



# LAKEPORT POLICE

We Stand WITH Our Community

## EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

Over the past few weeks since the tragic incident resulting in the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, law enforcement, community and elected leaders are seeing many questions regarding police policies and procedures relating to use of force. The actions and inactions we saw from police during their contact with Mr. Floyd are not consistent with how law enforcement should operate, or the manner in which the Lakeport Police Department provides service to our community.

We continue receiving questions locally and remain fully transparent in how we operate here in the City of Lakeport. Many of the questions we are receiving are focused on the Campaign Zero #8CantWait project which relates to eight areas of concern with police policies which we have compared to our policies.

We are pleased that the majority of Lakeport Police Department policies are consistent with the suggestions of the #8CantWait project. We have a long history of community policing and focusing on working in partnership with our community to ensure equal justice, and, protecting and respecting the rights of all people.

Our previous work has included The Six Pillars from President Barack Obama's 2015 *President's Task Force on Community Policing*: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology & Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Training and Education, and Officer Wellness and Safety. Additionally, starting back in January of this year our supervisory and management team began focusing efforts on the eight critical areas in modern policing as identified by the 2019 report "Law Enforcement Best Practices" by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Those areas are: Community Policing, De-Escalation, Crisis Intervention, First Line Supervisors, Early Intervention Systems, Internal Affairs, Recruitment, Hiring, Promotion and Retention and Data Systems. We continue to weave these efforts into all aspects of our daily policing. I am proud of and commend the efforts of all of the men and women of the Lakeport Police Department over the past decades for creating and maintaining the positive relationships we continue to have today with our community. We continue to believe in transparency and remain open to interaction with our community to continue to evolve and adapt as we move into the future.

Sincerely,

Brad Rasmussen  
Chief of Police







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## Chokeholds & Strangleholds

Chokeholds/Strangleholds are not authorized for use by LPD Officers. Carotid Control Holds were de-authorized for use by LPD Officers in January 2020, Policy Section 300.2.5.

## De-Escalation

SB 230 passed last year has a requirement that officers utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, and other alternatives to force when feasible. LPD Officers have been trained in crisis intervention tactics, and our policy directs officers to consider a number of factors towards offering de-escalation alternatives, including taking no action or passively monitoring a situation. In addition to this training, LPD Officers are required to complete these additional trainings regularly, which include De-Escalation and communication training, Biased Based Policing, and Crisis Intervention Training.



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## **Require Warning Before Shooting**

This requirement is already followed by LPD Officers and clearly stated under LPD policy 300.4 which states, "Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts."

In addition, LPD Officers are also required to provide a warning prior to the use of a conducted energy device (Taser), a baton, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), or a kinetic energy projectile. This is stated under LPD policies 308.3 and 309.4.

## **Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles**

LPD policy 300.4.1 states, "Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. Officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others. Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle."





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## **Duty to Intercede**

LPD Officers already have a Duty to Intercede under existing LPD Policy 300.2.1, which states “Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law should promptly report these observations to a supervisor”.

## **Require to Exhaust all Alternatives Before Shooting:**

LPD recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. LPD Policy 300.4 states, “If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force.”



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## **Require Use of Force Continuum**

LPD Policy 300.3 states, “Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.” LPD Officers respond to every situation, which at times can be rapidly evolving, utilizing their training and critical thinking skills to determine the appropriate level of force, be it their physical presence, use of verbal communication, simple hand control holds, electronic control device (Taser), baton, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), less-lethal weapons, and Firearms.

## **Require Comprehensive Reporting**

LPD Policy requires use of force reporting under policy 300.5, which states, “Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.”

All uses of force incidents are reviewed by a supervisor and command staff. Those incidents resulting in great bodily injury or death are reviewed by a Review Board as per LPD Policy 302.