



WHERE WE STAND

A Comprehensive Look at the Aurora Police Department

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

De-escalation is part of the culture and ongoing training for department staff. APD's policy was developed in alignment with the final report from The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and concepts of Procedural Justices that ensures actions by our officers are proportional, legal, authorized, necessary and ethical.

WHEN TO APPLY FORCE

Officers are trained to apply force only as a last resort. APD's training is specifically developed to focus on de-escalation. We believe in using human influence and respect to produce a positive outcome. If a situation does escalate, officers are required to give verbal commands, if they are able to, before using any force.

CHOKEHOLDS BANNED BY APD

APD policy does not permit any employee to apply direct pressure to the throat, windpipe or airway of a person with the intent to reduce or prevent the intake of air (chokehold). The use of the carotid artery control hold is also strictly prohibited.

FIRING AT VEHICLES

APD officers are trained to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle, instead of discharging their firearm. Officers are trained to only discharge their firearm if there is no other means to avert the threat of the vehicle and deadly force is justified. For instance, if the vehicle is being used as a weapon towards the officer or others.

DUTY TO INTERCEDE

Any APD employee has a duty to intercede if they observe a use of force that is clearly beyond what is reasonable and to prevent the use of unreasonable force. Any employee who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law is required to report the observations to a supervisor.

USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

APD officers receive extensive de-escalation training and are taught to only use the amount of force that is reasonably necessary in response to the perceived threat. Additionally, officers are required to exhaust all other means, if they are able to, before shooting.

OFFICER TRAINING

APD has one of the most rigorous training programs in the state for officers throughout the year. Each year, every officer is required to attend six 8-hour training sessions. During every scenario-based training exercise, de-escalation tactics are always taught and practiced as the first step.

REPORTING USE OF FORCE

APD tracks ALL use of force incidents using a software program called "Blue Team." We require officers to write use of force reports anytime force is used. They are required to also document when officers use a show of force, like removing their weapon from their holster.

VETTING OFFICERS

During the hiring process, officers undergo an extensive psychological exam designed to weed out candidates that would pose a risk to the integrity of the profession, including a test to determine if the officer possesses bias against any protected class. In addition, a comprehensive background check is conducted to determine if the officer has any history of violence, abuse, or discrimination.

OFFICER COMPLAINTS

APD's Office of Professional Standards investigates and tracks complaints on officers and applies progressive discipline that may result in suspension or termination. In addition, software used by our Office of Professional Standards automatically flags officers that have multiple complaints and multiple instances of use of force for further investigation.

BETTER TOGETHER

Much of what we do is consistent with the report from The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report, including APD's major focus on relational-based policing with our Community Oriented Policing (COP) Unit. We have created partnerships with our local businesses, community groups and religious organizations. APD has created and implemented a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to respond to mental health incidents within the community.

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

APD has made significant changes in the past 10 years to become one of the most progressive police departments in the state. But, we can always do better and we need the community's help. APD wants to hear from you and we'll be implementing listening sessions and ways you can reach out and talk to us directly. To get better, we have to come together as #OneAurora.