



# **SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

USE OF FORCE POLICY REVIEW  
SCSO Policy 300

Sonoma City Council Meeting  
October 5, 2020  
Chief Orlando Rodriguez

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Overview of Sonoma Police Department
- Law Enforcement – Operating Policies and Procedures
- Review 8 Use of Force Policy Objectives
  1. Require “Comprehensive use of force reporting”
  2. Require “De-Escalation”
  3. Require “Officers to intervene when excessive force is being used”
  4. Establish and require “Use of force continuum”
  5. Require “All alternatives be exhausted before shooting”
  6. Require “Warning by officers before shooting”
  7. Ban “Shooting at moving vehicles”
  8. Ban “Chokeholds and/or strangleholds”
- Mental Health
- Sonoma Police Statistics
- Who we are ... Sonoma Police Department

# SONOMA PD Services

## Sonoma Police Department

City of Sonoma contracts with the Sheriff's Office for local law enforcement services.

Personnel assigned to Sonoma PD:

- 9 Deputies
- 2 Sergeants
- 1 CSO
- 1 Admin Clerk (City of Sonoma)

General Functions

- Patrol
- Traffic
- Animal Control

## Sheriff's Office Resources

- Deputies
- 24/7 supervision
- Investigations
- SOU (Special Operations Unit)
- Helicopter
- TACT Team
- Mobile Support Team
  - (MST) – Mental Health Crisis Response Team

# Policy

Police Policy and Procedures



## POST -- State of California Commission on *Peace Officer Standards and Training*

- POST was established by the Legislature in 1959 to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement.
- Participating agencies agree to abide by the standards established by POST. More than 600 agencies participate in the POST Program and are eligible to receive the Commission's services and benefits which include:
  - job-related assessment tools
  - research into improved officer selection standards
  - management counseling services
  - the development of new training courses
  - reimbursement for training, and
  - quality leadership training programs
  - POST also awards professional certificates to recognize peace officer achievement and proficiency.
- POST Link: <https://post.ca.gov/>

# Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual

- Policies and Procedures are the guidelines and rules on how we do our job!
- Sheriff's Office contracts with Lexipol
  - Lexipol was created in 2003 by two attorneys and former law enforcement officers with the vision of creating better policies and training connected with risk management principles; provide annual review of all policies; law updates; training and best practices.
- Sonoma Police Officer are subject to the Sheriff's Policy Manual because the City of Sonoma contracts with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services.
- All changes are done by the Sheriff
- Link to Policy Manual: <https://www.sonomasheriff.org/policies-and-training>

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# Use of Force Policies

# USE OF FORCE SPECTRUM



Non-Injury

- Complaint of Pain
- Visible Injury
- Baton
- Taser

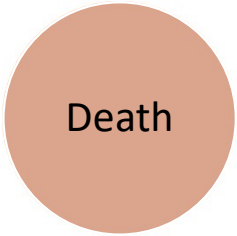


Injury



Serious Bodily Injury

- Officer Involved Shooting
- In Custody Death



Death



Officer

- Document Injuries
- Questioned by Investigators

**INTERNAL SHERIFF REVIEW  
USE OF FORCE**

- Sergeant
- Lieutenant
- Captain
- Sheriff Internal Affairs
- IOLERO

**EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION  
USE OF FORCE**

- 93-1 Critical Incident Protocol
  - Santa Rosa PD/ Petaluma PD
  - District Attorney's Office
  - Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs
  - Report to California Dept. of Justice
  - IOLERO

**OFFICER**

Administrative Leave  
Mandatory "Fitness for Duty"

