

CAMDEN COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



DISTRIBUTION: All Bureaus-Sworn and Non-Sworn Personnel

ORDER TYPE: Standard Operating Procedure

SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

December 31, 2021

BY THE ORDER OF:

Chief Gabriel Rodriguez

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:

4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.3.4 (LE)

REVISION DATE

November 9, 2025

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SUPERSEDES DIRECTIVE:

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this Directive is to ensure Officers respect the sanctity of life when making decisions regarding the use of force. Sworn law enforcement officers have been granted the extraordinary authority to use force when necessary to accomplish lawful ends. That authority is grounded in the responsibility of Officers to comply with the laws of the State of New Jersey regarding the use of force and to comply with the provisions of this Directive. Equally important is law enforcement's obligation to prepare individual Officers in the best way possible to exercise that authority.

In situations where law enforcement officers are justified in using force, the utmost restraint should be exercised. Use of force may never be considered routine. In exercising this authority, Officers must respect the sanctity of all human life, act in all respects to preserve human life, do everything possible to avoid unnecessary uses of force, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public.

Any deployment of a Conducted Energy Device or other less-lethal device against a person, except as authorized by this Policy and the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy Addendum, is strictly prohibited. Any intentional misuse or reckless abuse of such a device shall result in administrative action, discipline, or criminal prosecution.

POLICY: This Directive establishes guidelines for Officers regarding the use of force. This Directive applies to all uses of force, whether Officers are on- or off-duty. This Directive complements the Critical Decision-Making model (CDM) that is the core of the Department's use of force training. CDM provides Officers with an organized way of making decisions about how they must act in any situation, including situations that may involve potential uses of force. The Fourth Amendment requires that an Officer's use of force be "objectively reasonable." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Under this standard, an Officer may only use force that a reasonable Officer would use when facing similar circumstances. The objectively reasonable standard acknowledges the complex decisions that Officers are forced to make under rapidly evolving and often unpredictable circumstances, but it does not provide specific guidance on what to do in any given situation.

The Constitution provides a "floor" for government action. This Department aspires to go beyond *Graham* and its minimum requirements. Sound judgment and the appropriate exercise of discretion will always be the foundation of police officer decision-making in the broad range of use of force situations. It is not possible to entirely replace judgment and discretion with detailed policy provisions. Nonetheless, this Directive is intended to ensure that de-escalation techniques are used whenever feasible, that force is only used when necessary, and that the amount of force used is proportionate to the situation that Officers encounter. The Department's core use of force principles are as follows:

Core Principle 1: The Sanctity of Human Life and Serving the Community.

In serving the community, law enforcement officers (hereinafter "Officers") shall make every effort to preserve and protect human life and the safety of all persons. Officers shall respect and uphold the dignity of all persons at all times in a non-discriminatory manner.

Core Principle 2: Force as a Last Resort and Duty to De-Escalate.

Force shall only be used as a last resort when necessary to accomplish lawful objectives that cannot reasonably be achieved through verbal commands, critical decision-making, tactical deployment, or de-escalation techniques. Force shall never be used as a retaliatory or punitive measure.

Core Principle 3: Duty to Use Only Objectively Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional Force.

Officers shall use the least amount of force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to safely achieve the legitimate law enforcement objective under the circumstances.

Core Principle 4: Duty to Use Deadly Force Only as an Absolute Last Resort and Duty to Avoid Actions Which Create a Substantial Risk of Death or Serious Bodily Injury.

Deadly force shall only be used as an absolute last resort and in strict compliance with this Directive. Other actions by law enforcement that create a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury must be avoided or employed only under the strictest of conditions.

Core Principle 5: Duty to Intervene and Report.

Every Officer, regardless of rank, title, seniority, or status, has an affirmative duty to take steps to prevent any use of force that is illegal, excessive, or otherwise inconsistent with such policies, regulations, and laws, if possible, before a fellow Officer uses excessive, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate force. Every Officer has a duty to immediately report any improper use of force.

Core Principle 6: Duty to Render Medical Assistance.

After any use of force, and when the environment is safe, Officers shall promptly render medical assistance to any injured person consistent with the Officer's training and shall promptly request emergency medical assistance for that person, if needed or requested. Officers also have a duty to monitor individuals for potential medical intervention after any Officer uses force.

Core Principle 7: Duty to Report and Review Uses of Force.

Every use of force must be reported and receive a meaningful command-level review as set forth in a written department policy that includes review by the law enforcement executive. The law enforcement executive shall also conduct an annual review and analysis of the overall use of force by the department.

PROCEDURE:

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Active Assailant: A person who is using or imminently threatening the use of force, with or without a weapon, in an aggressive manner that poses a substantial risk of causing bodily injury to an Officer or another person. A threatening assailant becomes an active assailant when the threat becomes imminent.
- B. Active Resistor: A person who is uncooperative, fails to comply with directions from an Officer, and instead actively attempts to avoid physical control. This type of resistance includes, but is not limited to, evasive movement of the arm, flailing arms, tensing arms beneath the body to avoid handcuffing, and flight.
- C. Administrative Review: A documented review of an incident or occurrence prepared by or for the Chief of Police or their designee. The review must indicate whether policy, training, equipment, or disciplinary issues should be addressed.
- D. Appropriate Medical Aid: May include increased observation to detect obvious changes in condition, flushing chemical agents from the eyes, applying first aid consistent with the Officer's training, evaluation by paramedics, or, for more serious or life-threatening incidents, immediate aid by medical professionals.
- E. Bodily Injury: Physical pain or temporary disfigurement, or any impairment of physical condition. Bodily harm and bodily injury have the same definition for the purposes of this Directive. See N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1(a), N.J.S.A. 2C:3-11(e).
- F. Canine Apprehension: There are two types of apprehension techniques taught in police-service dog training: bite-and-hold and circle-and-bark. Bite-and-hold is defined as under the direction of its handler, the dog, while off leash, finds a suspect, bites, and holds the suspect until commanded by the handler to release the hold. Circle-and-bark is defined as the dog, while on leash under the direction of its handler, finding a suspect and, if the suspect remains still, circling and barking until the handler takes control.
- G. Civil Disturbance: An assembly of persons engaged in or creating an immediate threat of collective violence, destruction of property, looting, or other criminal acts. Such a gathering may also be referred to as a riot.
- H. Chokehold: A technique that involves applying direct pressure to a person's trachea (windpipe) or airway (front of the neck) with the effect of reducing the intake of air. This includes a carotid restraint or any lateral neck restraint, where direct pressure is applied to the carotid artery, restricting the flow of blood to the brain, causing temporary loss of consciousness.
- I. Compliance Techniques: Physical techniques that involve the use of non-impact pressure to sensitive areas of the body (areas of skin covering bone) to elicit and maintain control of a person. Compliance techniques include joint manipulation and pressure point techniques, but do not include any technique that restricts blood flow to the carotid arteries, causing a person to lose oxygen to the brain, or any striking.
- J. Conducted Energy Device (CED): A CED means any device approved by the Attorney General that is capable of firing darts/electrodes that transmit an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily disable a person.
- K. Constructive Authority: Constructive authority is not considered a use of force because

it does not involve physical contact with the subject. Rather, constructive authority involves the use of the Officer's authority to exert control over a subject. Examples include verbal commands, gestures, warnings, and unholstering a weapon. Pointing a firearm at a subject is an example of constructive authority to be used only in appropriate circumstances outlined in Section II.C.4 of this Directive.

