

The tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the subsequent #8CantWait movement has, understandably, raised a lot of questions about use of force policies and tactics for police departments across the country. The Greenville Police Department has created a FAQ sheet to help address these important questions.

**Does the Greenville Police Department require officers to de-escalate situations, when possible, before using force?**

Yes. Section 4.1.1 of GPD policy specifically states “When time and circumstances reasonably permit, officers shall use de-escalation tactics in order to reduce the need for force.”

**Does the Greenville Police Department use a force continuum or matrix that defines/limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific types of resistance?**

Yes. Section 4.1.1 of GPD policy states “the response to resistance and aggression by police officers of the Greenville Police Department will be progressive in nature whenever possible.” Progressive use of force includes de-escalation tactics and techniques, use of verbal force and officer presence, use of physical force without weapons, followed by intermediate force (OC-Spray, TASER, Expandable Baton, Police Canine, Specialized Weapons) and, as a last resort, deadly force.

**Does the Greenville Police Department restrict chokeholds and strangleholds (including carotid restraints) to situations where deadly force is authorized?**

Yes. GPD’s Use of Force policy (4.3.2) states “the Greenville Police Department does not authorize the use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques as a routine response to resistance aggression (RRA). Annual in-service RRA training will include the progression of force to include verbal, physical, non-lethal, and lethal.” Chokeholds and strangleholds are not a part of the State of North Carolina Subject Control and Arrest Techniques (SCAT) training.

**Does the Greenville Police Department require officers to give a verbal warning, when possible, before using deadly force and do you require officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before resorting to using deadly force?**

Yes. GPD policy (4.1.1) states “A police officer may use deadly force only when that officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life, including the officer’s own life, or in the defense of any person, including him or herself, in immediate, imminent danger of serious bodily injury. A police officer will apply deadly force under these circumstances only as a last resort, and where practicable, will first give a verbal warning. Excessive use of any type of force will not be tolerated.”

**Does GPD policy prohibit officers from shooting at people in moving vehicles unless the person poses a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle (for example, shooting at people from the vehicle)?**

Yes. Per section 4.1.1 of GPD’s Use of Force Policy, police officers are not to discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle except as a necessary measure of self-defense or defense of another when the suspect is using deadly force.

**Does GPD require officers to intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force?**

Chapter 26 of our policy clearly states that an employee is considered negligent in their performance of duties if their act **or failure to act** causes, may cause, or results in death or bodily injury or creates

conditions that increase the chance for death or bodily injury to an employee, to members of the public, or to a person for whom the employee has responsibility.

**Does GPD require comprehensive reporting that includes both uses of force and threats of force?**

Yes. Per section 4.2.1 of GPD policy, anytime an employee uses physical force or points a firearm directly at a person, they must make a complete written Response to Resistance and Aggression (RRA) Report to his or her supervisor. Response to resistance reports (RRA) should be completed no sooner than 24 hours after the incident has occurred to allow for accurate recall of the incident. Reports must be submitted in writing to an officer's supervisor within 72 hours of an incident. Every use of force report is logged, tracked and reviewed by the Office of Internal Affairs. All RRA reports are also reviewed by the designated Bureau Commander and Chief of Police.

**Do GPD officers wear body worn cameras?**

Yes. GPD requires officers to activate their body worn cameras (BWC) when interacting with the public on a call for service, a traffic stop, or an arrest, among other things. Once activated, the BWC recording shall be continuous throughout the duration of the interaction. The full policy regarding GPD's use of body worn cameras can be found in Chapter 41 of GPD policy.

**Are GPD officers required to partake in biased-based training?**

Yes, GPD officers are required to partake in biased-based training on an annual basis. Officers also receive training on implicit bias, procedural justice and legitimacy, crisis intervention, and mental health. These training programs bring to the forefront the issues of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation and mentally challenged individuals.