- Psychological Exam



## Review 8 Use of Force Policy Objectives

- Review 8 Use of Force Policy Objectives
  1. Require “Comprehensive use of force reporting”
  2. Require “De-Escalation”
  3. Require “Officers to intervene when excessive force is being used”
  4. Establish and require “Use of force continuum”
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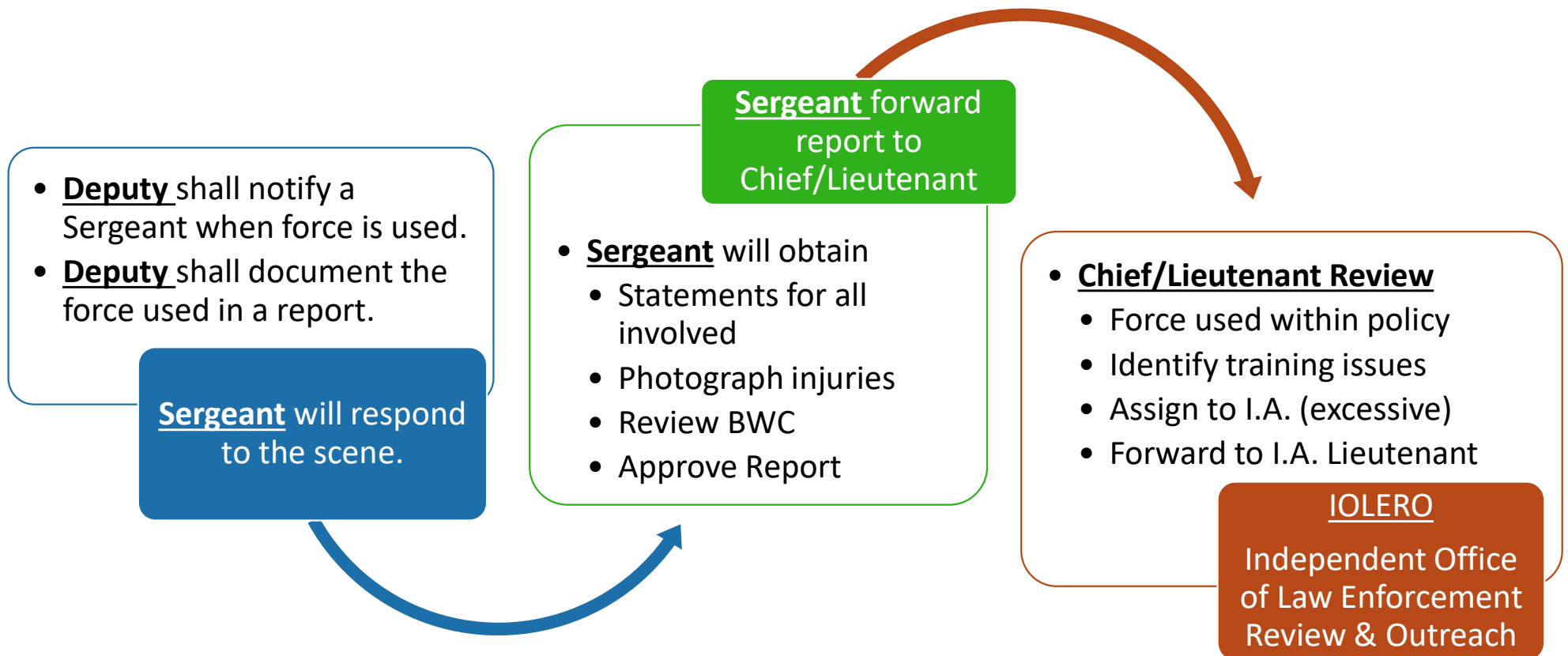
# 1. REQUIRE “COMPREHENSIVE USE OF FORCE REPORTING”

## **SCSO POLICY 300.5 – REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE**

- Any use of physical force by a member of this Sheriff’s Office shall be documented. Actions not considered physical use of force are Sheriff's Office-approved searching or handcuffing when the suspect does not resist.
  - No Force: When a deputy gains voluntary compliance of a subject and the subject allows to be handcuffed without resistance.