- L. Control Instruments: Tools (such as a baton) applied with non-impact pressure to joints and sensitive areas of the body (areas of skin covering bone) to elicit and maintain control of a person.
- M. Cooperative Person: A person who responds to and complies with an Officer's directions.
- N. Critical Decision-Making Model: The Critical Decision-Making Model is an organized way of making decisions about how an Officer will act in any situation, including those that may involve potential uses of force.
- O. Deadly Force: Force that an Officer uses with the purpose of causing, or that a reasonable Officer knows creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury. Discharging a firearm constitutes deadly force unless the discharge occurred during the course of a law enforcement training exercise, routine target practice at a firing range, a lawful animal hunt, or the humane killing of an injured animal. A threat to cause death or serious bodily injury by the display of a weapon or otherwise, so long as the Officer's purpose is limited to creating an apprehension that deadly force will be used, if necessary, does not constitute deadly force.
- P. De-escalation: De-escalation refers to the action of communicating verbally or non-verbally in an attempt to reduce, stabilize, or eliminate the immediacy of a threat. De-escalation may also be used to create the time needed to position additional resources to resolve the situation with the least amount of force necessary.
- Q. Employee: Any employee of the Camden County Police Department, full or part-time, sworn, and nonsworn.
- R. Feasible: Reasonably capable of being accomplished or carried out, given the totality of the circumstances, in a manner that maintains the safety of the public and Officers.
- S. Holding Techniques: Holding techniques include a firm grip or grab of an arm, wristlocks, come-along holds (i.e., escort holds that are not elevated to compliance techniques), controlled takedowns, and pins against the ground or objects, as well as any combination of the above.
- T. Imminent Danger: Threatened actions or outcomes that are immediately likely to occur during an encounter, absent action by the Officer. The period of time involved is dependent on the circumstances and facts evident in each situation and is not the same in all situations. The threatened harm does not have to be instantaneous; for example, imminent danger may be present even if a subject is not at that instant pointing a weapon at the Officer but is carrying a weapon and running for cover to gain a tactical advantage.
- U. Impact Weapons: Weapons designed to establish control by means of applying mechanical impact to a person to disable elements of their musculoskeletal structure. Impact weapons include batons and less lethal ammunition. The Department trains Officers to avoid the use of flashlights, radios, firearms, or any item not specifically designed as an impact weapon, unless immediately necessary and no other practical options are available.

- V. Law Enforcement Executive: A law enforcement agency's highest-ranking sworn law enforcement officer, typically the Chief of Police. In situations where the highest-ranking Officer is recused from a matter, then "law enforcement executive" refers to the next highest-ranking Officer without a conflict.
- W. Law Enforcement Officer: Any person who is employed as a sworn member of any state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, department, or division of those governments who is statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating the criminal laws of this state. The term law enforcement officer shall include sworn members of the New Jersey State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice, and the Use of Force policy | December 2021 v Juvenile Justice Commission. It shall also include College and University Police Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.2 et seq., State Parole Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:154-4, State Correctional Police Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:154-4, County Correctional Police Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:154-3, Special Law Enforcement Officers of all classes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.8 et seq., Humane Law Enforcement Officers appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:22-14.1 or 4:22-14.4, Auxiliary Police Officers appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. App.A:9-45(c), and Constables appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-120.
- X. Mechanical Force: Mechanical force involves the use of a device or substance, other than a firearm, to overcome a subject's resistance to the exertion of the Officer's authority. Examples include use of a tactical baton or other object, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, physical apprehension by canines, Conducted Energy Device (CED), and less-lethal device and ammunition.
- Y. Oleoresin Capsicum: Also known as OC Spray or Pepper Spray, this is an inflammatory chemical agent that causes an intense burning sensation of the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes. Direct exposure to a person's eyes will likely result in the eyes closing, tearing, and swelling. When inhaled, a person experiences choking, gagging, gasping for breath, or, on rare occasions, unconsciousness. As a result of these symptoms, a person may experience nausea or temporarily impaired thought processes or may become disoriented or lose their balance.
- Z. Passive Resistor: A person who is non-compliant in that they fail to comply in a non-movement way with verbal or other direction from an Officer.
- AA. Peaceful Demonstration: A nonviolent assembly of persons organized primarily to engage in free speech activity. These may be scheduled events that allow for law enforcement planning or spontaneous events. They include, but are not limited to, marches, protests, and other assemblies intended to attract attention.
- BB. Physical Contact: Physical contact involves routine or procedural contact with a subject necessary to effectively accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective. Examples include guiding a subject into a police vehicle, holding the subject's arm while transporting, routinely handcuffing a subject, and maneuvering or securing a subject for a frisk. Physical contact alone does not constitute force.
- CC. Physical Force: Physical force involves contact with a subject beyond that which is generally used to effect an arrest or other law enforcement objectives. Physical force is employed when necessary to overcome a subject's physical resistance to the exertion of the Officer's authority, or to protect persons or property. Examples include taking a resisting subject to the ground, using wrist or arm locks, striking the subject with the hands or feet, or other similar methods of hand-to-hand confrontation, such as certain pain compliance techniques.

- DD. Positional Asphyxiation: Positional asphyxiation is insufficient intake of oxygen as a result of a body position that interferes with the subject's ability to breathe. It can occur during the process of subduing and restraining a person by placing the person in a posture that prevents or impedes the mechanism of normal breathing. If the person cannot escape from the position, death may occur very rapidly. Restraint in the prone position presents a significant risk of asphyxia, particularly when a person is handcuffed and left in a face-down position. As soon as handcuffed and restrained, the person should be raised immediately to a seated or standing position that does not impede the mechanism of normal breathing.
- EE. Proportional Force: The minimum amount of force, of both type (e.g., physical, mechanical, or deadly) and intensity, which is necessary to control a situation and achieve a legitimate law enforcement objective. The law permits Officers to overcome unlawful force or resistance; thus, the term proportional force is not intended to mean a type and intensity of force that is exactly equal to the type and intensity of force being used by the subject. The term proportional force is intended to highlight that the level of force a law enforcement officer utilizes shall be no more than is necessary to overcome the unlawful force or resistance being confronted by the Officer.
- FF. Reasonable Belief: A reasonable belief is an objective assessment based upon an evaluation of how a reasonable Officer with comparable training and experience would react to, or draw inferences from, the facts and circumstances confronting and known by the Officer at the scene.
- GG. Serious Bodily Injury: Serious bodily injury means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ. Serious bodily injury and serious bodily harm have the same definition for the purposes of this Directive. See N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1(b), N.J.S.A. 2C:3-11(d).
- HH. Strategic Redeployment: Repositioning by an Officer to increase space and time to react to a subject. It includes gaining time to de-escalate by withdrawing from the immediate vicinity of the subject if doing so will not create a threat to the safety of the public or the Officer in doing so.
- II. Substantial Risk: A substantial risk is one that is foreseeably likely to occur. That is, the risk is one that a reasonable Officer in the same circumstances should anticipate as the likely outcome.
- JJ. Tactical Communication: Verbal communication techniques that are designed to avoid or minimize the use of force. Such techniques include giving clear, simple instructions or directions, using active listening techniques to engage the suspect, and explaining the consequences of failure to comply with directions or instructions, including that force may be used.
- KK. Tactical Positioning: Making advantageous use of position, distance, and cover to reduce the risk of injury to an Officer and avoid or reduce the need to use force.
- LL. Tactical Team: A group of Officers who are specially selected, trained, and equipped to handle high-risk incidents, including, but not limited to, those involving snipers, barricaded persons, warrant services, apprehensions, acts of terrorism, and other situations or activities as deemed necessary by command leadership. Commonly used names for tactical teams include Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.), Special Response Team (S.R.T.), Technical Emergency and Mission Specialists (T.E.A.M.S.), Entry Teams, Rapid Deployment Teams, and Fugitive Teams.

- MM. Threatening Assailant: A person who is threatening the use of force against an Officer or another person, with or without a weapon, in an aggressive manner that may cause bodily injury. Examples may include a person armed with a weapon who fails to disarm, and an unarmed person who advances on an Officer or any other person in a threatening manner, thereby reducing the Officer's time to react, putting the Officer in reasonable fear of a physical attack.
- NN. Time as a Tactic: A method to avoid forcing an immediate resolution to a situation if it can be safely done, including establishing a zone of safety around a person that creates an opportunity for an assessment and action, when feasible, thereby decreasing the need to resort to force.
- OO. Verbal Control Technique: Consists of persuasion, advice, instruction, and warning in the form of verbal statements or commands that may result in compliant behavior. Whenever it is safe and feasible, Officers must attempt to de-escalate confrontations by utilizing verbal control techniques prior to, during, and after the use of physical force.

II. CORE PRINCIPLES

A. **Core Principle One:** The Sanctity of Human Life and Serving the Community.

1. In serving the community, Officers shall make every effort to preserve and protect human life and the safety of all persons. Officers shall also respect and uphold the dignity of all persons at all times in a non-discriminatory manner.
2. A respectful and cooperative relationship with the community is essential for effective law enforcement. That relationship can be undermined when force is used unnecessarily or unequally.
3. Every Officer shall respect the sanctity of human life and the dignity of every person, and act to preserve every life, whenever possible, and avoid unnecessary injury to members of the public or themselves.
4. In carrying out their duties as guardians of public safety, Officers shall at all times treat every person equally without regard to the individual's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, familial status, or any other protected characteristic under N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.

