

# BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE ISSUED: March 9, 2017

GENERAL ORDER U-2

SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE

## PURPOSE

- 1 - The purpose of this General Order is to provide Departmental standards on the reporting and use of force. This General Order supersedes all other Orders, Regulations, and training information to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Order.

## POLICY

- 2 - Police officers may use reasonable force to (1) make an arrest, (2) prevent an escape of a suspect, (3) overcome resistance, or (4) maintain order.
  - (a) Under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, an officer can use reasonable force when doing so is reasonable under the totality of the circumstances as they appear through the eyes of the officer. Circumstances to be considered include the immediacy and severity of a threat to the safety of the officer or others, the severity of the crime involved, and whether a suspect is fleeing or resisting.
- 3 - In deciding what type of reasonable force to use, officers and employees must use sound judgment and their training to assess the degree of threat in a given situation, and to determine what Departmentally authorized force techniques or weapons will bring the situation under control in a reasonable manner.
  - (a) The Department uses a “use of force continuum” that refers to the concept that there are reasonable responses for every threat an officer faces in a hostile situation. The “spoked wheel” is one visual concept of the various options that an officer should consider in a threatening situation.
  - (b) The force utilized need not be sequential (e.g., gradual or preceded by attempts at lower levels of force) if those lower levels are not appropriate to the threat.

## DEFINITIONS

- 4 - Lethal Force: Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury.
- 5 - Less-Than-Lethal Force: Any use of force which, due to possible physiological effects of application, presents less potential for causing death or serious injury than conventional lethal force options.
  - (a) Less-than-lethal force options include, but are not limited to, a specialized launcher, or other authorized device that can discharge, fire, launch or otherwise propel single or multiple flexible or non-flexible projectiles

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designed to cause physiological effects consistent with blunt force impact.

- 6 - Non-Lethal Force: Any use of force other than lethal force or less-than-lethal force.
- 7 - Officer (or) Police Officer: Any sworn peace officer.
- 8 - Authorized Employee: Any non-sworn employee who has received defensive tactics training and has been authorized by the Chief of Police to use non-lethal force.
- 9 - Employee: Any non-sworn employee of the Berkeley Police Department, including those deemed "authorized employees."
- 10 - Deploy:
  - (a) With respect to less-than-lethal munitions, removal of a launcher, projectile or other device from its storage container for the purpose of operational use.
  - (b) With respect to chemical agents and smoke, removal of a canister or delivery device from its storage container for the purpose of operational use.
- 11 - Use:
  - (a) With respect to less-than-lethal munitions, to discharge a less-than-lethal munition.
  - (b) With respect to chemical agents and smoke, to discharge the contents of a canister or delivery device.

### PROCEDURES

#### Use of Lethal Force

- 12 - Officers shall not discharge firearms or use other lethal force in connection with police duty, except in the following circumstances:
  - (a) When the officer reasonably believes that doing so is necessary to protect the officer or others from death or serious bodily injury, and, where feasible, some warning has been given.
  - (b) To apprehend a suspected fleeing felon:
    - (1) When necessary to prevent escape, and
    - (2) When the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspected

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fleeing felon poses a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others, and

- (3) Where feasible, some warning has been given.
- (c) During other police duty:
- (1) In supervised Department training sessions at an approved range, or other site.
  - (2) To destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety, or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured. If possible, supervisory approval should be obtained prior to using lethal force to destroy an animal.

### Use of Vehicles

- 13 - Officers shall not use police vehicles to ram or block other vehicles, persons, or moving objects in a manner that reasonably appears to constitute the use of lethal force, except in the following circumstances:
- (a) When the officer reasonably believes that doing so is necessary to protect the officer or others from death or serious bodily injury, and, where feasible, some warning has been given.
  - (b) To apprehend a suspected fleeing felon:
    - (1) When necessary to prevent escape, and
    - (2) When the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspected fleeing felon poses a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others, and
    - (3) Where feasible, some warning has been given.

### Deployment and Use of Less-Than-Lethal Force

- 14 - Less-than-lethal munitions shall only be deployed and used by trained officers authorized by the Chief of Police.
- 15 - Except during authorized training programs, less-than-lethal force shall be deployed only at the direction of a sergeant or command officer, or the Incident Commander in a crowd situation.
- 16 - Less-than-lethal force shall only be used in the following situations, and, where feasible, after some warning has been given:

