



Chief of Police  
Sean W. Thuilliez

# BEAUMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To our residents, visitors and business owners of Beaumont,

The City of Beaumont holds its police department to high standards of service delivery to the community. The Beaumont Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to protect the public welfare and to use reasonable force requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests. The Beaumont Police Department has a history of judicious, lawful and minimal use of force that is constrained by policy, laws, training, supervision, progressive thinking, accountability, transparency, community engagement, and community expectations. We are a 'learning organization' continuously seeking to improve and enhance our commitment to protect and preserve life.

Communities across the nation are enraged by the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police. This presents an opportunity for all law enforcement agencies to review policies and training in use of force. We are deeply saddened and disturbed by the tactics used in the killing of George Floyd. We do not train our officers to do that. Each use of force by our officers are investigated by a supervisor and reviewed by our police management team to ensure it is within policy. Uses of deadly force are investigated by a third party (the Riverside County Sheriff's Department) and ultimately reviewed by the Riverside County District Attorney's office. Any uses of force that are outside policy or are a violation of law will subject the officer(s) to discipline and/or criminal prosecution.

Many agencies are being scrutinized even more now on their practices to ensure they are reducing harms and that their policies are focused on reduction of use of force and officer involved shootings. In response to questions about our use of force policies and specifically those generated by the [www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org) which is sponsored by Campaign Zero, which is a community activist group, but is not a subject matter expert in matters of policing or police policy development. We are posting this information to assist the community in its understanding of the Beaumont Police Department's policies.

The Beaumont Police Department relies on the Lexipol policy platform to host our policy manual and to also provide daily training bulletins. This ensures that our personnel are consistently exposed to policy and are tested on various aspects of it each day they are at work. Lexipol is the leading platform for comprehensive public safety and local government agency policy development, to ensure our staff have the most up-to-date resources to carry out their duties and ensure public safety. Lexipol's group of expert attorneys develop evidence-based, legally defensible policies. The Beaumont Police Department reviews and updates the policy manual every six months.

The 8cantwait campaign has identified the following areas of focus in the training

reduction of harms and death:

- Require de-escalation
- Duty to intervene
- Require warning before shooting
- Exhaust all other means before shooting
- Require comprehensive reporting
- Ban chokeholds and strangleholds
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles
- Require use of force continuum

Below are the BPD policies that align with the 8 pillars specified in the 8 policies to reduce police use of force:

1. Require officers to de-escalate situations –

*466.6 DE-ESCALATION Officers should consider that taking no action or passively monitoring the situation may be the most reasonable response to a mental health crisis. Once it is determined that a situation is a mental health crisis and immediate safety concerns have been addressed, responding members should be aware of the following considerations and should generally:* • Evaluate safety conditions. • Introduce themselves and attempt to obtain the person's name. • Be patient, polite, calm, courteous and avoid overreacting. • Speak and move slowly and in a non-threatening manner. • Moderate the level of direct eye contact. • Remove distractions or disruptive people from the area. • Demonstrate active listening skills (e.g., summarize the person's verbal communication). • Provide for sufficient avenues of retreat or escape should the situation become volatile.

*Responding officers generally should not:* • Use stances or tactics that can be interpreted as aggressive. • Allow others to interrupt or engage the person. • Corner a person who is not believed to be armed, violent or suicidal. • Argue, speak with a raised voice or use threats to obtain compliance.

*Policy 308.9 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation.*

2. Require officers to intervene – *Policy 300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law should promptly report these observations to a supervisor.*

3. Require officers to give a verbal warning – *Policy 308.9.2 Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices. Policy 309.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS. A verbal warning of the intended use of the CED should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to: Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the CED may be deployed.*

4. Restrict or prohibit chokeholds and strangleholds – *Policy 303.3.4 CAROTID CONTROL HOLD This is prohibited.*

5. Prohibit officers from shooting at moving vehicles – *Policy 300.4.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. Officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others. Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.*

6. Require officers to exhaust all of the options (before resorting to deadly force) – Policy 300.4 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS *If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. The use of deadly force is only justified in the following circumstances (Penal Code § 835a). Refer to attached policy for further restrictions on the use of deadly force.*

7. Use a continuum of force -300.2 POLICY *The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties. Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties. The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests. 300.3.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE* *When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit.*

8. Required comprehensive reporting – Policy 300.5 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE *Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes, the Department may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in department policy, procedure or law. Policy 344.1.1 REPORT PREPARATION* *Employees should ensure that reports are sufficiently detailed for their purpose and free from errors prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the assigned employee to complete and submit all reports taken during the shift before going off-duty unless permission to hold the report has been approved by a supervisor. Generally, reports requiring prompt follow-up action on active leads, or arrest reports where the suspect remains in custody should not be held. Policy 344.2.1 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY* *When a member responds to a call for service, or as a result of self-initiated activity becomes aware of any activity where a crime has occurred, the member shall document the incident regardless of whether a victim desires prosecution.*

The Police Chief reports directly to the non-political, non-partisan City Manager. Matters of employee discipline, including complaints, and the Police Department's disciplinary review boards are coordinated with the City's Human Resources division and the City Attorney's Office; both entities are completely independent of the Police Department.

The goal of our policies is to guide and protect the officers while they protect the community and manage risk for the City. I am confident the policies adopted by the Beaumont Police Department are consistent with law, best practices and our community's best interests. Our officers deftly use policy, training, and most importantly their good judgement to deal with a never-ending barrage of situations where split-second decision making is necessary.

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