# 1. REQUIRE “COMPREHENSIVE USE OF FORCE REPORTING”

## Use of Force Reporting Requirements / Process



# 1. Continued REQUIRE “COMPREHENSIVE USE OF FORCE REPORTING”

## (IOLERO) INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW AND OUTREACH

- Sonoma’s County’s Independent auditor who oversee the Sheriff’s Office Use of Force complaints and policies.
- Sheriff’s Office is the only law enforcement agency in Sonoma County who has an independent auditor
- IOLERO has access to:
  - Complaints that originate with IOLERO
  - Sexual Assaults
  - Excessive Force
  - Biased Policing
  - Search and Seizure Violations
  - Dishonesty

## 2. REQUIRE “DE-ESCALATION”

### SCSO POLICY 300.1.1 – DEFINITIONS

- DE-ESCALATION: When reasonable, deputies should consider slowing down an incident in a manner that allows them to decrease the intensity of a situation by creating more time, distance, and space which can allow for evaluating different tactical options in dynamic situations.
- ***SCSO is in the process of establishing “De-Escalation” guidelines, utilizing de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to the use of force policy.***

### 3. REQUIRE “OFFICER TO INTERVENE WHEN EXCESSIVE FORCE IS BEING USED”

#### **SCSO POLICY: 300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE**

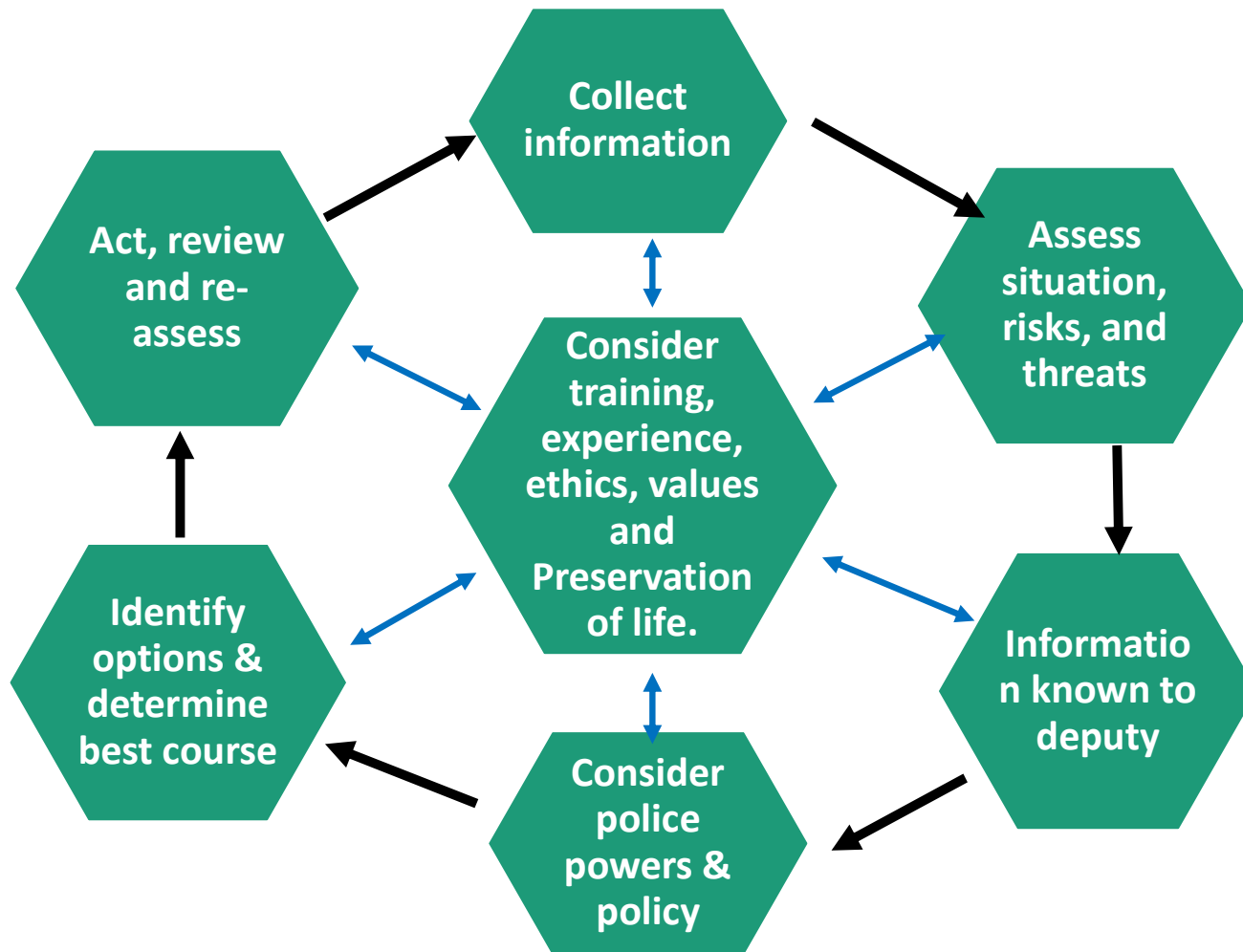
- Any deputy present and observing another deputy using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. A deputy who observes another employee use force that they believe is unreasonable under the circumstances shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.

