

Memorandum

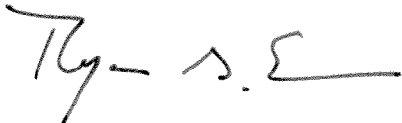


DATE: August 14, 2009

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Use of Force Reporting**

Attached is briefing material on the "Use of Force Reporting" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, August 17, 2009.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

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Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Tom Perkins, City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council



Use of Force Reporting

Public Safety Committee

August 17, 2009



Dallas Police Department

Use of Force

- The Use of Force must be examined from two perspectives:
 - Resistance (Subject)
 - Control (Officer)
- Only *necessary* force is justified. Any force above that act would be unjustified and the goal of control violated.
- The appropriate level of force will be determined by the facts that are reasonably apparent to the officer at the time of an incident.



Accreditation & Use of Force Reporting

- **CALEA** (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) requires a use of force report be generated under the following circumstances:
 - An officer discharges a firearm
 - Use of force results in injury or death
 - A lethal or less than lethal weapon is utilized
 - Weaponless physical force is employed by the officer



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

- CALEA is a national accrediting program for law enforcement agencies. CALEA's purpose is to establish a body of professional standards and administer an accreditation process based on these standards.
- Benefits of CALEA accreditation:
 - Provides comprehensive written directives
 - Establishes performance standards to reduce risk exposures and limit liabilities
 - Requires thorough reports and analyses for police commanders in order that they can make better informed management decisions
 - Strengthens an agency's accountability, which can in turn improve its relationship with the community



Policy Purpose and Benefits

- Purpose

- Establish a reporting system for effective review and analysis
- Identify trends
- Improve training and employee safety
- Provide timely incident information

- Benefits

- Enhances departmental credibility through public reporting
- Potential for increased liability protection
- Creates a single data base vs. individual arrest or incident reports
- Allows quick development of comprehensive reports and queries
- Ensures all relative information is captured due to required data fields
- Requires uniform terminology in incident reporting



Use of Force Report Entry

- Report is accessed by reporting officers through DPD Intranet
- Completed reports are reviewed by first line supervisors
 - Accuracy
 - Completeness
 - Compliance with policy
- Reports are then forwarded through the chain of command for continued review
- After review and approval by the Division Commander, the form will be entered into the Use of Force database



Policy Implementation

- Department General Order established requiring use of force reporting
- On-line computer training for all personnel
- Roll Call Training Bulletin distributed
- Training for all field DPD supervisors
- Implementation will start upon completion of training



Data Review and Reports

- A Use of Force data summary will be completed monthly for management review
- A formal analysis of all Use of Force reports will be conducted each calendar year
- Results will be included in an annual report to the Chief of Police
- The annual report will also be accessible to the public through the Dallas Police Department Internet website

Questions?