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- (a) When an act of violence is occurring, or is about to occur;
  - (b) To overcome the resistance of a physically combative person, or to gain compliance from a non-compliant person reasonably believed to be armed;
  - (c) To deter a person who is reasonably believed to be armed and is threatening to harm him-/herself, another person, or an officer; or,
  - (d) To resolve a potentially violent incident not otherwise described above, when deemed reasonable by the authorizing sergeant or commander.
- 17 - When practical, approval for the deployment and use of less-than-lethal force will be obtained from the Patrol Division Watch Commander. If there is no Watch Commander on duty, deployment authorization will be requested from the Duty Command Officer (DCO).
- (a) Prior to deployment, efforts should be made to ensure an appropriate medical response is available.
  - (b) In the event exigent circumstances preclude prior command approval, the supervisor authorizing less-than-lethal force deployment shall notify the Watch Commander, or in his/her absence the DCO, as soon as practical.
- 18 - In crowd situations, less-than-lethal force and/or chemical agents shall not be used without the prior approval of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, unless exigent circumstances prevent the request from being made and the delay would likely risk injury to citizens or police personnel (e.g., rocks, bottles, or other projectiles are being thrown and immediate crowd dispersal is necessary).
- (a) In the event immediate use is necessary, notification to the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, should be made as soon as possible after the deployment.
  - (b) In the event a use of force as described in Section 23 of this Order occurs during an unusual occurrence as described in General Order U-4, the officer shall prepare a supplemental report as soon as practical following the incident.**
  - (c) Each officer shall include in the report, to the extent possible, specific information regarding each use of force, e.g., the reason for the use of force, location, description of the individual(s) upon whom force was used, type of force used, etc.**

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### Use of Non-Lethal Force

- 19 - When lethal force and less-than-lethal force are not authorized, officers and authorized employees may use reasonable approved non-lethal force techniques and weapons in the following circumstances:
- (a) To protect themselves or another person from physical injury;
  - (b) To restrain or subdue a resistant individual; or
  - (c) To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

### Prohibited Uses of Force

- 20 - The following uses of force are prohibited:
- (a) Carotid Restraint Hold: Council Resolution No. 52,605 - N.S., dated February 14, 1985, "Prohibiting use of 'chokehold' for law enforcement purposes in the City of Berkeley" states: "Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows: That the chokehold, including but not limited to the carotid restraint and the bar-arm hold, is hereby banned from use for law enforcement purposes in the City of Berkeley."
    - (1) The term bar-arm refers to a variety of techniques. As defined in the City Council Resolution, "bar-arm hold" refers to *any* use of the forearm to exert pressure against the front of the neck. However, other types of arm hold techniques (e.g., those that involve control of the arm, wrist or elbow) remain authorized.
  - (b) Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) for use as a crowd control technique is prohibited. On September 16, 1997, the City Council passed a policy recommendation that says, in part, "no pepper spray will be used for crowd control by the Berkeley Police Department."
  - (c) Deployment of less-than-lethal munitions from a shotgun is prohibited.

### Provision of Medical Attention

- 21 - When an officer or employee uses force that results in injury, or when a subject complains that an injury has been inflicted, the officer or employee shall ensure that the subject receives appropriate medical care. (See also General Order A-17).

### Unauthorized Use of Force / Intervention and Reporting

- 22 - When an officer or employee witnesses any other officer or employee of this Department, or of any other law enforcement agency, use force that he or she

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believes is unauthorized, he or she shall do the following:

- (a) If the witness employee is a sworn officer, he or she shall immediately take reasonable action to attempt to mitigate such use of force. This may include verbal intervention or, if appropriate, physical intervention.
  - (1) A sworn officer's failure to act may potentially expose him/her to criminal charges and/or civil liability.
- (b) Any officer or employee who observes a potentially unauthorized use of force shall make an oral report to an on-duty sergeant or a command officer at the first opportunity.

### Use of Force / Reporting Requirements

- 23 - Any officer or employee who uses force shall, as soon as practical, make an oral report to an on-duty sergeant or command officer in the following four situations:
  - (a) When an officer discharges a firearm (intentional or unintentional) while on duty, except during a supervised training session.
  - (b) When an officer discharges a firearm while off-duty pursuant to his or her authority as a law enforcement officer.
  - (c) When an officer or employee uses force that results in death or injury, or when a subject complains that an injury has been inflicted. (See also General Order C-16)
  - (d) When an officer or employee uses a non-lethal *weapon* (e.g., Oleoresin Capsicum or baton) on a person, whether or not an injury is sustained
- 24 - The officer or employee must also complete a police or incident report in any of the above four situations.
- 25 - Whenever an officer or employee uses Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray), he or she must also complete a "Use of Pepper Spray Report" form. (See Training and Information Bulletin #216 for detailed instructions in completing this form).

### Use of Force / Supervisor Responsibilities

- 26 - A sergeant shall immediately be assigned and shall respond to the scene in the following four situations:
  - (a) When an officer discharges a firearm (intentional or unintentional) while on duty, except during a supervised training session.
  - (b) When an officer discharges a firearm while off-duty pursuant to his or her

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authority as a law enforcement officer.

