Growth & Change
Our Commitment

The Santa Monica Police Department’s leadership eagerly committed to the Obama Pledge on police use of force policies which calls for **review, engagement, reporting** and **reform**. We remain dedicated to safeguarding our community by improving public safety and upholding the public trust. SMPD believes strongly in accepting individual and collective responsibility for our oath, duty, and actions. We will continue to adhere to strict, unequivocal standards of conduct in keeping with our ethical obligations while respecting the value of human life and dignity. This document provides a brief review of existing policies for community discussion & input.

**DUTY TO INTERVENE**

**300.1.3 DUTY TO INTERCEDE (PEACE OFFICER)**

Any sworn officer 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 excessive force**. Beyond this, any sworn officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law shall **promptly report** these observations to a supervisor.
REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION
adhering to strict, unequivocal standards of conduct in keeping with our ethical obligations

300.1.2 FORCE DE-ESCALATION

It is the policy of the this Department that when all of the reasonably known circumstances indicate it is safe, prudent, and feasible to do so, officers shall attempt to slow down, reduce the intensity, or stabilize the situation so that more time, options and/or resources may become available for incident resolution.

De-escalation tactics and techniques are those actions undertaken by members to avoid physical confrontations, unless immediately necessary to protect someone or to stop dangerous behavior while minimizing the need to use force during an incident when the totality of the circumstances and time permit. De-Escalation tactics and techniques are employed to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance and cooperation.

Our department trains officers on ed-escalation techniques and reviews expectations, which are embedded into annual training objectives. In addition to the police academy curriculum, Crisis Intervention Technique seminars and POST certified de-escalation training refresher courses are required for all officers.

USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM
valuing human life and dignity with an equal commitment to justice and acceptance of diversity

300.2.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

Many modern professional law enforcement agencies and training institutions have moved away from the “force continuum” standard and instead utilize the force options method. With a “continuum,” officers are expected to use each method of force before moving on to the next force method. Instead, the focus should be on training alternatives to deadly force, requirements on proportional force, and ed-escalation requirements, all of which are contained in SB 230 and in SMPD’s Policy: 300.2.2.- Factors to Determine Reasonableness of Force.
300.5 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS Section (b) which reads:

A sworn 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. *Where feasible, the 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.

EXHAUST ALL OTHER MEANS BEFORE USING DEADLY FORCE  
*displaying strength of character to confront uncertainty*

**PENAL CODE SECTION 835a**

SMPD officers are trained to *utilize the most appropriate force* option based on the threat, the need to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective, and requirements of Penal Code Section 835a, subsection (a)(2).

Penal Code Section 835a, subsection (a)(2), which requires officers to *“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.”* Penal Code Section 835a, subsection (a)(2) conveys that peace officers may use deadly force “only when necessary in defense of human life.”
We do not use or authorize chokeholds or strangleholds. Effective June 8, 2020, our department also suspended the training and use of the carotid restraint.

300.5.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. We also recognize that there may be situations that leave officers no choice but to protect a member of the community, other officers, or their own life utilizing a firearm.

*Officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants.* A sworn officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others. Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.
300.57—REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

We require officers to document any use of force in an appropriate report. Documentation and reporting requirements are outlined in SMPD Policy 300.57—REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE. SMPD’s policy reads as follows. “Any use of force by a member of this Department shall be documented by the involved member(s) promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate incident/crime report or supplemental incident/crime report, depending on the nature of the incident. Members shall report all use of force incidents to an on-duty sworn supervisor in accordance with § 300.7.1, and document the supervisor he/she notified in the related report. The member should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes, the Department may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in Department policy, procedure or law.

OUR POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE:
https://powerdms.com/public/SANTAMONICACA