

FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT



To: Citizens of the City of Franklin

Re: Response to the “8cantwait” campaign

From: Chief Rick Oliva

The following is in response to inquiries about our commitment to the “8cantwait” campaign. The campaign lists 8 policies/procedures recommended to “decrease police violence”. I will respond to each recommendation as how the Franklin Police Department (FPD) currently does business.

Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds - FPD policy states that an officer’s use of force must be a trained technique. The FPD does not, nor has it ever, trained officers in chokeholds or strangleholds.

Require De-Escalation - FPD officers are all trained in De-Escalation techniques and they receive yearly In-Service refresher training in de-escalation. In addition, FPD officers are provided Crisis Intervention Training which teaches de-escalation methods when interacting with persons in a mental health crisis.

Require Warning Before Shooting - FPD policy requires officers to identify themselves as law enforcement officers and state their intentions to shoot prior to discharging their firearm, where practicable. Please understand that an officer’s combined time for him/her to perceive a threat and react, known as the perception-reaction time, generally ranges from .7 seconds to 1.5 seconds in a shoot/don’t shoot situation. Some situations do not allow for a warning.

Exhaust all Alternatives Before Shooting – Discharge of a firearm is only authorized in deadly force situations. Deadly force is only authorized to stop the threat of imminent great bodily harm or death to the officer or another person. FPD policy states it’s a method of last resort.

Duty to Intervene - FPD’s Code of Ethics, Oath of Honor, and Rules have inherent obligations to intervene. FPD policy states that any officer present and observing another officer using excessive force or unlawful conduct has an affirmative obligation to intercede and report.

Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles - FPD policy states that officers are not justified in using their firearm to fire at or from a moving vehicle except as the ultimate measure of self-defense or defense of another i.e. in deadly force situations.

Establish Use of Force Continuum - FPD officers are all trained in the Use of Force continuum consistent with State of Wisconsin Training and Standards. Officers receive annual re-fresher training in Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) which includes the use of force continuum. See our previous post explaining the use of force continuum.

Require All Force Be Reported - FPD policy requires a report anytime an officer uses a physical intervention option/use of force. The officer’s actions are reviewed by the officer’s immediate supervisor, the officer’s commanding officer, the Assistant Chief of Police and the Chief of Police. Issues, if any, are rectified by training and/or discipline.

THE SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO AVOID AN OFFICER’S USE OF FORCE IS TO COOPERATE WITH AN OFFICER’S INSTRUCTIONS.