SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

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Ben Raymond	All Personnel	FEB 20, 2019	PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

SUBJECT: Use Of Force (RED POLICY)

INDEX: CHEMICAL AGENTS; DEFENSIVE TACTICS; EXCESSIVE FORCE INTERVENTION; FLASHLIGHT; DEADLY FORCE; MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SUBJECTS; RESPONSE OPTIONS; SUBJECT MANAGEMENT; USE OF FORCE; RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE TRAINING

CROSS REF: Pressure Point Control Tactics 2004 by B. Siddle, Pre-Academy Firearms Training 2nd Edition 2009 by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, Strategic Self-Defense & Grappling Tactics (SSGT) 2012 by J. Smith, SPD 404.01, 606.10, 606.24

Index

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of force by members.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Shreveport Police Department that members use only force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives if the officer and others. Officers shall use only level of force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. De-escalation: Taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary. De-escalation may include the use of such techniques as command presence, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.

B. Lethal force: Any tactic or use of force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.

C. Less-lethal force: Any tactic or use of force that is not likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.

D. Objectively Reasonable: The determination that the necessity for using force, and the appropriate level of force, is based upon the officer's evaluation of the situation in light of the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force is used, and upon what a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

E. Serious bodily injury: A bodily injury that creates a reasonable risk of death, causes serious and permanent disfigurement, or results in long-term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.

F. Types of resistance:

1. Psychological intimidation - Non-verbal cues indicating a subject's unwillingness to comply with verbal commands, with such cues being made through attitude, appearance, and physical readiness. Examples include but are not limited to clinching fists or stretching muscles.
2. Verbal non-compliance - Verbal responses indicating a subject's unwillingness to obey commands of detainment or arrest, or commands to stop unlawful and/or dangerous behavior. Examples include but are not limited to statements directed at an officer such as, "No, I will not put my hands behind my back."
3. Passive resistance- Any type of resistance where the subject does not attempt to defeat the officer's attempt to control, but will not voluntarily comply with verbal and/or physical attempts of control. Examples include but are not limited to dead weight or going limp.
4. Defensive resistance - Any action by a subject that attempts to prevent an officer from gaining control of the suspect. It is not an attack on the officer but a physical act designed to prevent the officer from gaining control. Examples include but are not limited to pulling away or walking off when an officer attempts handcuffing or an attempt to defeat an escort position.
5. Active aggression - Physical actions or physical indications of assault or battery against the officer or another person, but less than deadly force. Examples include but are not limited to striking, wrestling, advancing, or challenging.
6. Deadly force resistance - When a subject takes hostile actions with or without a weapon and such actions cause an officer to reasonably believe the subject intends to cause, and has the capability of causing, death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others.

IV. GUIDELINES:

Members may use reasonable application of subject management techniques to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives, safety and security of the officer or others. Members shall use force in accordance with law and established departmental procedures.

A. General Provisions:
   1. When practical, members shall announce their authority before using force unless identified by uniform or some other obvious manner or the situation prevents such announcement due to peril.
   2. When practical, members should use only those weapons or techniques that they have been trained, qualified and authorized in the use of by the department. It is the officer's responsibility to seek re-qualification, when required.
   3. Some of the elements that may be considered when making the decision to use force are ability, opportunity and jeopardy.
      a. Ability - Did the subject have the means to do bodily harm to another person? Indicators to consider are the subject's weapons, age, gender, size, drug or alcohol use, mental status, threatening gestures, known prior history and apparent skill level.
      b. Opportunity - Did the subject have the opportunity to seriously injure or kill the officer or another person? Some indicators are positioning, proximity and timing of the subject's actions.
      c. Jeopardy - Did the subject's action expose the officer to a perceived danger or was there a reasonable perception that the person would seriously injure or kill the officer or other person? Indicators include the perception of imminent harm and fear of death or bodily injury.
   4. Use of physical force should be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the incident is under control.
   5. Physical force shall not be used against individuals in restraints, except as objectively reasonable to prevent their escape or prevent imminent bodily injury to the individual, the officer, or another person. In these situations, only the minimal amount of force necessary to control the situation shall be used.
   6. Medical treatment:
      a. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, members shall seek medical attention for any person who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include providing first aid, requesting emergency medical services from the Shreveport Fire Department, and/or transporting the subject to a medical facility for treatment.
      b. For any injury or alleged injury resulting from a use-of-force technique by department personnel, members shall immediately notify a supervisor and shall comply with the written documentation requirements of SPD 404.01.
   7. Duty to Intervene Report:
      a. All members have a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by another member when it is safe and reasonable to do so.
      b. All members have a duty to report the use of excessive force to a supervisor. When notified, all supervisors shall instruct the employee to write a summary of his/her observations and shall forward the report through his/her chain of command.
   8. All uses of force shall be documented in accordance with the reporting requirements in **SPD 404.01**, and members shall set forth the facts and circumstances they believe justified the use of force.
      a. For incidents involving a member's use of hard-empty hand control techniques or greater force, the member's supervisor shall review all videos related to the incident to make sure the videos are tagged for evidence and that offense report and SMR is properly completed.
      b. If the supervisor perceives that the officer used excessive force or that the officer violated SPD policy or law, the supervisor shall write a summary of his/her observations and shall forward the report through his/her chain of command for review.