B. **Core Principle Two:** Force as a Last Resort and Duty to De-Escalate.

Force shall only be used as a last resort when necessary to accomplish lawful objectives that cannot reasonably be achieved through verbal commands, critical decision-making, tactical deployment, or de-escalation techniques. Force shall never be used as a retaliatory or punitive measure.

1. Authority to use force. Officers are granted the unique authority to use force for lawful purposes, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Effectuating a lawful arrest or detention,
 - b. Carrying out a lawful search,

- c. Overcoming resistance directed at the Officer or others,
 - d. Preventing physical harm to the Officer or to another person (including intervening in a suicide or other attempt of self-inflicted injury),
 - e. Protecting the Officer or a third party from unlawful force, or
 - f. Preventing property damage or loss.
2. Prohibitions on certain force. Officers may not use or threaten to use force for any of the following reasons:
- a. To punish a person or to retaliate against them for past conduct,
 - b. As a lesson to prevent a person from resisting or fleeing in the future, or
 - c. To resolve a situation more quickly, unless delay would risk the safety of the person involved, Officers, or others, or would significantly interfere with other legitimate law enforcement objectives.
3. Force as a last resort. Officers shall exhaust all other reasonable means to gain compliance before resorting to force, if feasible. Thus, if a safe alternative would achieve law enforcement's objective, force shall not be used. Officers shall, therefore, use verbal commands, critical decision-making, tactical deployment, and de-escalation techniques to gain voluntary compliance when feasible. Importantly, Officers shall never engage in unnecessary, overly aggressive, or otherwise improper actions that create a situation where force becomes necessary.
4. Critical decision making. Critical decision-making and tactical deployment techniques include tactical communication and tactical positioning, such as strategic redeployment and time as a tactic. Critical decision-making and tactics require Officers to do the following:
- a. Begin critical assessment and planning prior to arriving at the scene,
 - b. Collect available information,
 - c. Assess situations, threats, and risks,
 - d. Identify options for conflict resolution,
 - e. Determine the best course of action, and
 - f. Act, review, and reassess the situation as it evolves.
5. De-escalation. De-escalation is the action of communicating verbally or non-verbally in an attempt to reduce, stabilize, or eliminate the immediacy of a threat. De-escalation may also be used to create the time needed to allow the situation to resolve itself or to position additional resources to resolve the situation with the least amount of force necessary. Officers will employ de-escalation techniques when feasible, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Communication techniques to calm an agitated subject (e.g., regulating tone and pitch, such as speaking slowly in a calm voice),

- b. Techniques to promote rational decision making, such as ensuring that only one Officer addresses the person, and the other Officers remain detached as safety permits, so as not to escalate the situation, and splitting up individuals at the scene who may be arguing,
 - c. Active listening techniques, such as sharing the Officer's name, asking the subject their name, and exhibiting a genuine willingness to listen,
 - d. Slowing down the pace of the incident by taking deep breaths, slowing speech, and/or applying strategic or critical thinking,
 - e. Using calming gestures and facial expressions (e.g., arms extended with palms out and avoiding angry expressions),
 - f. Practicing procedural-justice techniques, such as explaining the Officer's actions and responding to questions,
 - g. Verbal persuasion and advisements (e.g., explaining, without threats, how the person would benefit from cooperation, and the subject's rights or what the Officer wants the subject to do), and
 - h. Avoiding the unnecessary display of weapons, including firearms, Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs), batons, or OC spray.
6. Warning and opportunity to comply. Officers should generally not use force immediately when encountering noncompliance with verbal directions. Instead, whenever feasible, before using force, Officers shall:
- a. Provide clear instructions and warnings,
 - b. Attempt to determine whether the person has a special need, mental condition, physical limitation, developmental disability, or language barrier (See Section II.B.7),
 - c. State the consequences of refusing to comply with a mandatory Directive, including that force will be used unless the person complies, and
 - d. Give the suspect a reasonable opportunity to comply.
7. Compliance factors. Dealing with a person in a behavioral or mental health crisis or other factors affecting compliance. Officers should consider an individual's mental, physical, developmental, intellectual disability, or other conditions, such as the age of the suspect, which affect the person's ability to communicate or comply. This includes, when feasible, considering the following factors related to the individual:
- a. Behavioral or mental health crisis,
 - b. Drug interaction,
 - c. Medical condition,
 - d. Mental impairment,

- e. Physical limitations,
 - f. Developmental disability, including autism spectrum disorder,
 - g. Cognitive impairment or intellectual disability,
 - h. Hearing loss or impairment,
 - i. Communication disorder, including speech impairment,
 - j. Language barrier,
 - k. Visual impairment, age, or
 - l. Other factors beyond the individual's control.
8. Whenever an Officer determines that one of the above-listed factors exists and is influencing the person's failure to comply with an Officer's command, when feasible, the Officer shall consider whether specific techniques or resources would help resolve the situation without the need to utilize force. Techniques for responding include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Obtaining information about the person from available sources, including family members, caregivers, or others who know the individual,
 - b. Decreasing exposure to the potential threat by moving to a safer position. This may involve creating distance, seeking cover, tactical repositioning, concealment, and/or placing barriers between an uncooperative person and the Officer,
 - c. Slowing down the pace of the incident by the Officer slowing their speech, taking deep breaths, and/or applying strategic and critical thinking,
 - d. Keeping the non-compliant person confined to a limited area and calling for a Supervisor, back-up Officers, and specially trained resources to assist in resolving the incident. These specially trained resources may include crisis intervention team trained Officers, behavioral or mental health care providers, negotiators, qualified bilingual Officers, or Officers equipped with less-lethal devices,
 - e. Using time as a de-escalation strategy, thereby creating an opportunity to calm the non-compliant person,
 - f. Using simplified speech and shorter verbal directions or instructions,
 - g. Eliminating or reducing sensory distractions (bright flashing lights, sirens, or other loud noises), and
 - h. Any reasonable strategy that lessens the emotional anger, frustration, and combativeness of a subject or others who may be present may be appropriate.

Importantly, Officers should not default to attempting to resolve the incident immediately if slowing down the pace is viable and can be accomplished without creating an immediate threat to the public or

placing Officers in unreasonable danger.

C. **Core Principle Three:** Duty to Use Only Objectively Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional Force.

Officers shall use the least amount of force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to safely achieve the legitimate law enforcement objective under the circumstances.

1. Limitations on the use of force. In situations when Officers are justified in using force, Officers shall use only that degree of force that is reasonable, necessary, and proportional, considering the totality of the circumstances, including the subject's mental and physical condition, the nature of the offense, and most importantly, the level of resistance or threat known to the Officer at the time.
2. Considerations when using force. The decision to use force and the appropriate amount of force requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each incident. The Officer must, as time permits and is feasible, consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors when determining whether and how much force to apply:
 - a. Immediacy and severity of the threat to Officers or the public,
 - b. The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the Officer at the time,
 - c. Characteristics of the Officer and subject (e.g., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of Officers available vs. Subjects),
 - d. The effects of drugs or alcohol,
 - e. The individual's mental state or capacity,
 - f. The proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices,
 - g. The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and their ability to resist despite being restrained,
 - h. The availability of other options and possible effectiveness,
 - i. The seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual. For example, in dealing with minor offenses, such as motor vehicle or local ordinance violations, practicing procedural-justice techniques, such as explaining the Officer's actions and responding to questions before resorting to force, is particularly important,
 - j. The Officer's training and experience, and
 - k. The potential for injury to Officers, suspects, and the public.

It is important to note that law enforcement encounters are never static and rapidly evolve. Thus, Officers must continuously assess the effectiveness, proportionality, and necessity of their actions, including their tactical positioning, in order to decrease the likelihood of force being needed for self-protection. Officers may increase the time available to evaluate the threat by positioning an

object between themselves and the subject, being aware of their surroundings, and waiting for back-up when it is available.

