a peace officer's use of reasonable force:

- A. Peace officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number of officers vs. subjects)
- B. Influence of drugs, alcohol, or mental capacity
- C. Proximity of weapons
- D. Availability of other options
- E. Seriousness of the suspected offense
- F. Potential for injury to citizens, peace officers, and suspects
- G. Other exigent circumstances

II. Types of force which may be applied include, but are not limited to:

- A. Displays of force – physical contact may occur, although physical injury is not likely.
1. Display of impact weapons
 2. Display of chemical weapons
 3. Display of firearm

4. Mere presence
5. Voice commands
6. Physical contact: directional touching or physical separation of persons, absent the use of a compliance hold.

B. Application of force – force used may or may not cause injury, depending upon the resistance level of the suspect.

1. Use of chemical weapons
2. Use of restraint devices
3. Use of kicks/punches/strikes/grabs/takedowns
4. Use of the carotid constriction – limited to situations of self-defense or defense of another only
5. Use of control/compliance holds
6. Use of vehicles
7. Use of impact weapons, including weapons of necessity*

- In situations of self-defense or defense of another, where standard weapons are not available or practical, District Peace Officers may use any weapon at hand, if necessary.

C. Deadly force – any force used in which death or serious bodily injury can reasonably be expected.

1. Empty hands
2. Firearms
3. Impact weapons, including weapons of necessity
4. Vehicles/legal intervention

Reference

Sheriff's Department, County of Sacramento General Order 2/11, Use of Force



Todd Harms
Fire Chief

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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DATE: May 12, 2022
TO: Policy Committee Members
SUBJECT: Revised Support Services Policy
09.006.02 Complaints Standards and Procedures – Peace Officers

TOPIC

Policy Committee notification of revisions to Support Services Policy 09.006.02 (formerly 653.01) Complaints Standards and Procedures against Peace Officers.

DISCUSSION

Attached is the Complaints Standards and Procedures Policy that was approved by the Board on February 1, 2003. This policy was reviewed by the Community Risk Reduction Division, specifically the Fire Investigations Unit. Language has been added to bring the policy into compliance with California Penal Code Section 832.5. The original policy and the newly revised policy are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION

The revision updates to the Complaints Standards and Procedures against Peace Officers is for informational purposes only as previously directed by the Policy Committee.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Christopher Rogers
Supervising Fire Investigator

Lisa Barsdale
Fire Marshal



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POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

Complaints Standards and Procedures - Peace Officer Policy

Revised Version

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

POLICY TITLE: Complaint Standards and Procedures OVERSIGHT: Peace Officer
POLICY NUMBER: 09.006.02 EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/23/09 REVIEW DATE: 5/12/2022

Background

Penal Code Section 832.5 requires the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (District) establish a procedure to investigate complaints from the public against District employees employed as District Peace Officers.

Purpose

To set forth standards and procedures applicable to the investigation of complaints against District Peace Officers. This Policy is not intended to create new substantive rights or to impose new obligations beyond those otherwise required by applicable law. Any action otherwise valid and in accord with applicable law shall not be invalidated or in any other manner limited in its effect because of a claim that the procedure followed was not in accord with any provision of this Policy.

Scope

This policy applies to all District Peace Officers.

Policy

Complaints:

1. When the District receives complaints against District Peace Officers, an investigation will be conducted when the complaint possesses a reasonable degree of factual credibility.
 - a. At the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee, complaints may be referred to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (Internal Affairs Division) or, depending on the severity of the allegations made, to the California Department of Justice for investigation because of actual or apparent conflict of interest.
 - b. Citizens desiring to initiate a complaint should be encouraged, but not required to complete and personally sign the Citizen Complaint Form. The employee receiving the complaint, however, may find it necessary to prepare the complaint form for the complainant to sign.