## 4. ESTABLISH AND REQUIRE “USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM”

### SCSO POLICY: 300.3 NECESSARY USE OF FORCE

- Deputies shall use only that force that is reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the deputy at that time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

#### 4. Continued ESTABLISH AND REQUIRE “USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM”





## 5. REQUIRE “ALL ALTERNATIVES BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE SHOOTING”

### **SCSO POLICY 300.3.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE**

- When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether a deputy has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit.

### **DE-ESCALATION / TACTICAL COMMUNICATION**

- The goal of law enforcement is to generate voluntary compliance
- Police work is 95 percent communication
- Consider before using force
  - Body Language – Look for signs of anxiety
  - Power Struggle – Don’t challenge or exercise authority over a person
  - Don’t take it personal – Stay calm, control your emotions and actions
  - Rapport – Find common ground and build positive communications

## 6. REQUIRE “WARNING BY OFFICERS BEFORE SHOOTING”

### **SCSO POLICY 300.4 – DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS**

- 300.4 (b) – Where feasible, the deputy shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the deputy has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

## 7. BAN “SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES”

### SCSO POLICY: **300.4.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES**

- Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. If possible, deputies should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. A deputy should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the deputy reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle to themselves or the public, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the deputy or others.
- Deputies should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.

## 8. BAN “CHOKEHOLDS AND/OR STRANGLEHOLDS”

### SCSO POLICY: **300.3.4 CAROTID CONTROL HOLD**

- Effective June 6th, 2020, the Carotid Control Hold is not an approved use of force and shall not be applied to any person.

# Mental Health Calls & Training Overview

# SONOMA PD – MENTAL HEALTH

## TYPES OF CALLS FOR SERVICE

### Mental Health Evaluation

- Depressed, medications, need to speak to a therapist or counselor

### Attempted suicide by:

- Drugs - prescription/illegal
- Alcohol
- Weapon
- Law Enforcement

### Suicide threats to self and/or others

### Suicides

# MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE PROCEDURES

1. Minimum two deputy response
  - Known History of the subject
    - Cooperative/un-cooperative
    - Known methods
  - Unknown what to expect
    - Cooperative/Un-cooperative
    - De-escalate and evaluate
    - Entering a residence is hazardous/dangerous
2. MST (Mobile Support Team) – Mental health crisis response team
  - Depending on the call
  - Availability
3. Medical stage

# POST Training vs. Sheriff's Office Training

## POST REQUIREMENT

- BIASED BASED POLICING/CULTURAL DIVERSITY
  - 2 hours every 5 – years
- TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS (DE-ESCALATE)
  - 2 hours every 2 – Years

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING

- BIASED BASED POLICING/CULTURAL DIVERSITY
  - 2 hours every 5 – years
- TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS (DE-ESCALATE)
  - 2 hours every 2 – years
- CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (C. I. T.)
  - 32 hour course, one time training
- CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING (DE-ESCALTE)
  - 8 hour course, one time training



# POST Training vs. Sheriff's Office Training

## POST REQUIREMENT

- DEFENSIVE TACTICS / ARREST & CONTROL
  - 4 hours every 2 – years
- FIREARMS
  - 4 hours every 2 – Years
- EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS COURSE
  - 4 hours every 2 – years