3. Level of Resistance. The level of resistance that an Officer encounters is a key factor in determining the appropriate amount of force that may be used in response. Although it is not possible to determine in advance what the appropriate level of force is for every encounter, one factor that is consistent is the amount of resistance the Officer is facing at the time. The less resistance an Officer faces, the less force the Officer should use. Consistent with training, the following general rules apply in determining the appropriate level of force:
 - a. Cooperative Person. When dealing with a cooperative person, Officers may rely on police presence and/or verbal control techniques, but should not use force.
 - b. Passive Resistor. When dealing with a passive resistor, Officers may rely on police presence, verbal control techniques, holding techniques, lifting/carrying, wrist locks, and other manual pain compliance techniques. Greater force, such as strikes, punches, CEDs, or less lethal devices, shall not be used.
 - c. Active Resistor. When dealing with an active resistor, in addition to the options available for passive resistors, Officers may use physical strikes with hands or feet, OC spray, batons or asps applied with non-impact pressure, use CEDs under limited circumstances (see Section II.C.7), using less lethal devices under limited circumstances (see Section II.C.7), and taking the person to the ground. Intentional strikes to the head or face, which are only allowed in an act of self-defense, are not permitted when dealing with an active resistor. Police canines shall not be utilized against an active resistor.
 - d. Threatening Assailant. In general, when dealing with a threatening assailant, Officers may use all types of force options other than deadly force. This includes striking with batons or asps, less lethal ammunition, and CEDs. Although a range of force options is generally available, the Officer shall only use force that is proportional to the threat faced. Any strikes to the head or neck with a baton or asp are considered deadly force and can only be used when deadly force is allowed.
 - e. Active Assailant. In general, when dealing with an active assailant, Officers have all force options available, though deadly force shall only be used as a last resort in accordance with Core Principle Four of this Directive.

An individual's status evolves from a resistor to an assailant when they use force, threaten to use force, or otherwise act in an aggressive manner that increases the likelihood that they may cause physical injury to an Officer or to another person. However, flight from an Officer does not, on its own, qualify a person as an assailant. When dealing with an individual who poses a threat to the Officer, the individual could be considered either a threatening assailant or an active assailant. To determine the individual's status for appropriate Officer response, the Officer must assess whether the threat poses an imminent danger. If the threat is imminent, then that individual is considered an active assailant, and all use of force options are available, with deadly force being an absolute last resort in accordance with Core Principle Five of this

Directive.

Officers face a dynamic environment in which interactions with individuals can escalate very quickly from one level of resistance to another. For example, a passive resistor may become an active assailant in an instant. In responding to the level of resistance, the Officer may use the level of force that corresponds to the level of resistance the Officer is facing and need not use lesser levels of force that will not address the threat that the Officer faces at the time. If the individual's resistance diminishes, the Officer shall immediately reduce the level of force used against the individual. If the individual stops resisting entirely, the Officer must immediately cease using force.

4. Displaying of Firearms. Special requirements must be met before an Officer may display a firearm. Unholstering or pointing a firearm are tactics that should be used with great caution. The presence of an Officer's firearm, under the right circumstances, can discourage resistance and ensure Officer safety in potentially dangerous situations without the need to resort to force. At the same time, however, unnecessarily or prematurely drawing a firearm could limit an Officer's options in controlling a situation, could create greater anxiety on the part of citizens, and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm.
 - a. Unholstering a firearm. Consistent with training, Officers may unholster or otherwise display a firearm only when circumstances create a reasonable belief that the Officer is permitted to point a firearm at a person, or that unholstering or displaying the firearm may itself help establish or maintain control in a potentially dangerous situation.
 - b. Pointing a firearm. Consistent with training, Officers may point a firearm at a person only when circumstances create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary for the Officer to use deadly force. When the Officer no longer reasonably believes that deadly force may be necessary, the Officer shall, as soon as practicable, secure or holster the firearm.
 - c. Reporting the pointing of a firearm. Pointing a firearm, though not a use of force, constitutes a seizure that must be reported as a Show of Force on the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal.
 - d. Clarification of reporting requirements for tactical teams. An Officer engaged in the operation of a tactical team shall be required to report the pointing of a firearm only when the pointing involves a sustained active engagement with a person in order to gain that person's compliance. A member of a tactical team who quickly "sweeps" a room during an operation need not report each person at whom a firearm was momentarily pointed during the sweep.
5. Defensive Tactics & Pain Compliance Techniques. Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a passive or active resistor. Officers may only apply pain compliance techniques for which the Officer has received Department-approved training and only when the Officer reasonably believes that the use of such a technique is necessary to further a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. The potential for injury to the Officer(s) or others if the technique is not used,
- b. The potential risk of serious injury to the individual being controlled,
- c. Whether the pain compliance technique is effective in achieving an appropriate level of control, or a different technique should be employed,
- d. The nature of the offense involved,
- e. The level of resistance of the individuals involved,
- f. Whether immediate resolution is necessary,
- g. The application of any pain compliance technique shall be immediately discontinued once the Officer determines that compliance has been achieved or other more appropriate alternatives can reasonably be utilized, and
- h. Officers shall only use striking techniques directed at a subject's face as a means of self-defense or in the defense of others. Striking at a subject's face using fists, elbows, knees, and feet shall not be used as a means of pain compliance.

6. Positional asphyxiation.

- a. Officers must recognize the heightened risk of positional asphyxiation and compression asphyxiation during restraint and be alert to any actions that must be immediately taken to avoid or minimize the risk of asphyxiation. Positional asphyxia can occur when a person is restrained, handcuffed, or left unattended in any position that impedes their ability to breathe normally, particularly in a prone position. If the person cannot escape from the position, death may occur very rapidly. Thus, in the course of using force, Officers shall be alert to the following heightened risk factors for positional asphyxiation:
 - 1). Alcohol or drug intoxication,
 - 2). Possible mental health episodes or incidents,
 - 3). A substantially overweight individual,
 - 4). Possible suffering of respiratory muscle fatigue (exhaustion),
 - 5). Possible airway obstruction, and
 - 6). Unconsciousness.
- b. Officers shall take the following actions to reduce the risk of positional asphyxiation:
 - 1). As soon as handcuffed and restrained, a person should be immediately rolled to the side and taken to an upright position that does not impede the mechanism of normal breathing. This requirement is especially important when the subject is handcuffed face down in the prone position,

- 2). Care should be taken not to put sustained pressure on the neck or back, as breathing can be restricted even if the person is placed in the recovery position. This includes sitting, kneeling, or standing on a person's chest, back, or neck for a prolonged period of time,
 - 3). Officers shall continuously monitor the person's condition while being restrained, as death can occur suddenly and develop beyond the point of viable resuscitation within seconds. Whenever possible during team restraint, a "Safety Officer," with the responsibility to monitor the health and welfare of the person during restraint, should be designated.
 - 4). The arrested person must not be transported in the prone position, and
 - 5). The arrested person should be monitored prior to, during, and at the conclusion of the transport.
- c. Officers shall continually monitor the condition of the subject(s) in their custody for the following warning signs of positional asphyxiation:
- 1). Verbal complaints of being unable to breathe properly, although a person suffering breathing difficulties may not be able to complain about their crisis,
 - 2). Visual signs that the subject is struggling or exhibiting increased effort to breathe,
 - 3). Gurgling/gasping sounds with foam or mucus coming from the nose or mouth,
 - 4). Display of a heightened level of aggression during restraint, which may be a physiological response to fighting for air, such that any increased resistance during restraint of a person should be regarded with caution,
 - 5). Sudden behavioral changes, such as going from being violent and noisy to passive, quiet, and tranquil, or alternatively, suddenly becoming more aggressive,
 - 6). Blue discoloration of facial skin (cyanosis),
 - 7). Swelling, redness, or blood spots to the face or neck, and
 - 8). Any loss or a reduced level of consciousness.

7. Conducted Energy Devices.

- a. Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) are forms of mechanical force which may be utilized against:
 - 1). An active assailant, or

- 2). A threatening assailant, or
 - 3). An active resistor who will not voluntarily submit to custody after having been given a reasonable opportunity to do so, considering the exigency of the situation and the immediacy of the need to employ law enforcement force, or
 - 4). A person who is threatening to cause or attempting to cause death or serious bodily injury to themselves, or
 - 5). A fleeing suspect, if clear and convincing evidence exists to believe the suspect has committed a crime in which the suspect caused or attempted to cause death or serious bodily injury, or
 - 6). A fleeing suspect who, immediately prior to the flight, satisfies the definition of active assailant, whenever the pursuing Officer reasonably believes that upon reengagement the suspect will again become an active assailant. This provision is subject to the limitations in Section II.C.7.f (below) on the deployment of a CED against the operator of a moving vehicle.
- b. Attorney General Approval Requirement. No Officer of this Department shall purchase, possess, deploy, fire, or discharge any Conducted Energy Device unless that specific make and model has been formally approved by the New Jersey Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee pursuant to the Attorney General's Use of Force policy and Addendum A.
- c. Approved Conducted Energy Devices.
- 1). Only Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) that have been reviewed by the Attorney General's Advisory Panel on Conducted Energy and Less-Lethal Devices and formally approved by the Attorney General shall be purchased, issued, or deployed by this Department. Each approved CED shall automatically generate a date- and time-stamped digital record of every firing, electrical discharge, and activation event.
 - 2). All CEDs shall also be capable of recording a digital video of each discharge or, if the device does not include an internal camera, may be used only by an Officer who is equipped with a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) as defined in the Attorney General's most recent BWC Directive. In such cases, the Officer shall activate the BWC before discharging the CED, unless exigent circumstances make activation unsafe or infeasible.
 - 3). Data Integrity and Security. All digital data and video recordings generated by a Conducted Energy Device shall be automatically preserved and safeguarded. Such data may be accessed, copied, or erased only by Supervisory personnel specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, and only in accordance with Department evidence-management protocols. Any intentional alteration, deletion, or unauthorized access is strictly prohibited and shall result in administrative investigation and possible disciplinary or criminal action.

