

Police General Order 300 — Use of Force

Effective	January 15, 2026
Supersedes	General Order 300, revision of March 2023
Approved by	Laura Brennan, Chief of Police

300.1 Policy

The sanctity of human life is the foundation of this policy. Officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional to effect a lawful purpose, and shall use de-escalation techniques whenever it is safe and feasible to do so.

300.2 De-escalation

When time and circumstances reasonably permit, officers shall attempt to slow an encounter down, create distance, use cover, request additional resources including crisis-trained personnel, and give clear verbal warnings before using force.

300.3 Duty to intervene

An officer who observes another officer using force that is clearly beyond what is necessary shall intercede to prevent it, when in a position to do so, and shall promptly report the observation to a supervisor.

300.4 Prohibited techniques

- Carotid restraints and chokeholds.
- Firing at or from a moving vehicle, except to stop an imminent threat of death by means other than the vehicle.
- Force against a person who is restrained and compliant.

300.5 Reporting and review

Every use of force above a firm grip is reported before the end of shift, reviewed by a supervisor within 72 hours, and reviewed by the Professional Standards Unit. An annual analysis is presented to the City Council in public session.