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING

- DEFENSIVE TACTICS / ARREST & CONTROL
  - 2 hours every quarter (8 hours annual)
  - 16 hours every 2 – years
- FIREARMS
  - 2 hours every quarter (8 hours annual)
  - 16 hours every 2 – years
- EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS COURSE
  - 9 hours every 2 – years

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE ADDITIONAL TRAINING

## SCENARIO BASED TRAINING

- Duplicate actual incidents, use role players, use sim-munitions, handgun/rifles and combine defensive tactics and firearms. (De-escalate, shoot & don't shoot scenarios)
  - 4 hours training yearly
- VIRTRA SIMULATOR (Live size video screen)
  - Duplicate incidents/scenarios
  - 2 to 3 times a year (scenario based)

## OTHER TRAINING

- FIRST AID / CPR / NARCAN
  - 4 hours every 2 – years
- RIFLE CARRIERS
  - 2 hours 4 times a year
- <https://www.sonomasheriff.org/policies-and-training>

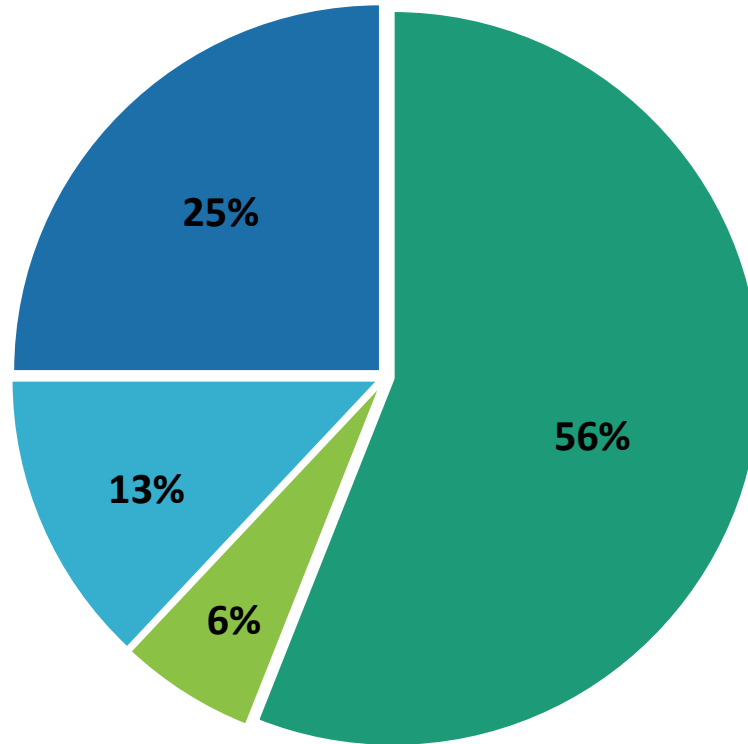
# Statistics

## City of Sonoma Police Department

# SONOMA PD USE OF FORCE STATISTICS

YEAR	2020 (partial)	2019	2018	2017
40 mm				
Carotid Restraint				1
Chemical				
Control Hold	2	5	4	7
Firearm			1	
Impact Weapon		1		
K9 Deployment		1		
K9 Displayed				
Maximum Restraint	3	3	2	1
Other				
Pepper Ball				
Personal Weapons (hands & feet)	2	6	5	6
Taser	1		2	
<b>Use of Force Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