B. De-Escalation:
   1. An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force.
   2. Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.

C. Considerations preceding physical force options:

These elements may be considered unless announcement or identification would cause unnecessary danger.

1. **Presence**
   a. Presence is established through identification of authority.

b. The presence of a canine at a scene falls under this parameter.

2. **Verbal persuasion, negotiation or commands -** Includes instruction or direction from an officer in the form of verbal statements or commands or audible or visual signals.

D. Less-Lethal Force:

1. **Soft empty-hand control techniques**
   Soft empty-hand control techniques are physical contact techniques that present a minimal probability of injury to the subject. Techniques considered as soft empty-hand tactics, include but are not limited to, escort holds, pressure point control, joint locks and balance displacement.
2. **Hard empty-hand control techniques**
   Hard empty-hand controls are techniques that have a higher probability of creating soft or connective tissue damage, skin lacerations, or bone fractures that require medical attention. Techniques considered as hard empty-hand tactics, include but are not limited to, striking, tackling and takedowns.
3. **Less lethal weapons - Department authorized**
   Members shall use only the less lethal weapons on which they have been trained and, if appropriate, certified.
   a. Aerosol deterrent or chemical agent
   b. Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) (Taser Model X26 and X26P) **See SPD 606.25**
   d. Straight or side-handle, fixed or expandable batons, examples include, but are not limited to:
      1) PR24
      2) CR24
      3) MEB
   d. Beanbag projectile
   e. Police canines

E. **Lethal force (Firearms)**

a. Members are authorized to use lethal force only to protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be a threat of death or serious bodily injury.
b. Warning shots shall **not** be fired.
c. When the shooting of a suspect appears imminent, members should issue a verbal warning unless doing so would create a greater risk of death or serious bodily injury to the member or others.
d. Firearms should only be used to dispatch a vicious animal in self-defense, defense of another, or when their presence obstructs fulfillment of duty. Firearms may be used for a humane dispatch of an injured animal as a last resort and with specific supervisor approval, when appropriate.
e. Members will not unnecessarily draw or display any firearm or carelessly handle a firearm.
f. Shots fired from a moving vehicle are prohibited, except where the use of deadly force is justified in accordance with SPD policy.
g. Weapons should not be fired solely to disable a moving vehicle. Weapons may be discharged at the driver or other occupant(s) of a moving vehicle only when the officer has probable cause to believe the subject poses an immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury to the member or others and the use of deadly force does not create a danger to the public that outweighs the benefits of its use.
h. Members should not deliberately place themselves in the path of a moving vehicle or one capable of immediate movement. This is generally considered tactically unsound unless executed as part of a tactical plan intended to enhance safety. This is not intended to prevent officers from moving in front of or around vehicles during the executing of routine traffic duties such as directing traffic.
i. Members should refrain from discharging their firearms when the danger to the public outweighs the need for lethal force.
j. Members shall notify a supervisor and report in writing anytime a firearm is discharged, other than in training or for recreational purposes, and when such action results in or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death of another. **See** SPD 606.10. **Firearms (Red Policy).**

Ben Raymond
Chief of Police

SUBJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT

(must be completed on each subject arrested or summoned)

CAD# _____ Date of incident: _____ Time of incident: _____

Location of incident: _____

Number of officers involved: _____ Badge number of officers involved: _____|_____|_____|_____|_____

Subject's name: _____ Age: ____ Sex: ____ Race: _____

Was the subject using drugs/alcohol prior to the incident: Yes ____ No ____ Unknown ____

Subject's response to police: (Check all that apply)

Immediate compliance		Fled (foot)		Displayed/brandished weapon	
Verbal resistance		Fled (vehicle)		Used weapon (chemical agent)	
Verbal threat		Physically resisted		Used weapon (stick/blunt object)	
Passive resistance		Assaulted officer		Used weapon (pistol/rifle/knife)	
Resisted cuffing		Spit on officer		Not listed; see report	

Actions taken by officer: (Check all that apply)

Summoned		Hard empty-hand (strikes)		Canine	
Handcuffed		Pursued on foot		Conducted electrical weapon (taser)	
Vocal control		Pursued with vehicle		Bean bag shotgun	
Control holds		Chemical agents		Firearm (handgun, rifle, shotgun)	
Soft empty-hand (joint locks)		Baton		Not listed; see report	

Injuries during arrest

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Did officer have a visible injury?			Did the subject have a visible injury?		
Did the officer report an injury?			Did the subject report an injury?		
Was the officer killed?			Was the subject killed?		
Was the officer treated at the scene?			Was the subject treated at the scene?		
Was the officer hospitalized? If yes, list facility used?			Was the subject hospitalized? If yes, list facility used?		

Type Injury	Light		Mod		Serious		**Type Injury**	Light		Mod		Serious	

Civilian witnesses at the scene:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone#: _____

Comments: _____

Officers are required to write a clear and concise offense narrative of the subject's actions and the officer's response including any technique that was used to effect the arrest.

Officer/Badge # _____ Date _____ Supervisor/Badge # _____

March 2019