



WE DID NOT WAIT

WHERE WE HAVE STOOD SINCE 2015

**A comprehensive look at your
Petaluma Police Department...**

Dear Petaluma Community Members,

As your Chief of Police, representing all Petaluma Police Officers and Professional Staff, I have stated our outrage and sorrow regarding the criminal actions of police officers at the Minneapolis Police Department that led to the death of George Floyd. In response to this incident and others, I wanted to provide our Petaluma community with a current look at our Department's policies that seek to reduce police use of force incidents.

Upon release in 2015, your Police Department adopted and implemented the principles and best practices from Former President Barack Obama's [Task Force Report on 21st Century Policing](#). The report focused on six themes and six pillars: **Changing the Culture of Policing, Embracing Community Policing, Ensuring Fair and Impartial Policing, Building Community Capital, Paying Attention to Officer Wellness and Safety, and Utilizing Technology**. The pillars were identified as **Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Training and Education, Officer Safety and Wellness**. Additionally, the report contained numerous recommendations and action items. We immediately provided the report to our entire staff, evaluated our own policies and practices related to the report, and have used it as a guiding document for change in how we provide our public safety services and function as a police organization. This report, which includes **Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy** is widely viewed as a standard for police leaders and departments everywhere regarding police reform, and I am proud to say we have adopted the recommendations in our Department.

Since 2015, California has been leading the way and providing a model for national efforts regarding policing. Below are State laws in place that apply and are relevant to our Police Department policies:

Assembly 392 (Weber)/Senate Bill 230 (Caballero): Peace officers: deadly force - Beginning 2019, the California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) led law enforcement stakeholders in discussions that ultimately set a new legal standard for peace officers' use of deadly force in California (AB 392, Weber), and CPCA sponsored legislation, which set national precedent by establishing a minimum use of force policy standard for all departments (SB 230, Caballero). This law was adopted into law effective in January 2020 and is reflected in current PPD policies.

Senate Bill 1421 (Skinner): Peace officers: release of records - Starting January 1, 2019, sections of the Penal Code which generally made all peace officer personnel records and information confidential and exempt from disclosure, except by motion in a criminal, civil, or administrative action were amended. The bill created exceptions that now allow the public to obtain peace officer records relating to the report, investigation, or findings of incidents regarding an officer-involved shooting at a person, the use of force by an officer resulting in death or great bodily injury, involving a sustained finding of sexual assault by an officer involving a member of the public, or a sustained finding of dishonesty by an officer directly related to the reporting, investigation, or prosecution of a crime or an investigation of misconduct by another officer. All PPD policies have been updated to reflect this state law.

Assembly Bill 748 (Ting): Peace officers: release of records - Starting July 1, 2019, this bill amended Government Code Section 6254 requiring the release of video or audio recordings of incidents involving a discharge of a firearm and any use of force by an officer against a person resulting in death or great bodily injury. Recordings are to be made publicly available via PRA request within 45 days of the incident, with limited exceptions. PPD policies have been updated and the Department has not had an incident to report.

Senate Bill 978 (Bradford): -Law enforcement agencies: public records - Starting January 1, 2020, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and all California police agencies were required to post on their website all current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials that would otherwise be released via a PRA request. PPD policies were updated and all required information is posted on our Department's transparency portal web page.

On June 3, 2020, Former President Obama called on Mayors to "take the pledge to address police use of force policies in their cities. This can be found at <https://www.obama.org/mayor-pledge/>. The City has committed to engaging our community by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories, then reviewing our use of force policies, reporting the findings of the same back to the community, and evaluating and refining our policing policies.

To start the community engagement there are eight points regarding police use-of-force policies that are drawn from Former President Barack Obama's **Police Use of Force Project** and **The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**. The Petaluma Police Department has incorporated all of the recommendations and we are continuing to conduct further review of our policies. Below we address each of the eight points and how our Department is addressing these policy considerations. We encourage you to review our policies which directly align with the spirit of these recommendations as we continue to work with you to ensure our policies reflect our community's values. Please know, we stand with you Petaluma.

Ken Savano
Chief of Police

BAN CHOKEHOLDS & STRANGLEHOLDS



The use of “chokeholds” & “strangleholds” are not authorized for use by Petaluma Police Officers.

The use of the carotid control hold is prohibited by the Petaluma Police Department except as an alternative to lethal force in situations where there are no other options available to the officer to protect themselves or someone else from death or great bodily injury.

Effective June 9, 2020 use of the carotid restraint has been suspended.



Body-Worn Cameras

We began our BWC program in 2015. Officers are required to activate cameras when responding to calls for service including all enforcement and investigative stops, and field interviews. In 2019, we received a grant to upgrade our BWC system to a state-of-the-art cloud-based system.

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The men & women of the PPD are committed to Procedural Justice giving everyone voice, being neutral, treating everyone with dignity and respect, and being trustworthy and having the goodwill of our community members in mind before ourselves. We are focused on reducing crime, increasing traffic safety, improving the quality of life for everyone, and engaging our community.

*Ken Savano
Chief of Police*

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REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

The Petaluma Police Department trains all officers in de-escalation techniques.



De-escalation training is required for all officers, which reduces the likelihood of use-of-force encounters. Officers are expected to utilize de-escalation techniques whenever possible.

VERBAL WARNINGS

Prior to any use of force, our officers are trained to identify themselves as peace officers and to give a verbal warning that force may be used.

Officers are trained to make every effort to peacefully resolve situations without having to use force.