- a). In all instances when a Conducted Energy Device is fired at or discharged upon a person, a superior Officer designated by the Chief of Police shall immediately take custody of and secure the device and its data storage. The superior Officer shall safeguard and preserve all digital information concerning the incident. After the information is verified and safeguarded, the device may be returned to service consistent with Department procedures. Data from the device shall be preserved and attached to the Supervisory report required under this section.
- d. Authorized Officers.
 - 1). The Chief of Police shall determine which Officers, including Class II and Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers, are authorized to carry and use a Conducted Energy Device (CED) or other authorized less-lethal device or ammunition. Class I Special Law Enforcement Officers shall not be authorized.
 - 2). No Officer may carry or use a CED or less-lethal device during an actual operation unless expressly authorized by the Chief of Police and after successful completion of a Police Training Commission (PTC) or Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ)-approved training and qualification course in the proper use and deployment of the device.
 - 3). The Chief of Police shall ensure that all authorized Officers maintain current certifications and qualifications as required by the Attorney General and the Police Training Commission.
- e. Officers shall reevaluate the situation and reassess the need to use force before any second or subsequent firing, discharge, or utilization of the drive stun mode of the device against the same person. Any second or subsequent firing, discharge, or utilization of the drive stun mode of the device must be necessary and justified by the circumstances at that moment.
 - 1). Officer Safety Presence. When feasible, at least one law enforcement officer other than the deploying Officer shall be present during a CED deployment. That Officer shall be armed with lethal ammunition and prepared to employ alternative tactics should the CED prove ineffective. Deadly force may be used in this circumstance only as a last resort and when otherwise authorized under this Directive.
- f. CEDs shall not be utilized in the following manner:
 - 1). A CED shall not be used or threatened to be used to retaliate for any past conduct or to impose punishment.
 - 2). A CED shall not be used against a person who is a passive resistor.
 - 3). A CED shall not be used against an active resistor unless the subject refuses to voluntarily submit to custody after having been

given a reasonable opportunity to do so, considering the exigency of the situation and the immediacy of the need to employ law enforcement force.

- 4). A CED shall not be discharged for the sole purpose of preventing a person from committing property damage.
 - 5). A CED shall not be deployed against the operator of a moving vehicle unless the use of deadly force against the operator of the motor vehicle would be authorized.
 - 6). Two or more CEDs shall not be discharged upon a person at the same time.
 - 7). A single CED shall not be used simultaneously against two or more people, unless deadly force is authorized.
- g. Officers shall not direct an electrical charge or current against a person who is restrained by handcuffs unless the use of physical or other mechanical force options is not feasible or would be ineffective prior to CED activation.
- h. Multi-Probe Capability (Next-Generation CEDs)
- 1). Certain Attorney General-approved Conducted Energy Devices, such as the Taser Model 10, possess multi-probe or multi-cartridge capability. Officers shall be trained in and aware of the operational and safety considerations unique to these devices. Each activation or probe discharge—whether simultaneous or sequential—shall be treated as a distinct deployment for purposes of reporting, review, and analysis in accordance with this Directive and the Attorney General's Use of Force Portal requirements.
- i. Targeting Recommendations
- 1). Authorized Officers shall be familiar with and comply with all manufacturer-issued targeting recommendations, safety warnings, and operating parameters for each approved Conducted Energy Device. Officers shall not intentionally target the head, neck, or genital area unless deadly force is justified.
- j. Deployment Adjacent to Bodies of Water
- 1). When considering the deployment of a Conducted Energy Device (CED) adjacent to a body of water, Officers shall recognize that the primary danger is drowning, not electrocution. Before discharging a CED in such circumstances, Officers must evaluate their ability to safely effectuate a water rescue and shall not deploy the device if doing so would likely place the subject at risk of drowning without a feasible means of immediate rescue.
- k. Deployment Near Elevated Surfaces
- 1). Officers shall not deploy a CED against a person located on an elevated surface such as a roof, ledge, scaffold, or other position

from which a fall could cause serious injury, unless reasonable steps have been taken to prevent or minimize injury (for example, establishing a safety perimeter, deploying safety equipment, or repositioning Officers to mitigate fall risk).

- I. CEDs must be capable of making a digital recording of the encounter each time the device is utilized, unless the Officer carrying the CED is equipped with a Body-Worn Camera (BWC), as that term is defined in the BWC policy issued by the Attorney General. The Officer shall activate the BWC prior to utilization of the CED, unless exigent circumstances make it unsafe or not feasible for the Officer to do so.
- m. CED Dart/Probe Removal.
 - 1). Only Officers who have successfully completed Department-approved training in dart/probe removal are authorized to remove probes from a person's body.
 - 2). Officers shall not remove probes lodged in the head, neck, genital area, or female breast. In the absence of exigent circumstances requiring immediate action, probes located in these areas shall be removed only by qualified medical personnel.
 - 3). Officers shall document all probe-removal actions and ensure that removed probes are handled and stored as evidence in accordance with Department procedures.
- n. Medical Evaluation Following CED Deployment.
 - 1). Any individual against whom a Conducted Energy Device has been deployed shall receive medical evaluation consistent with Attorney General Directives. The subject shall be transported to a medical facility for examination if any of the following apply:
 - a). The individual requests medical attention,
 - b). The individual was rendered unconscious or unresponsive,
 - c). The individual does not appear to have recovered normally after the discharge, as described in CED training,
 - d). The individual exhibited signs of excited delirium before, during, or after CED deployment,
 - e). The individual suffered bodily injury requiring medical attention, or otherwise appears in need of such attention,
 - f). The individual was subjected to three (3) or more CED discharges during the encounter,
 - g). The individual was exposed to a continuous CED discharge lasting fifteen (15) seconds or longer,

- h). No personnel at the scene are trained and authorized to remove the CED darts/probes,
 - i). An authorized Officer experiences difficulty removing a dart/probe, or
 - j). Any portion of a dart/probe has broken off and remains embedded.
- o. In all instances when a Conducted Energy Device or other less-lethal device is fired or discharged during an actual operation, the deploying Officer shall complete all Department-required incident reports and shall submit a report in the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal.
- p. Reporting and Evaluation of CED and Less-Lethal Deployments.
 - 1). Whenever a Conducted Energy Device or less-lethal device is fired at or discharged upon a person, a higher-ranking Supervisor shall immediately investigate the circumstances and outcome of the device's use.
 - 2). The investigating Supervisor shall submit a written report to the Chief of Police detailing all relevant circumstances, deployment factors, and outcomes, including whether the deployment avoided Officer injury and the need to use deadly force.
 - 3). Upon receipt, the Chief of Police shall issue a report with a finding on whether the firing and discharges complied with the Attorney General's Use of Force policy.
- q. The Chief of Police shall forward the Supervisory report to the Camden County Prosecutor within ten (10) business days of the firing or discharge, unless the Prosecutor grants a reasonable extension for good cause. The County Prosecutor shall review the matter for compliance with the Attorney General's Use of Force policy.
- r. CED spark displays shall be considered constructive authority but must be reported as a Show of Force in the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal.
- s. Police administrators and Officers authorized to utilize CEDs and other authorized less lethal devices and ammunition are also required to adhere to the instructions contained in the Department's CED Directive.
- t. Training and Qualification Requirements.
 - 1). No Officer shall be authorized to carry or use a Conducted Energy Device or other less-lethal device during an actual operation until successfully completing a training course and qualification procedure approved by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC) or the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ).
 - 2). The training program shall include instruction on:
 - a). Techniques to de-escalate confrontations with persons of

different cultures or backgrounds, and

- b). Recognition of, and communication and de-escalation strategies for, individuals experiencing emotional or mental-health crises.
- 3). All Officers authorized to carry CEDs shall complete training that includes de-escalation, cultural competency, and mental health crisis response, and must re-qualify annually.
- 4). Officers shall remain current in all mandatory training courses required by the Attorney General, the PTC, and the County Prosecutor.
- u. Annual Re-Qualification.
 - 1). All Officers authorized to carry or use a CED or less-lethal device shall qualify and re-qualify annually in a course approved by the Police Training Commission or the DCJ. Failure to re-qualify within the required period shall result in immediate suspension of authorization to carry or use the device until successful re-qualification.
- v. Re-Qualification Instructors.
 - 1). Upon approval and designation by the County Prosecutor's Office, municipal police Officers or county sheriff's Officers may serve as "CED Re-Qualification Instructors" or "Less-Lethal Re-Qualification Instructors." Such instructors shall complete the same training required for Certified Instructors and may administer re-qualification courses only. They shall not conduct initial training except to train certified operators in newly approved CED models when authorized by the County Prosecutor. The Prosecutor's Office shall maintain a current list of all Re-Qualification Instructors.

