

**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**NOTICE**  
1.3

January 22, 2018

**TO:** All Department Personnel

**FROM:** Director, Office of Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** USE OF LESS-LETHAL FORCE - CLARIFICATION

In accordance with recent court decisions, this notice is intended to clarify the Department's use of Less-Lethal force to include: OC Spray, baton, TASER, beanbag shotgun, 40mm less lethal launcher, and less lethal munitions.

The courts have held that Less-Lethal force are "capable of inflicting significant pain and may cause serious injury." Therefore, consistent with the Department's Use of Force Policy, Less-Lethal force options are only permissible when:

An officer reasonably believes the suspect or subject is violently resisting arrest or poses an immediate threat of violence or physical harm.

Less-Lethal force options shall not be used for a suspect or subject who is passively resisting or merely failing to comply with commands. Verbal threats of violence or mere non-compliance do not alone justify the use of Less-Lethal force. In addition, generally, an officer shall give a verbal warning prior to using such force when feasible.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Laurel Friedlander, Office of Administrative Services, at (213) 486-8410.

APPROVED:



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