ROLL CALL TRAINING
DP 8-2020
USE OF FORCE UPDATE SB 230
LAPD
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE

On January 1, 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 230 will go into effect and become state law. The legislation was supported by the Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL).

Based on SB 230, the Department has updated and revised its Use of Force Policy as well as other policies and training bulletins to conform to and, in some cases, exceed what will be required by law in January 2021.

The purpose of this training is to make sure that you are informed about the new policies, the applications of those policies, and where to find the policies or training bulletins PRIOR to January 2021.

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DE-ESCALATION

The law requires officers to utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention techniques, and other alternatives to force when feasible.

LAPD Policy states:

Use of De-Escalation Techniques. It is the policy of this Department that, whenever feasible, officers shall use techniques and tools consistent with Department de-escalation training to reduce the intensity of any encounter with a suspect and enable an officer to have additional options to mitigate the need to use a higher level of force while maintaining control of the situation.

- Planning
- Assessment
- Time
- Redeployment and/or Containment
- Other Resources
- Lines of Communication

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PROPORTIONALITY

THE LAW and DEPARTMENT POLICY STATE:

Officers 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.
FAIR AND UNBIASED POLICING

THE LAW and DEPARTMENT POLICY STATE:

Officers shall carry out their duties, including use of force, in a manner that is fair and unbiased. Discriminatory conduct on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, housing status, or disability while performing any law enforcement activity is prohibited.
LESS-LETHAL FORCE OPTIONS

The law requires comprehensive and specific guidelines regarding approved methods and devices available for the application of force.

As LAPD officers, we have less-lethal force options. Thus, it is Department policy that officers are familiar with approved less-lethal force options, tactical considerations for the deployment, policies and procedures associated with each option.

Refer to the
Use of Force Tactics Directives Index
for Department-approved less-lethal force options:

• Hobble Restraint Device
• TASER
• 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher
• Baton
• Beanbag Shotgun
• Oleoresin Capsicum
• Bolawrap
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The law requires training and guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to:

- Children
- People who are pregnant
- Elderly

and

- People with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

LAPD POLICY STATES:

Factors Used to Determine Objective Reasonableness. Pursuant to the opinion issued by the United States Supreme Court in Graham v. Connor, the Department examines the reasonableness of any particular force used from the perspective of a reasonable Los Angeles Police Officer with similar training and experience, in the same situation, based on the facts and circumstances of each particular case.

Those factors may include, but are not limited to whether a person is a member of a vulnerable population.

Officers shall be guided by the Use of Force Tactics Directives when deploying less-lethal force options upon vulnerable populations.
DRAWING AND EXHIBITING

The law requires clear and specific guidelines regarding situations in which officers may or may not draw a firearm or point a firearm at a person.

LAPD POLICY STATES:

Unnecessarily or prematurely drawing or exhibiting a firearm limits an officer’s alternatives in controlling a situation, creates unnecessary anxiety on the part of citizens, and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm.

Officers shall not draw or exhibit a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the firearm.
DRAWING AND EXHIBITING

LAPD POLICY STATES (con’t):

When an officer has determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, secure or holster the firearm.

Any drawing and exhibiting of a firearm shall conform with this policy on the use of firearms. Moreover, any intentional pointing of a firearm at a person by an officer shall be reported.

Such reporting will be published in the Department’s year-end use of force report.
DEADLY FORCE

The law requires comprehensive and specific guidelines for the application of deadly force and that officers consider their surroundings and potential risks to bystanders, to the extent reasonable under the circumstances, before discharging a firearm.

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.

Before discharging a firearm, officers shall consider their surroundings and potential risks to bystanders to the extent reasonable under the circumstances.
DEADLY FORCE

LAPD POLICY STATES:

Use of Force Deadly. It is the policy of this Department that officers shall use deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:

To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person,

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.
DEADLY FORCE

In addition to California Penal Code 835(a), the Department shall evaluate whether deadly force was necessary by looking at:

- The totality of the circumstances from the perspective of a reasonable Los Angeles Police Officer with similar training and experience
- The factors used to evaluate whether force is objectively reasonable
- An evaluation of whether the officer exhausted the available and feasible alternatives to deadly force
- Whether a warning was feasible and/or given.
SHOOTING AT OR FROM A MOVING VEHICLE

LAPD Policy states:

It is the policy of this Department that firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle.