EVALUATE ALL REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES



Petaluma Police Officers are trained to consider the totality of the circumstances, and to evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force.

They are also trained to use only the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary.

DUTY TO INTERVENE



Petaluma Police Officers are trained and required to intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. Officers who observe another officer use force that exceeds the degree of force reasonably necessary are trained and required to intercede and to promptly report these observations to a supervisor.



BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES



Our policy restricts shooting at moving vehicles. 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.

Justification for shooting at a moving vehicle is extremely rare, but incidents like the 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino reveal shooting at a moving vehicle may be necessary for extreme events to protect public safety.

USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM



Officers are required to make decisions in rapidly changing situations. Our use of force continuum requires an officer to choose the appropriate level of force, based on the situation, consistent with policy which dictates we use “only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary.”

Officers are trained to use the appropriate tools and techniques for the situation. Our use of force policy is in line with Penal Code Section 835a and Use of Force Reform Bill AB 392 effective January 1, 2020

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING



Officers are required to report the use of force immediately to a supervisor and to promptly document the nature of the incident. Supervisors conduct a use of force review for every use of force incident. All uses of force are reviewed by the chain of command, including the Office of the Chief of Police, to identify areas of improvement and compliance with policy. The review of all use of force incidents involves a review of all body worn camera video.



Oversight & Accountability

The Chief of Police reports directly to the City Manager who reports to the City Council. Significant matters of employee discipline and misconduct are coordinated with the City's Human Resources Department and the City Attorney's Office. Both entities are completely independent of the police Department, nonpolitical, & nonpartisan.

USE OF FORCE 2019

56,020

*TIMES AN OFFICER RESPONDED
TO A CALL FOR SERVICE*

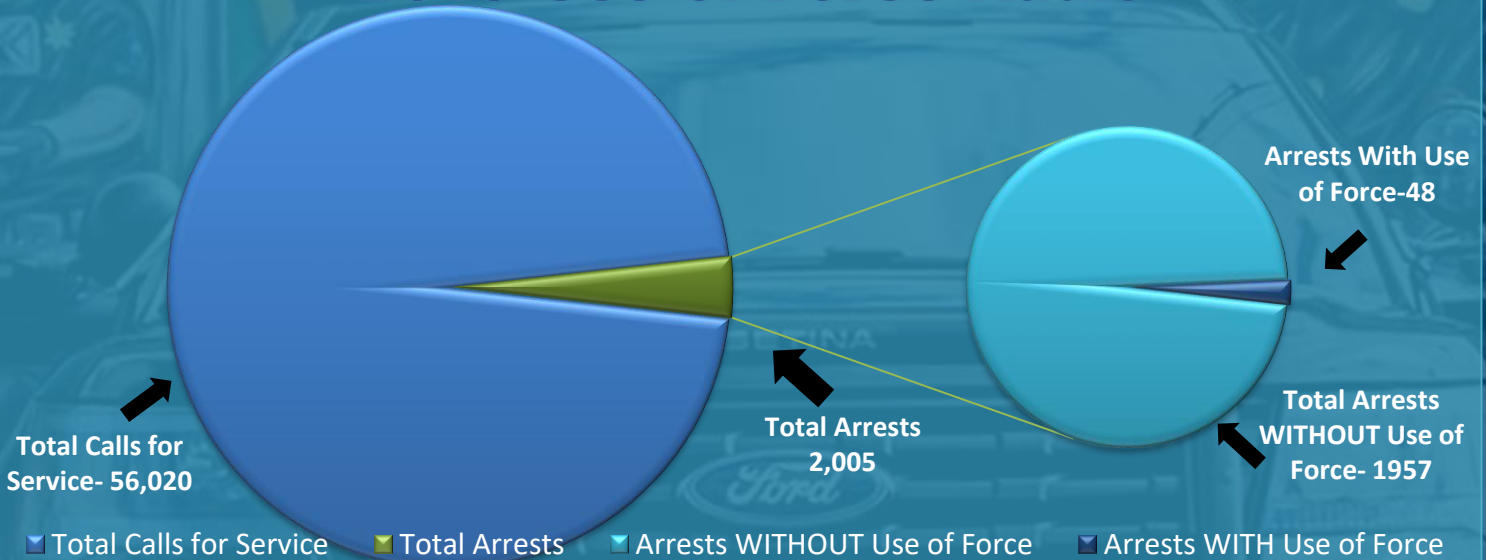
2,005

ARRESTS

48

*INCIDENTS RESULTING IN
USE OF FORCE*

2019 Use of Force Audit



**About 3.5% of
contacts resulted in
arrests**

**About 2.4% of arrests
resulted in Use of Force**

**Mandatory Department of Justice Use of Force Reporting
Involving Death or Great Bodily Injury for Petaluma PD**

0

2017

1

2018

0

2019

OFFICER TRAINING 2019-2020

Annually our officers review and train on policies for Racial Profiling, Immigration Policy, Bias-Based Policing, and Hate Crimes.

In the last two years, officers have received 32 hours of Crisis Intervention Training and 8 hours of Crisis Intervention Techniques. In January of 2020, all officers received an additional 8 hours of De-escalation Training. Defensive Tactics Instructors received an additional 16 hours of training in De-escalation Instructor Course.



Our department policies are available at: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/police-policies/>

CONNECT WITH US

<https://cityofpetaluma.org/Police>

**Petaluma Police Department
969 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA 94952**

Main Line: (707) 778-4372

@PetalumaPoliceDepartment

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