



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 19, 2021

Re: Revision to Columbia Police Department Use of Force Policy

Executive Summary

Policy 300, Use of Force/Response to Resistance, has been revised. The revisions include a ban on the use of choke holds and lateral vascular neck restraints (LVNR) and plainly defines them as a use of deadly force. The policy revision requires annual training to personnel emphasizing the prohibitions on their use. Other revisions to the policy were made to meet these and other Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards.

Discussion

In mid-August, 2020 the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) provided our Accreditation Manager with three standard revisions and three new standards relating to 1) the use of reasonable force and de-escalation; 2) use of deadly force; 3) rendering medical aid; 4) duty to intervene; 5) vascular neck restraints; and 6) choke holds.

Around the same time, some members of our community addressed Council with concerns regarding CPD's policy on the use of choke holds. As a result, to meet the updated CALEA standards and also address the concerns of community members, policy 300, Use of Force/Response to Resistance, was reviewed and has been revised.

The prior policy addressed choke holds but did not differentiate the difference between a choke hold and a lateral vascular neck restraint. This revised policy defines each separately and plainly defines the use of choke holds and LVNR as deadly force.

The prior policy already contained sections regarding the use of reasonable force and de-escalation, use of deadly force, rendering medical aid, and the duty to intervene. Each of these sections were reviewed and revised as necessary to meet the new or revised CALEA standards.

The policy was further revised to include the following language "Any revisions to this policy shall be communicated within ten (10) days of approval to the City Manager and to the City Council. In addition to any other notification deemed appropriate by the City Manager and Chief of Police, additional communication of such revisions to the City Council shall occur in the form of a report placed on the agenda of a regular meeting of the City Council within thirty (30) days of approval. Such report shall be accompanied by a memorandum from the Chief of Police which explains the revision.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

In addition to plain language revisions, and to meet the new standards regarding choke holds and LVNR, the policy now requires documented initial and annual training for officers in these areas.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No Fiscal Impact

Long-Term Impact: No Fiscal Impact

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
NA	NA

Suggested Council Action

Information only