The moving vehicle itself shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer’s use of Deadly Force. An officer threatened by an oncoming vehicle shall move out of its path instead of discharging a firearm at it or any of its occupants.

Firearms shall not be discharged from a moving vehicle, except in exigent circumstances and consistent with this policy regarding the use of Deadly Force.

The law requires comprehensive and specific guidelines under which the discharge of a firearm at or from a moving vehicle may or may not be permitted.
RENDERING MEDICAL AID

The law requires officers promptly provide, if properly trained, or otherwise promptly procure medical assistance for any person(s), injured in a use of force incident, when reasonable and safe to do so.

LAPD Policy states:

After any use of force, officers shall immediately request a rescue ambulance for any person injured. In addition, officers shall promptly provide basic and emergency medical assistance to all members of the community, including victims, witnesses, subjects, suspects, persons in custody, subjects of a use of force and fellow officers:

- To the extent of the officer’s training and experience in first aid/CPR/AED; and,

- To the level of equipment available to an officer at the time assistance is needed.

[Training Bulletin Rendering Medical Aid]
REPORTING POTENTIAL EXCESSIVE FORCE

THE LAW and LAPD POLICY:

Officers shall report potential excessive force to a superior officer when present and observing another officer using force that the officer believes to be beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances based upon the totality of the information actually known to the officer.
INTERCEDING WHEN EXCESSIVE FORCE IS OBSERVED

THE LAW and LAPD POLICY:

Requirement to Intercede When Excessive Force is Observed.

An officer shall intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject.
SUPERVISOR ROLE IN USE OF FORCE

Reporting and Supervisor Responsibilities:
Non-Categorical Use of Force (NCUOF)

The law requires that supervisors have a role in the review of use of force applications.

Per Department Manual Section 4/245.10, an employee who becomes involved in a reportable non-categorical use of force shall notify a supervisor without delay.
SUPERVISOR ROLE IN USE OF FORCE

An uninvolved supervisor shall conduct the NCUOF investigation, which includes but is not limited to:

- On-scene investigation and evidence collection;
- Independent interviews with officers and witnesses;
- Review all audio and video recordings of the use of force;
- Identify and document any and all inconsistencies or conflicts between the accounts of the officers, suspects, and/or witnesses.

The supervisor shall submit the NCUOF investigation through his or her chain of command for proper review and approval.
Citizen Complaint Related to a Use of Force

State law requires procedures for the filing, investigation, and reporting of citizen complaints regarding the use of force.

Per Department Manual Section 3/830.10, a public complaint shall be accepted from any source, including the subject of the use of force. If Internal Affairs Group does not assume responsibility, the supervisor shall complete a Complaint Form, Form No. 01.28.00, in addition to the use of force investigation.

When the subject of a use of force does not request to make a complaint and there is no evidence of misconduct related to the force, any statements that materially differ shall be addressed in a Level 1 NCUOF investigation.
REVIEW QUESTIONS
Integrity In All We Say And Do

Integrity is our standard. We are proud of our profession and will conduct ourselves in a manner that merits the respect of all people. We will demonstrate honest, ethical behavior in all our interactions.

Our actions will match our words. We must have the courage to stand up for our beliefs and do what is right. Throughout the ranks, the Los Angeles Police Department has a long history of integrity and freedom from corruption. Upholding this proud tradition is a challenge we must all continue to meet.
Prepared by:  Field Training Services Unit

Date prepared:  August 2020

References:

- Department Manual Section 1/556.10
- Department Manual Section 3/830.10
- Department Manual Section 4/245.10
- Senate Bill 230
- Training Bulletin - Rendering Medical Aid
- Use of Force Tactics Directive Index
- Special Order No. 23 August 26, 2020

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CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed

Use of Force Update
SB 230

I acknowledge I have received the policy, and completed the e-learning for the Los Angeles Police Department 2020 Use of Force Policy update

Enter Name and Serial number then click submit

Submit

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