- c. In instances where it appears on the surface that a complaint is generated for questionable motives, a preliminary inquiry may be made to determine the veracity of the allegation(s) or whether such complaint is frivolous within the meaning of Penal Code Section 832.5(c). An investigation will be conducted when the complaint possesses a reasonable degree of factual credibility.
- d. All public counter areas shall have on hand, available to the public, a supply of the following two forms:
 1. 7400-160a, Citizen Complaint Information Letter
 2. 7400-160b, Citizen Complaint Form
2. All complaints against District Peace Officers received during regular business hours should be directed to the Human Resources Division.
3. Complaints received after normal business hours will be received and reviewed by the Fire Marshal, or Shift Assistant Chief in their absence. If the Fire Marshal, or Shift Assistant Chief decides to immediately begin an investigation, the Fire Marshal, or Shift Assistant Chief will report the complaint to the Deputy Chief of Operations, who will then forward it to the Human Resources Division, Fire Chief, and General Counsel on the next workday, together with the results of the investigation since the initial report was taken.
4. In the event that a citizen makes a complaint by letter, telephone, or some other means and wishes to remain anonymous, then it will be the responsibility of the Fire Chief, upon consultation with the General Counsel, to make a discretionary determination regarding the investigation.
 - a. If the information received can reasonably be investigated without the identity of the complainant, and the information appears to possess some degree of credibility, then an investigation shall be conducted.
 - b. This same standard will apply to civil claims and lawsuits filed against the district upon review by the District's General Counsel, at the direction of the Fire Chief.
5. When the allegation is determined to be a complaint regarding District standards, policies, procedures, or services provided, the complaint will be referred to the involved Division Chief.
6. Divisional investigations are those investigations of complaints that are conducted within the subject employee's own division or service area. These investigations will be conducted as specified by Government Code

Section 3300 et seq. (Peace Officer's Bill of Rights) and Government Code Section 3250 et seq. (Firefighter's Procedural Bill of Rights Act).

7. Every person who files any allegation of misconduct against any District Peace Officer, knowing the allegation to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - a. The General Counsel for the District will undertake and review allegations found to be false or frivolous per Penal Code Section 832.5(c) and make such referral to the Sacramento County District Attorney, as deemed appropriate.
8. The Fire Chief or designee and the Human Resources Division will retain records of complaints, investigations, and dispositions for a period of at least five years.
 - a. No one who has access to a complaint investigation record or portion thereof will retain or copy any such record without the express consent of the Fire Chief, Human Resources Manager, or the District's General Counsel.
9. The complaint investigator will provide case disposition to each citizen who has filed a complaint, after conferring with District General Counsel.
10. Any compelled statement that is taken from an employee by the District will not be released to any law enforcement/prosecutorial agencies, unless so required pursuant to Penal Code Section 832.7.
 - a. The employee will be immediately notified of any such disclosure by the District; however, the District is not required to notify the employee when such notification would impair an ongoing investigation in which the employee is a witness or the subject of the ongoing criminal investigation.
11. In the event that there is potential for filing of criminal charges against the employee as a result of allegations against that employee, the District will suspend taking any compelled statement for administrative purposes, while there is an ongoing criminal investigation. This suspension of taking a compelled statement of the employee will toll the statute of limitations governing administrative investigations based on the pendency of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Procedures

Investigative/Review Procedures

1. Complaints will be forwarded to the Human Resources Division or General Counsel when received. The complaint will be investigated by the Human Resources Division, the appropriate Division Chief, or an outside Investigator or agency for investigation.
2. Complaints referred to the Division Chief for investigation will be completed and returned to the Human Resources Division with any recommendations.
3. All complaints against District Peace Officers will be investigated, evaluated, and brought to conclusion in a timely manner. These investigations will be conducted as specified by Government Code Section 3300 et seq. (Peace Officer's Bill of Rights) and Government Code Section 3250 et seq. (Firefighter's Procedural Bill of Rights Act).
4. The Fire Chief or designee will review all completed Internal Affairs investigations with his/her recommendations.
5. All complaints will have a final disposition. The Fire Chief or designee will report these results annually to the Board of Directors and Department of Justice.

Complaint Designations:

The following designations will be used to indicate the disposition of complaints:

1. Sustained: The investigation discloses that the act complained of did occur and constitutes misconduct.
2. Not sustained: The investigation discloses insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove, the allegations made.
3. Exonerated: The investigation indicates the act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and proper.
4. Unfounded: The investigation indicates the act complained of did not occur.
5. Unfounded as frivolous per Penal Code Section 832.5(c).
6. False complaint.