- (c) When an officer or employee uses force (including, but not limited to, a non-lethal weapon) that results in death or injury, or when a subject complains that an injury has been inflicted. (See also General Order C-16)
  - (d) When an officer or employee reports a use of force by another officer or employee of the Department, or of any other law enforcement agency, that he or she believes is unauthorized.
- 27 - A supervisor shall complete a Use of Force Report in any of the above four situations.
- (a) A supervisor shall complete a Use of Force Report whenever an officer or employee uses a non-lethal weapon on a person, even if no injury results.
  - (b) The supervisor shall attach copies of all police reports relating to the incident to the Use of Force Report. (See Use of Force Report form at the end of this General Order)
- 28 - The supervisor who completes the Use of Force Report shall route the Use of Force Report (with attached police reports) and/or Use of Pepper Spray Report forms to the Division Captain through the chain of command.

### Use of Force / Administrative Review

- 29 - The Division Captain shall review the Use of Force Report (and when applicable, Use of Pepper Spray Report) and route the report to the Chief of Police with a recommendation of findings.
- (a) The Chief of Police may convene a Review Board (as outlined in General Order R-3) instead of utilizing Division Captain Review.
- 30 - The Chief of Police will make a finding that the use of force was either within policy or initiate additional administrative review/investigation as may be appropriate.
- 31 - Any determination concerning the propriety of force used will be based on facts and the information available to the officer at the time the force was employed, and not upon information gained after the fact.
- 32 - All Use of Force Reports will be reviewed to determine whether Departmental use of force regulations, policies, or procedures were: 1) violated or followed; 2) clearly understood, effective, and relevant to the situation; and/or, 3) require revision or additional training.

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- 33 - Use of Force Reports will be held in file for five (5) years and then purged, unless needed for additional administrative action.

### SPECIAL PROCEDURES / DEATHS AND SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

- 34 - In addition to the above, the Departmental response to incidents in which an officer uses force that results in death or a serious bodily injury shall be as follows:
- (a) The officer shall be placed on administrative leave as outlined in Police Regulation 325: " ... If any person is seriously injured or killed as a result of an officer's actions, including the discharging of a firearm, such officer shall be placed on administrative leave for a period of time, as determined by the Chief of Police, depending upon the circumstances of the situation. The officer(s) shall not return to regular duties until he/she meets with a mental health professional."
  - (b) The Department shall conduct both an administrative and criminal investigation of the incident as outlined in General Order P-12 (Police-Involved Shootings and Fatal or Serious Injury Incidents); and a Review Board shall be convened as described in General Order R-3.

References: *Tennessee v. Garner* (1986) 471 U.S. 1  
*Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386  
*Doerle v. Rutherford* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001) 272 F.3d 1272  
California Penal Code §§196, 197, 835, 835(a), 836, 836.5, and 843  
General Orders A-17, C-16, C-64, F-2, P-12, P-26. R-3 and U-4  
Police Regulations 202, 318, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325 and 332  
Training and Information Bulletin 216  
Lethal and Non-Lethal Force Manual  
Uniform and Equipment Manual  
City of Berkeley Council Resolution No. 52,605 – N.S. (2/14/85),  
"Prohibiting use of 'chokehold' for law enforcement  
purposes in the City of Berkeley"  
National Tactical Officers Association, General Policy Statement  
for Less-Than-Lethal Impact Projectiles (11/22/2002)



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EXEMPLAR

**BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
USE OF FORCE REPORT**

This report is to be completed by an on-duty supervisor per General Order U-2 if: (1) Use of any force results in injury or death to a person; (2) Non-lethal weapons (OC/baton) or less-than-lethal munitions are used on a person; or (3) An officer discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally on duty (other than during training), or off-duty while acting in the capacity of a police officer.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Chief of Police via Chain of Command

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: USE OF FORCE REVIEW

Refer to Case Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date / Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Officer(s)/Employee(s) Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Force used:     Physical                       Baton                       O.C.  
                                  Firearm                       Less-than-lethal        Other

Was Officer or Police Employee injured?     Yes                       No

If yes, nature of injuries: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical treatment required: BFD Response -  Yes                       No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Was a citizen(s) injured during this incident?     Yes                       No

If "yes," nature of injuries: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medical treatment required: BFD Response -  Yes                       No

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Investigator(s) and Identification Technician who responded, if any:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were photographs taken?                                       Yes                       No

Summary of actions of Officer(s) involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Division Captain Recommendation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Police (*Signature*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Date*)

Findings:  Within Policy  
 Referred for Administrative  
Action/Investigation