8. Use of force for crowd management.

- a. The following restrictions and limitations on the use of force should be observed during peaceful demonstrations and civil disturbances. The generally applicable rules in this Directive apply to both peaceful demonstrations and civil disturbances, and in all cases, weapons or other devices should be carried and deployed only by trained and authorized Officers, and deployed consistent with this Directive.
 - 1). Prior to using force against people in a crowd, Officers shall:
 - a). Provide clear instructions and warnings in a manner that can be heard by persons in the crowd, such as through a bullhorn or speaker system when available, state the consequences of refusing to comply with a mandatory Directive, including that arrests will occur and force may be used unless persons comply, and
 - b). Give a reasonable opportunity to comply.

- 2). Force shall not be used against crowds engaged in peaceful demonstrations. The visible presence or deployment of canines for crowd control purposes is prohibited in peaceful demonstrations. Canines may be used for explosive detection or similar security sweeps at such gatherings.
- 3). Force may be used against specific individuals in a crowd for lawful purposes in accordance with the other provisions of this Directive. Restrictions apply to the use of certain types of force in a crowd as follows:
 - a). OC spray: (i) may be used against specific individuals who are active resisters, threatening assailants, or active assailants as defined in Section II.C.7.c above, (ii) shall not be used where bystanders would be unreasonably affected, and (iii) shall not be used against passive resisters, or indiscriminately against groups of people.
 - b). CEDs: (i) may be used against specific individuals who are active resisters, threatening assailants, or active assailants as defined in Section II.C.7.c above, (ii) may be used only when the individual can be accurately targeted, and (iii) shall never be fired indiscriminately into crowds, (iv) spark displays shall not be used to disperse and/or intimidate any person, group, or crowd.
 - c). Less-lethal ammunition: (i) may be used during civil disturbances only against specific individuals who are threatening or active assailants, and (ii) shall not be used during a civil disturbance against groups of individuals.
- 4). Force may be used against groups of people only if authorized by the Incident Commander (IC) and only when other means of gaining compliance with lawful Directives have been attempted and shown to be ineffective or are not feasible.
- 5). High-volume OC delivery systems are designed for, and may be used in, civil disturbances against groups of people engaged in unlawful acts resulting in, or creating an immediate risk of, bodily injury or significant property damage.
- 6). CS (2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile) chemical agents are primarily offensive weapons that shall be used with the utmost caution. Thus, CS:
 - a). May be deployed only by specially trained individuals who are part of a special tactical unit authorized to deploy such agents,
 - b). May be deployed only with the specific and express approval of the IC,
 - c). May be deployed defensively to prevent injury when lesser force options are either not available or would likely be ineffective, and

d). May be deployed only after an announcement is made and when avenues of egress are available to the crowd.

7). CN (phenacyl chloride) shall not be used in any instance.

8). Canines shall not be deployed against a crowd, except to respond to a threat of death or serious bodily injury to a member of the public or to an Officer.

D. **Core Principle Four: Duty to Use Deadly Force Only as an Absolute Last Resort and Duty to Avoid Actions Which Create a Substantial Risk of Death or Serious Bodily Injury.**

Deadly force shall only be used as an absolute last resort and in strict compliance with this Directive. Other actions by law enforcement that create a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury must be avoided or employed only under the strictest of conditions.

1. Deadly Force. Deadly force is force that an Officer uses with the purpose of causing, or that a reasonable Officer knows creates a substantial risk of causing, death, or serious bodily injury. Discharging a firearm constitutes deadly force, unless the discharge occurred during the course of a law enforcement training exercise, routine target practice at a firing range, a lawful animal hunt, or the humane killing of an injured animal.
2. Types of deadly force. Deadly force includes the following potentially lethal actions:
 - a. Applying a chokehold, carotid artery restraint (i.e., vascular neck restriction), or a similar technique that involves pressure on the neck,
 - b. Sitting, kneeling, or standing on a person's chest, back, or neck for a prolonged period of time, intentionally driving a vehicle at or in the direction of a person with the intent to strike the individual, and
 - c. Using a baton or other weapon to intentionally strike an individual in the head or neck area.
3. Requirements to use deadly force. Strict requirements must be met before an Officer may use deadly force. There are, however, occasions when deadly force is necessary to protect Officers and the public. An Officer may use deadly force only when the Officer reasonably believes that such action is immediately necessary to protect the Officer or another person from imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. Officers must adhere to the following:
 - a. As discussed in Core Principle Three, when feasible, Officers shall attempt to de-escalate situations, issue verbal warnings, or use non-lethal force with the goal of resolving encounters without using deadly force,
 - b. Officers shall not use deadly force if a reasonably available alternative will avert or eliminate an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury and achieve the law enforcement purpose safely,
 - c. When feasible, prior to using deadly force, the Officer shall identify themselves as a law enforcement officer and give a clear verbal warning

to the suspect that the Officer will use deadly force, and

- d. Officers shall not use deadly force when the use of deadly force creates a substantial risk of injury to innocent persons.
4. Force to apprehend a fleeing suspect. In addition to all of the requirements in Section II.D.3, an Officer may only use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing suspect in the rare case when the suspect's escape would create an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the Officer or a member of the public if the suspect is not immediately apprehended.
 5. Prohibited uses of deadly force.
 - a. There are specific circumstances in which the use of deadly force is prohibited. In general, Officers may not discharge their weapons or use other deadly force, as outlined above, in the following manner:
 - a). To signal for help,
 - b). To issue a warning shot,
 - c). To prevent property damage or loss,
 - d). To prevent the destruction of evidence. For example, under no circumstances shall an Officer use a chokehold, or any lesser contact with the neck area, in order to prevent the destruction of evidence by ingestion, or
 - e). Against a person who poses a threat only to themselves and not to others.
 - b. Chokeholds are prohibited except in extraordinary circumstances when the Officer's life is in danger and deadly force is authorized.
 - c. Neck restraints, vascular restraints, or carotid restraints are prohibited unless the Officer has received training in their use.
 6. Deadly force against individuals in a moving vehicle. Strict additional requirements must be met before an Officer may use deadly force against a driver or passenger of a moving vehicle. Moving vehicles create tremendous risk to Officers engaged in enforcement operations, particularly Officers attempting to arrest fleeing suspects. Officers must abide by the following guidelines:
 - a. During such operations, Officers shall never intentionally position themselves in the path of a moving vehicle or a vehicle that is likely to move,
 - b. Officers shall make every effort to move out of the path of a vehicle in order to maintain their safety,
 - c. Officers shall not grab onto moving vehicles or the drivers or occupants of moving vehicles. If a vehicle begins to move while an Officer is engaged with the driver or an occupant, the Officer shall, if feasible, disengage from the contact with the driver or occupant to avoid being dragged, carried, or struck by the moving vehicle, and while any firearm

discharge entails some risk, discharging a firearm at a moving vehicle entails an even greater risk to innocent persons and passengers because of the risk that the fleeing suspect may lose control of the vehicle. Due to this greater risk, and considering that firearms are not generally effective in bringing moving vehicles to a rapid halt, an Officer shall not fire at the driver or occupant of a moving vehicle, unless no other means are available at the time to avert or eliminate the danger and one of the following circumstances exists: (i) when there is imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the Officer or another person, created by a person in the vehicle using means other than the vehicle, such as when shots are being fired from the vehicle, or (ii) when the suspect is driving their vehicle toward persons other than the Officer in a manner creating an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, such as in a terrorist attack, or (iii) when the Officer is being dragged or carried by the vehicle, cannot disengage from the vehicle, and is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury.