Criminal Investigations:

1. Any District Peace Officer observing suspected criminal conduct by another District Peace Officer shall immediately report the incident to the Supervising Investigator who will notify the Fire Investigation Unit Chief or designee by phone or in person..
2. Any District Peace Officer receiving or developing information that another District Peace Officer is a suspect in any criminal activity, shall immediately notify the Supervising Investigator who shall notify the Fire Investigation Unit Chief or designee by phone or in person.
3. Any District Peace Officer who is arrested for any offense or otherwise becomes aware he or she is the focus of a criminal investigation, shall immediately notify the Supervising Investigator who shall notify the Fire Investigation Unit Chief or designee by phone or in person.
4. The District may choose to conduct an administrative investigation concurrently with a criminal investigation or toll the administrative investigation pending the outcome of the criminal investigation/prosecution. Internal Affairs shall monitor the course of the criminal investigation.
5. A criminal investigation may be referred to the appropriate department investigative unit, outside law enforcement agency, or prosecutorial agency.

Notice to Citizens

Investigators shall provide case disposition to each citizen who has filed a complaint. An investigator may be either of the following:

1. Internal Affairs Investigators.
2. Managers or supervisors who conducted the investigation.

References

1. Citizen's Complaint Information Form.
2. Sheriff's Department, County of Sacramento General Orders 3/01, Complaints and Disciplinary Policies and Procedures.
3. Penal Code Section 148.6

4. Penal Code Section 830.37
5. Penal Code Section 832.5
6. Penal Code Section 832.7
7. Penal Code Section 832.37



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POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

Complaints Standards and Procedures - Peace Officer Policy

Original Version

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

OPERATIONS OFFICERS

POLICY TITLE: Complaint Standards and Procedures OVERSIGHT: Peace Officer
POLICY NUMBER: 653.01 EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/03 REVIEW DATE: 04/23/09

Purpose

To set forth standards and procedures applicable to the investigation of complaints against District Peace Officers.

Policy

I. Penal Code 832.5

- A. Penal Code Section 832.5 requires the District to establish a procedure to investigate complaints from the public against the District employee's employed as District Peace Officers.
- B. District Peace Officers are peace officers as defined in Penal Code Section 832.37.
- C. Penal Code Section 148.6 (False Claims)

II. Complaints

- A. When the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District receives complaints against District Peace Officers.
 - 1. An investigation will be conducted when the complaint possesses a reasonable degree of factual credibility. At the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee, complaints may be referred to the Sacramento Sheriff's Department (Internal Affairs Division), or depending on the severity of the allegations made, to the California Department of Justice for investigation because of actual or apparent conflict of interest.
 - 2. A complaining party will be required to fill out a "Citizens Complaint Information" form (attached).
 - 3. In instances where it appears on the surface that a complaint is generated for questionable motives, a preliminary inquiry will be made to determine whether such complaint is frivolous within the meaning of Penal Code Section 832.5(c) and whether, as a consequence, a full investigation is warranted.

4. All public counter areas shall have on hand, available to the public, a supply of the following forms:
 - a) "Citizen Complaint Information" (see attached form).

- B. All complaints against District personnel received during regular business hours should be directed to the Human Resources Division or General Counsel.

- C. Complaints received after normal business hours shall be received and reviewed by the Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, or Shift Assistant Chief, in their absence. If the Shift Assistant Chief decides to immediately begin an investigation, the Shift Assistant Chief will report the complaint to Deputy Chief of Operations who shall then forward it to the Deputy Chief of Support Services, the Human Resources Division, Fire Chief, and General Counsel on the next workday, together with the results of the investigation since the initial report was taken.

- D. In the event that a citizen makes a complaint by letter, telephone, or some other means and wishes to remain anonymous, then it shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief, upon consultation with the General Counsel, to make a discretionary determination regarding the investigation. If the information received can reasonably be investigated without the identity of the complainant, and the information appears to possess some degree of credibility, then an investigation shall be conducted. This same standard will apply to civil claims and lawsuits filed against the district upon review by the Districts General Counsel, at the direction of the Fire Chief.

- E. If the allegations are determined to be a complaint against District Standards, Policies, Procedures, or services provided, the complaint will be referred to the involved Division Chief.

III. Investigative/Review Procedures

Divisional investigations are those investigations of complaints that are conducted within the subject employee's own division or service area. These investigations shall be conducted as specified by Government Code Section 3300 et seq. (Peace Officer's Bill of Rights and Government Code Section 3250 et seq. (Firefighter's Procedural Bill of Rights Act)).