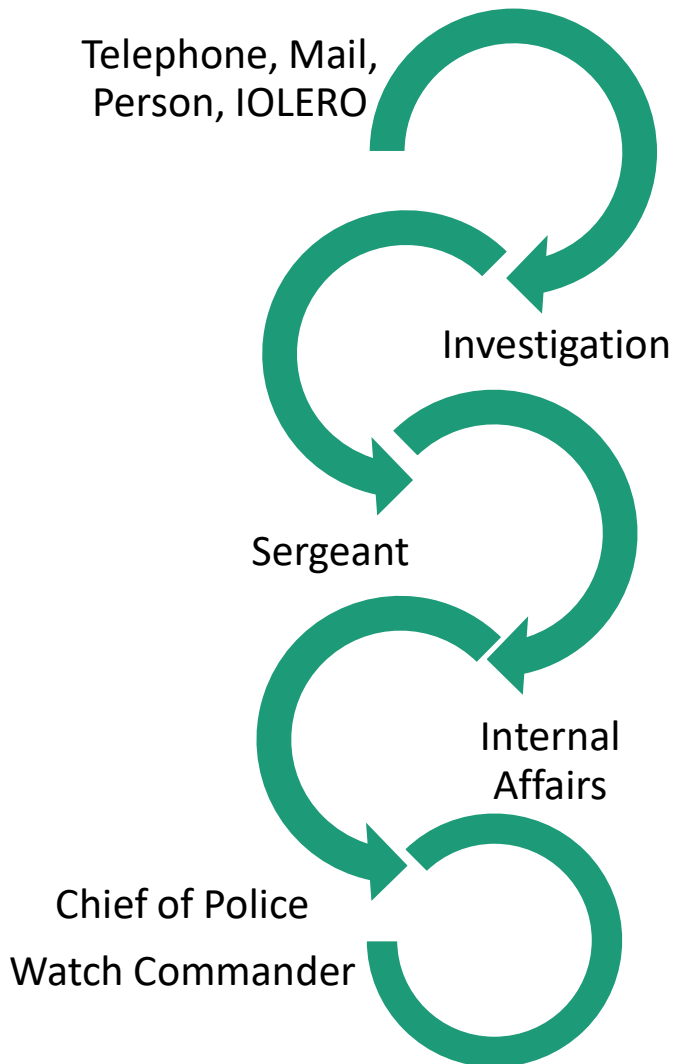
## USE OF FORCE – CONTRIBUTING FACTORS (2019)



■ ALCOHOL ■ DRUG ■ COMBO A/D ■ UNKNOWN

2019 CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO USE OF FORCE (16 UOF EVENTS)			
ALCOHOL	DRUG	COMBO A/D	UNKNOWN
9	1	2	4
56%	6%	13%	25%

# CITIZEN COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATIONS



## RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Exonerated

- Within policy and law

Unfounded

- Allegation is not true

Inconclusive

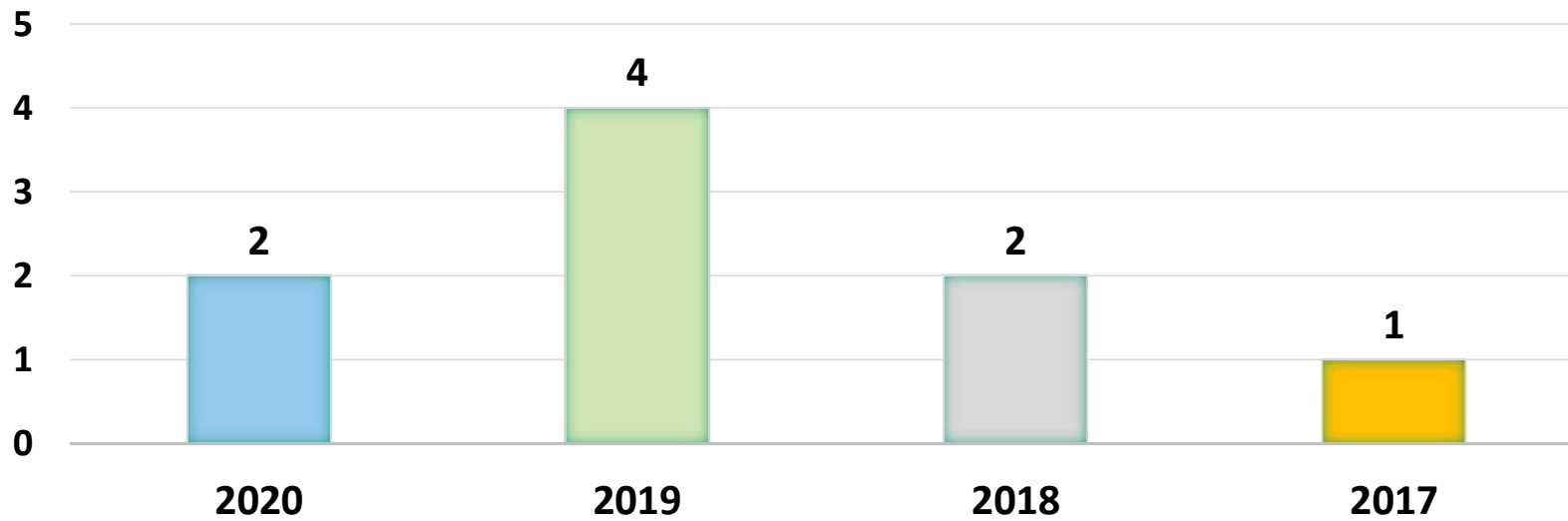
- Insufficient evidence to prove or disprove allegation