7. Shooting from a moving vehicle. Strict additional requirements must be met before an Officer may shoot from a moving vehicle. Every discharge of a firearm by an Officer creates risk to the public and to other responding Officers. Firearms discharges from moving vehicles by law enforcement officers have proven to be inaccurate and ineffective, generally creating unacceptable levels of risk. Due to these risks, law enforcement officers shall not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle except in the following extraordinarily rare circumstances:

- a. When the suspect is driving a vehicle toward persons other than the Officer in a manner creating an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, such as in a terrorist attack, and
- b. No other means are available at that time to avert or eliminate the danger.

8. Vehicular Pursuits. Vehicular pursuits shall only be initiated, conducted, and terminated in strict compliance with the Department's Vehicle Pursuit policy, which implements the requirements of Addendum B of the New Jersey Attorney General Use of Force policy.

- a. Due to the risks to Officers and the public, Supervisors shall exercise enhanced control over all pursuits. Officers shall immediately notify a Supervisor upon initiation of a pursuit, and the Supervisor must authorize continuation in accordance with that Directive.

E. Core Principle Five: Duty to Intervene and Report.

Every Officer, regardless of rank, title, seniority, or status, has an affirmative duty to take steps to prevent any use of force that is illegal, excessive, or otherwise inconsistent with such policies, regulations, and laws, if possible, before a fellow Officer uses excessive, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate force. Every Officer has a duty to immediately report any improper use of force.

1. Duty to intervene. A law enforcement officer's duty to intervene is rooted in the commitment to always protect public safety. Interventions that prevent improper use of force will lead to fewer citizen complaints, fewer Officer disciplinary matters, higher morale, and a healthier working environment. Preventing misconduct preserves the integrity of all Officers and the law enforcement

profession. Intervening to prevent improper use of force can assist fellow Officers by preventing them from engaging in conduct that may be illegal, inappropriate, and in violation of this Directive.

- a. Thus, all Officers who observe another Officer about to use force that is illegal, excessive, or otherwise inconsistent with this Directive must, if feasible, do whatever they can to interrupt the flow of events before the fellow Officer engages in an improper use of force. Officers can serve each other and the public by simply saying or doing the right thing to prevent a fellow Officer from resorting to force illegally or inappropriately.
- b. Officers shall use signaling, verbal intervention, or physical intervention, if necessary, to stop any improper use of force. It is important to note that the duty to intervene does not stop at one Officer. It is the responsibility of all Officers to ensure use-of-force compliance. If Officers observe a situation where another Officer is attempting to intervene in an improper use of force, Officers shall assist in that effort.
- c. Duty to report illegal and inappropriate uses of force by other Officers. Any employee who observes or has knowledge of a use of force that is illegal, excessive, or otherwise inconsistent with this Directive or Department policies must (i) notify a Supervisor as soon as possible and (ii) submit an individual written report to a Supervisor before reporting off duty on the day the Officer becomes aware of the misconduct.
- d. Employees are prohibited from retaliating in any form against an employee who intercedes in or reports illegal or inappropriate uses of force.

F. Core Principle Six: Duty to Render Medical Assistance.

After any use of force, and when the environment is safe, Officers shall promptly render medical assistance to any injured person consistent with the Officer's training and shall promptly request emergency medical assistance for that person, if needed or requested. Officers also have a duty to monitor individuals for potential medical intervention after any Officer uses force.

1. Duty to Render Medical Assistance and Monitor. An Officer's duty to render medical assistance and monitor for potential medical intervention is particularly important following any use of force. When the force involves the use of OC spray, Officers shall take immediate action to address the effects of the OC spray, consistent with training.
 - a. The duty to render medical assistance and monitor applies to all Officers on scene and continues throughout any transportation and custody of the individual.
 - b. Officers shall pay particular attention to persons reasonably believed to be pregnant, children, the elderly, physically frail individuals, and those experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

G. Core Principle Seven: Duty to Report and Review Uses of Force.

Every use of force must be reported and receive a meaningful command-level review that includes review by the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police shall also conduct an annual review and analysis of the overall use of force by the Department. Notification.

Officers must immediately notify the Department of all use of force incidents greater than physical contact, and/or any firearm discharge. All uses of force greater than physical contact must immediately be reported to the Department's Real-Time Tactical Operations and Intelligence Center via radio transmission or landline. This requirement includes any intended discharge or unintended discharge of a firearm while an Officer is on or off duty, but does not include discharges during recreation, training, and/or qualification sessions. Documentation and reporting requirements required under this written Directive must be followed.

1. The on-duty watch commander must immediately notify Internal Affairs of all law enforcement incidents. Law enforcement incidents are defined as:
 - a. Any use of force by an Officer resulting in death,
 - b. Any use of force by an Officer resulting in serious bodily injury,
 - c. The death of any civilian during an encounter with an Officer,
 - d. The serious bodily injury of any civilian during an encounter with an Officer,
 - e. Any use of deadly force (including the discharge of a firearm as defined in Section II.D.1) by an Officer, regardless of whether such force resulted in injury,
 - f. The death of any civilian while in the custody of law enforcement,
 - g. The serious bodily injury of any civilian while in the custody of law enforcement.
2. Internal Affairs is responsible for notifying the Camden County Prosecutor's Office of all law enforcement incidents. This notification must occur before any investigation of the incident is undertaken, other than to establish situational awareness, secure the scene, and render medical assistance as required.
3. The Camden County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for the necessary notifications to the Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) Director or their designee.
4. Reporting. All Officers are responsible, always, for accurately and completely describing the facts and circumstances concerning any use of force incident, including articulating specific facts to explain an Officer's own decision to use force. The Department will impose discipline for any substantial omissions or misrepresentations.
 - a. Every use of force greater than physical contact must be documented and reported. Whenever an Officer uses a degree of force greater than physical contact, the Officer must complete the following reports prior to the end of their shift (where the Officer is unable to complete the required reports—a Supervisor shall complete the reporting requirements within 48 hours), and submit them through the appropriate Departmental chain of command:
 - 1). A State of New Jersey Use of Force Portal—Use of Force Report, and

- 2). A Department Blue Team—Use of Force Report, and
 - 3). An investigation report and/or supplementary report regarding the nature of the underlying incident (and indicating that the Officer has completed Use of Force Reports), with the following conditions: (i) In accordance with New Jersey Attorney General's Supplemental Directive Amending Attorney General's Directive 2019-4, Supervisors must not require Officers deploying force that results in death or serious bodily harm, being investigated by the Attorney General's Office, a county prosecutor's office, or DCJ to submit investigation or supplemental reports. Officers are still required to submit Use of Force reports. (ii) Only the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, a county prosecutor's office, or DCJ can order such reports. An Officer's statements to these entities can suffice as their report of the incident. (iii) Officers not directly involved in the use of force, but who have indirect involvement (e.g., secondary responders, assisting responders, witnesses, etc.), may be required to submit investigation reports upon approval of the lead investigating agency (i.e., New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Camden County Prosecutor's Office, or DCJ).
 - 4). A Conducted Energy Device Deployment Review Report (if a CED is used).
 - 5). An Informational Report (if a CED is used), and
 - 6). A Police Use of Deadly Force—Attorney General Notification Report (if applicable).
- b. The following additional reporting requirements apply to an Officer's actions that do not involve force greater than physical contact. An Officer who takes any of the following actions, if not otherwise reportable, must create a written incident report and/or supplementary report capturing the relevant facts and circumstances for each of the following situations:
- 1). Every instance where an Officer unintentionally discharges a CED or firearm, regardless of the reason.
 - 2). A firearm discharge to destroy an aggressive animal presenting an immediate threat to human life requires a State of New Jersey electronic use of force report, in addition to the investigation report.
 - 3). Every instance where an Officer takes an official action that results in or is alleged to involve force not greater than physical contact.
5. Command Level Review. Real-time command-level reviews are required for all use of force incidents. The meaningful command-level review of the incident shall be undertaken in real-time by the immediate Supervisor and the on-duty watch commander. The review shall include an examination of all available sources of information about the incident, including (i) any video of the incident, reports, Officer or other witness statements, medical records, and records of injuries, (ii) an analysis of whether force was used lawfully, compliant with this written Directive, and applied in a non-discriminatory fashion—ensuring Officers

are treating every person equally without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