IV. Investigative/Review Procedures

- A. Complaints will be forwarded to the Human Resources Division or General Counsel when received. The complaint will be investigated by the Human Resources Division, the appropriate Division Chief, or an outside Investigator or Agency for investigation.
- B. Complaints referred to the Division Chief for investigation shall be completed and returned to the Human Resources Division with any recommendations.
- C. All complaints against District Peace Officers shall be investigated, evaluated, and brought to conclusion in a timely manner. These investigations shall be conducted as specified by Government Code Section 3300 et seq. (Peace Officer's and Government Code Section 3250 et seq. (Firefighter's Procedural Bill of Rights Act)).
- D. The Fire Chief or designee shall review all completed Internal Affairs investigations with his/her recommendations.
- E. All complaints shall have a final disposition. The Fire Chief or designee shall report these results annually to the Board of Directors and Department of Justice.

V. Complaint Disposition

The following designations shall be used to indicate the disposition of complaints:

- A. Sustained: The investigation discloses that the act complained of did occur and constitutes misconduct.
- B. Not sustained: The investigation discloses insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove, the allegations made.
- C. Exonerated: The investigation indicates the act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and proper.
- D. Unfounded: The investigation indicates the act complained of did not occur.
- E. Unfounded as frivolous per Penal Code Section 832.5(c).
- F. False complaint.
- G. Complainant non-cooperative.

VI. Penal Code Section 148.6

Every person who files any allegation of misconduct against any District Peace Officer, knowing the allegation to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The General Counsel for the District shall undertake and review allegations found to be false or frivolous per Penal Code Section 832.5(c) and make such referral to the Sacramento County District Attorney, as deemed appropriate.

VII. Retaining Records Of Complaints

The Fire Chief or designee and the Human Resources Division shall retain records of complaints, investigations and dispositions for a period of at least five (5) years.

No one who has access to a complaint investigation record or portion thereof shall retain or copy any such record without the express consent of the Fire Chief, Human Resources Manager or the District's General Counsel.

VIII. Notice To Citizens

The complaint investigator shall provide case disposition to each citizen who has filed a complaint, after conferring with District General Counsel.

IX. Notice To Employees

Any compelled statement that is taken from an employee by the District shall not be released to any law enforcement/prosecutorial agencies, unless so required pursuant to Penal Code Section 832.7. The employee shall be immediately notified of any such disclosure by the District, provided however, that the District is not required to notify the

employee when such notification would impair an ongoing investigation in which the employee is a witness or the subject of the ongoing criminal investigation.

X. Criminal Investigation And Administrative Investigation

In the event that there is the potential for filing of criminal charges against the employee as a result of allegations against that employee, the District shall suspend taking any compelled statement for administrative purposes, while there is an ongoing criminal investigation. This suspension of taking a compelled statement of the employee shall toll the statute of limitations governing administrative investigations based on the pendency of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Reference

Sheriff's Department, County of Sacramento General Orders 3/01, Complaints and Disciplinary Policies and Procedures.

Penal Code Section 148.6

Penal Code Section 832.5

Penal Code Section 832.7

Penal Code Section 832.3

Citizen Complaint Information

Today's Date: _____ Received by: _____

Reporting person (Last, First, Middle Name _____

DOB: _____

Residence Address _____ Zip Code: _____

Residence Telephone Number _____ Other: _____

Business or School _____

Victim of Alleged Incident

Name _____ DOB: _____

Residence Address _____ Zip Code: _____

Residence Telephone Number _____ Other: _____

Business or School _____

Employee(s) Information (if known)

Name _____ Rank: _____

Division _____ Badge No. _____

Name _____ Rank: _____

Division _____ Badge No. _____

Name _____ Rank: _____

Division _____ Badge No. _____

Witnesses Information

Name _____ DOB: _____

Residence Address _____ Zip Code: _____

Residence Telephone Number _____ Other: _____

Witnesses Information (Cont'd)

Page 2.

Name _____ DOB: _____

Residence Address _____ Zip Code: _____

Residence Telephone Number _____ Other: _____

Name _____ DOB: _____

Residence Address _____ Zip Code: _____

Residence Telephone Number _____ Other: _____

Details of Complaint or Criticism

It is important to include as many factual details as possible so the incident may be fully investigated. Please use reverse side of this form, if necessary.

Date and Time of incident _____

Location of Incident _____

Details _____

I certify these statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Reporting Person

Signature of Parent/Guardian
(If Under 18 years old)

