

RECOMMENDATION SUBMISSION AND RESPONSE FORM

2019 UOF #12

DISCUSSED BY SPCRC		APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED	X	PENDING FURTHER REVIEW	
RECEIVED BY SPD	12/31/2019	APPROVED AND PENDING		SPD UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT	
RETURNED TO SPCRC	10/09/2023	PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION		DENIED	

SPCRC RECOMMENDATION

GO 580.02 Use of Force

SPD policy under-emphasizes the need for de-escalation during police encounters.

Amend GO 580.02(B)(6): Provide increase focus on de-escalation using the following language:

6. A peace officer shall attempt to control an incident through sound tactics, including the use of time, distance, communications, tactical repositioning, and available resources, in an effort to reduce or avoid the need to use force whenever it is safe, feasible, and reasonable to do so. ~~When feasible under the totality of the circumstances and where it may be accomplished without increasing the risk of harm to officers or others, officers should attempt to de-escalate situations.~~

SPCRC RECOMMENDATION RATIONALE

Criminal justice researchers shows that de-escalation training in police departments can make police encounters with the public safer for everyone, reducing the use of force incidents, citizen injuries and officer injuries.

SPD RESPONSE

GO 580.06 (De-Escalation and Planned Response – [link](#)) was produced on 12/01/2020 and complies with the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force. This policy focuses on the role of law enforcement and provides concepts to safely resolve situations based on concepts of planning, time, assessment, and communication.

Starting in 2021, the Critical Decision-Making Model has been instructed in the police academy and mandatory annual Continued Professional Training ([link](#)).

Additionally, in 2021, SPD's use of force policy was updated to reflect AB392 and contains a verbatim citation of Penal Code § 835a. This revision contains the following:

A. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

5. DE-ESCALATION - Taking action or communicating verbally or nonverbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the UOF or with a reduction of the force necessary. De-escalation tactics include, but are not limited to, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.

6. CRISIS INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES (CIT) - A collaborative approach to safely and effectively address the needs of people with mental illnesses, link them to appropriate services, and divert them from the criminal justice system if appropriate. The primary goal of CIT is to improve peace officer and mental health consumer safety while reducing injuries to peace officers and consumers during law enforcement contacts. Crisis intervention techniques include using distance, time, verbal tactics, or other tactics to de-escalate a situation.

As of October 2023, a revision of the department's use of force policy retains the verbatim citation of Penal Code § 835a.

Lastly, the ongoing revision of the department's use of force policy contains the following:

- Compliance with Government Code § 7286 ([link](#))

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

N/A

APPENDIX

N/A