



RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

“The aftermath of the George Floyd tragedy has left many to question the tactics, training, and overall use of force philosophies of modern-day law enforcement. Historically, the byproduct of such controversial incidents creates and/or fuels a divide within communities. Understandably, and without question, those who seek answers are yearning for a sense of confidence as it relates to their police department. These concerns are reasonable and welcomed, as they provide a forum of dialogue and to share organizational methodologies related to specific points of apprehension.



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Speaking specifically to the Riverside Police Department, we maintain a longstanding and established history of being progressive when it comes to law enforcement best practices, tactics, and training. Being the 12th largest city in California, the expectation to continue to be at the forefront in this regard is a paramount and necessary component in the focus of serving our 330,000 diverse community members. The continuous devotion to ensure the Constitutional rights of all persons is a fundamental and absolute core department value. This, in and of itself, is the baseline barometer to measure our success. As such, our department cherishes its partnerships with various special interest and spiritual groups along with their valued input. The same can be said for the recruitment and hiring of the men and women of RPD, as they are a reflection of our community. We recognize that we do not operate in a vacuum and we will accomplish societal goals collectively as individuals with different viewpoints.



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Dating back to the late 1990's, RPD entered into a collaborative agreement with the State of California Department of Justice to achieve reform and the implementation of policies and procedures that would ensure best law enforcement practices. This five-year journey marked significant accomplishments in the areas of staffing, training, supervision, use of force alternatives, and reporting the collection of traffic stop data and police contact audio recording, to mention a few. This unique experience identified RPD as trailblazers within our field and established a foundational roadmap for future endeavors.



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Data suggests that together these eight policies can decrease use of force incidents by 72%, according to 8CantWait.org.

Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds



Required De-Escalation



Require Warning Before Shooting



Exhaust All Other Means Before Shooting



Duty to Intervene



Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles



Establish Use of Force Continuum



Require Comprehensive Reporting





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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As articulated, the Riverside Police Department has an established and earned track record of being leaders within the law enforcement profession. The philosophies and training at RPD, along with the practical application of field tactics such as the use of police force, have created a culture within the organization that respects the civil liberties of all whom we serve. With regard to the “8 Can’t Wait,” our department can speak with confidence that we are ahead of the curve, and were so, prior to any political action campaign recommendations. Simply stated, the constant effort by RPD and our interaction with our community to discuss, research, and implement best law enforcement practices ensures our adherence with both federal and state governances, and ultimately the overarching expectations and agreeance by the citizens of our community.”

— Larry V. Gonzalez



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8 CAN'T WAIT

The aftermath of the George Floyd tragedy has left many to question the tactics, training and overall use of force philosophies of modern-day law enforcement. The philosophies and training of the Riverside Police Department and the practical application of field tactics have created a culture within the organization that respects the civil liberties of all that we serve.



BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND STRANGLEHOLDS

The use of "chokeholds" and strangleholds" are **not authorized for use** by officers of the Riverside Police Department.



REQUIRED DE-ESCALATION

Every two years, officers are required to attend a **four-hour Interpersonal Communication and De-escalation training course** certified by the California POST (Commission of Peace Officer's Standards and Training).

All officers attend an eight-hour ICAT (Integrated Communications, Assessment and Tactics) class. ICAT is designed to give officers options when dealing with volatile subjects, utilizing de-escalation techniques and decision making methods.



REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

Pursuant to RPD Policy 300.4, where feasible officers shall identify themselves as a police officer and make reasonable efforts to **warn that deadly force may be used**.

Riverside Police Officers are bound by California Penal Code 835a which provides specific guidelines for the use of deadly force.



EXHAUST ALL OTHER MEANS BEFORE SHOOTING

Officers utilize the **Critical Decision Making Model** which focuses on information, assessing threats, the law and policy, planning, re-assessments, and the sanctity of life.

An officer may use deadly force when such force is necessary to protect self or others against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury. (825a PC & Policy 300.4)



DUTY TO INTERVENE

Pursuant to RPD Policy 300.2.1, any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances **shall intercede to prevent an unreasonable force**.

An officer who observes another employee use excessive force shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.



BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Pursuant to RPD Policy 300.3.1, officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants.

An 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 officers.



ESTABLISH USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

RPD does not use a continuum of force given officers are often forced into situations that quickly become tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

Officers **shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary** given the facts and totality of the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event in accordance with RPD Policy 300.3 and California Penal Code 835a.



REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Pursuant to RPD Policy 300.5, any use of force by any officer shall be **accurately documented in a report**.

Supervisors perform administrative reviews on reportable uses of force.

RPD Policy 300.5.5 requires data reporting to the California Department of Justice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
RPDonline.org