- a. When the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, or Deputy Chief of Police uses force, the County Prosecutor's Office shall be notified and, consistent with this Directive, shall determine the process for the meaningful command-level review of the incident, which may include staff from the County Prosecutor's Office.
 - b. Supervisors have the following responsibilities: (i) Ensure all required reports and related documents are complete and submitted, review them for accuracy and completeness, and either reject and return for immediate corrections or approve. (ii) Review all relevant documents and information, including body-worn camera video and photographs, to assess the underlying incident and complete an Administrative Review Report. (iii) Log into Blue Team, review the submitted Blue Team Report, and either reject and return for corrections or approve, and (iv) Assemble all reports and relevant documents and immediately submit them to the Watch Commander.
 - c. Watch Commanders have the following responsibilities: (i) Ensure a Supervisor responds to the scene of any use of force incident without unnecessary delay to gather facts, preserve evidence, and ensure Department protocols are being strictly adhered to. (ii) Review all submitted reports, body-worn camera video, photographs, and any other relevant information or documents. (iii) Log into Blue Team, review the submitted Blue Team Report, and either reject and return for corrections or approve. (iv) Complete the Use of Force Command Review Report and forward it to Executive Command personnel. (v) Scan and attach the Use of Force Command Review Report and all submitted documents to the Blue Team report, and (vi) Forward the Blue Team Report with attachments to the Internal Affairs Unit in Blue Team and forward all paper documents to the Internal Affairs Office (2nd Floor) via inter-office mail.
6. Internal Affairs Review. Use of force incidents will be reviewed by Internal Affairs according to the set procedure. Once a Use of Force Administrative Review Packet has been completed and submitted, or in the case of incidents requiring investigation by the county prosecutor or attorney general, such investigation has concluded or been approved for bifurcated investigation, the following procedure will be followed:
- a. Review the Use of Force Administrative Review Packet to ensure all relevant documents are attached and signed, including:
 - 1). Command Review Report
 - 2). Sergeant Administrative Review
 - 3). Incident Report
 - 4). Use of Force Card
 - 5). Use of Force Report

- 6). Blue Team Report
 - 7). CAD Ticket
 - 8). Arrest Report (if applicable)
 - 9). Tickets/Summons
 - 10). Impound Report
 - 11). Victim Notification Report
 - 12). Medical Discharge Forms (if applicable)
 - 13). Victim Notification Form
 - 14). Photographs
 - 15). Any other additional documentation
- b. Review the Command Review Report for the Watch Commander's findings and whether the Officer(s) involved followed Department policies and procedures,
 - c. Review the Sergeant's Administrative Review for its findings and whether the Officer(s) utilized the Critical Decision-Making model,
 - d. Review the Incident Report to gain a situational understanding of the reason force was utilized,
 - e. Review the Officer's body-worn camera footage to ensure the force was necessary, proportionate, and reasonable,
 - f. Compare the Officer's actions as displayed on the body-worn camera footage with the Officer's Incident or Additional Information Report, Use of Force Report, and BlueTeam Report (repeat for all Officers who utilize force in each incident),
 - g. Review all other body-worn camera footage, including from responding Officers, to gain a full panoramic view of the incident,
 - h. Upload and link all documents into IAPro, along with all body-worn camera footage, Audio Log Transmissions, Blue Team Reports, witness Officers involved, and Administrative Review forms,
 - i. If there are no issues identified with the incident or the Administrative Review Packet, the incident is routed (via IAPro) and the hard copy of the Review Packet is provided to the Internal Affairs Commander for review,
 - j. If there are any issues identified with any application of force, documentation, or body-worn cameras, the Watch Commander (who reviewed the incident) and the reviewing Supervisor are contacted and made aware of the issue(s) and provided a date as to when the issue(s) must be resolved and corrected,

- k. Any employee whose action(s) or use of force in an official capacity result in death or serious bodily injury to any person must be promptly removed from operational assignment(s) pending the outcome of the investigation.

7. Investigation.

- a. If any criminal or rule violations are identified, an Internal Affairs complaint is generated and investigated as follows:
 - 1). Minor rule infractions may be forwarded to Command Level for corrective action.
 - 2). Administrative misconduct must be investigated within the Office of Internal Affairs; any such investigation is secondary to the county prosecutor or the attorney general's investigation. However, a bifurcated investigation may be authorized by the Chief of Police with the consent of the county prosecutor.
 - 3). Law enforcement incidents as defined in Section II.G.1 of this Directive must be investigated at the direction of the Camden County Prosecutor. DCJ may supersede the investigation where there may be a conflict or if the matter is better handled at the state level.
 - 4). Criminal misconduct must be investigated at the direction of the Camden County Prosecutor. DCJ may supersede the investigation where there may be a conflict or if the matter is better handled at the state level.
- b. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Professional Standards Division Commander shall review and make a recommendation of what action, if any, should be undertaken, including commendation of the Officer, policy changes, remedial training, administrative action, disciplinary action, or, if appropriate, referral for criminal prosecution.
- c. If training issues are identified, the issues are brought to the attention of the Administration, Personnel & Logistics Bureau Commander. Once the issue is confirmed, the Professional Development and Training Division shall be contacted via an EIS Request for Training. The agency trainers should examine and analyze the use of force incident, including any BWC or other video evidence, with the Officer as a training tool. This examination should analyze the circumstances that led to the use of force as well as the force that was used, so that the Officer can gain insight into which tactics and decisions were effective and whether different tactics or decisions could have been used to improve the outcome.
- d. The Administration, Personnel & Logistics Bureau Commander, shall review each use of force investigation and approve or reject the recommendations. Upon review, the Chief of Police shall determine final approval or rejection. The Chief's decision shall be memorialized and retained in the use-of-force investigative file.

8. Annual Review and Analysis.

- a. The Chief of Police shall conduct an annual review of use of force incidents. The review shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- 1). Analytical reports from the attorney general's use of force portal,
 - 2). An audit of Body-Worn Cameras and other videos on a risk-based and randomly selected basis,
 - 3). Any internal affairs complaints,
 - 4). An analysis of the uses of force to ensure that force is being applied without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
 - 5). An analysis of the uses of force to identify any broad patterns or trends that could indicate Directive ineffectiveness, training needs, equipment upgrade needs, and/or Directive modification needs, and
 - 6). An analysis of the uses of force to identify any pattern or practice of behavior by particular Officers that could warrant intervention, remediation, and/or re-training.
 - 7). Examples of some analytical categories may include, but are not limited to:
 - 8). Use of force by time of day and day of week,
 - 9). Use of force by type of location (e.g., business, residential, or industrial),
 - 10). Use of force by type of incident,
 - 11). Use of force by Officer/detective involved,
 - 12). Use of force by division, bureau, unit,
 - 13). Use of force by person's actions,
 - 14). Use of force by type (e.g., deadly force),
 - 15). Use of force resulting in injury to personnel,
 - 16). Use of force resulting in injury to actors,
 - 17). Use of force resulting in arrests,
 - 18). Percentage of use of force vs. total number of custodial arrests.
- b. Based on that thorough review and analysis, the Chief of Police shall determine whether changes in Departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment are appropriate. The Chief of Police shall then provide a written report documenting the annual review to the County Prosecutor. Each County Prosecutor's Office and each statewide law enforcement agency shall make its report to the OPIA.

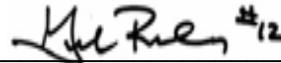
OTHER PROVISIONS

All personnel are responsible for adhering to the requirements of this written Directive until rescinded or amended by written order of the Chief of Police. Employees have an ongoing and continuous responsibility to seek guidance and verify their understanding of this and all directives, including orders, policies, procedures, and rules. This Directive shall take effect 11/9/2025 and remain in force and effect unless and until it is repealed, amended, or superseded by Order of the Chief of Police. All directives not expressly altered by this order remain in full force and effect.

The provisions of this Directive shall be severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this Directive is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of the Directive shall not be affected.

Non-enforceability by third parties. This Directive is issued pursuant to the Chief of Police's authority to ensure the uniform and efficient enforcement of the laws and administration of criminal justice by department members. This Directive imposes limitations that may be more restrictive than the limitations imposed under the United States and New Jersey Constitutions, as well as federal and state statutes and regulations. Nothing in this Directive shall be construed in any way to create any substantive right that may be enforced by any third party.

By Order of



Chief Gabriel Rodriguez # 12
Chief of the Department

Attest:



Michael Shomo # 149
Assistant Chief