Sustained

- Sufficient evidence to prove allegation

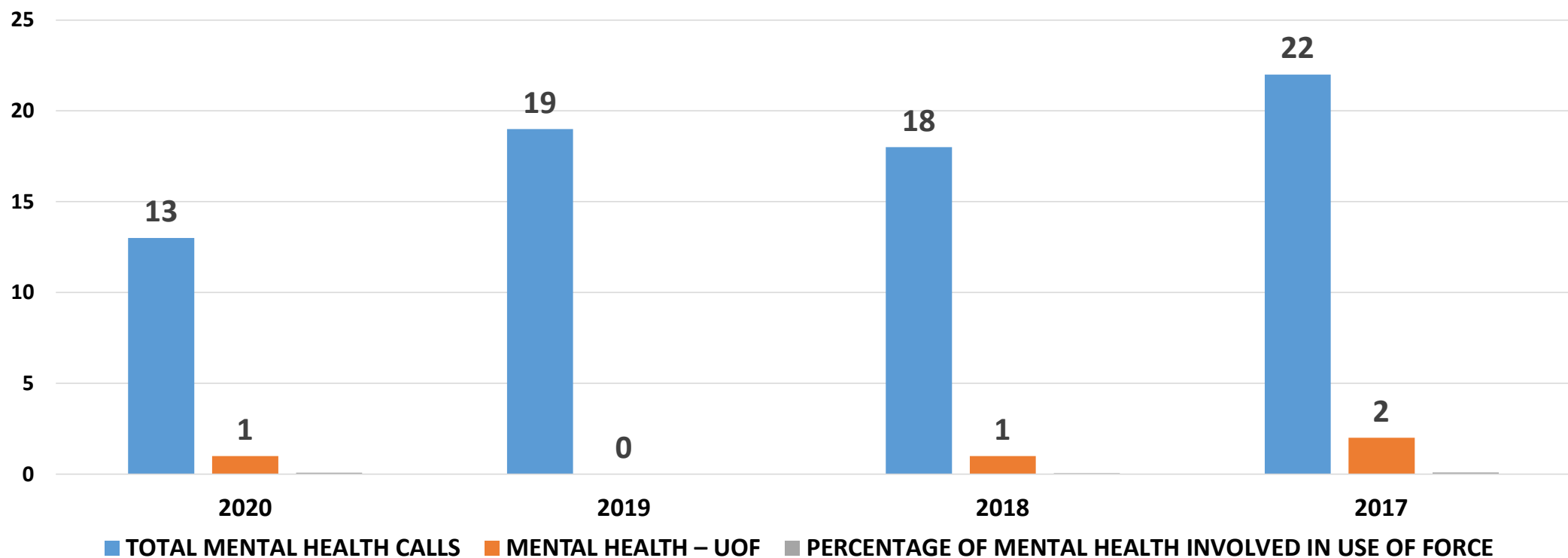
# CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS



CITIZEN COMPLAINTS	2020	2019	2018	2017
TOTAL	2	4	2	1
OFFICER CONTACTS	1,964	4,185	5,394	5,088
PERCENTAGE	0.1%	0.1%	0.04%	0.02%

## SONOMA PD – MENTAL HEALTH

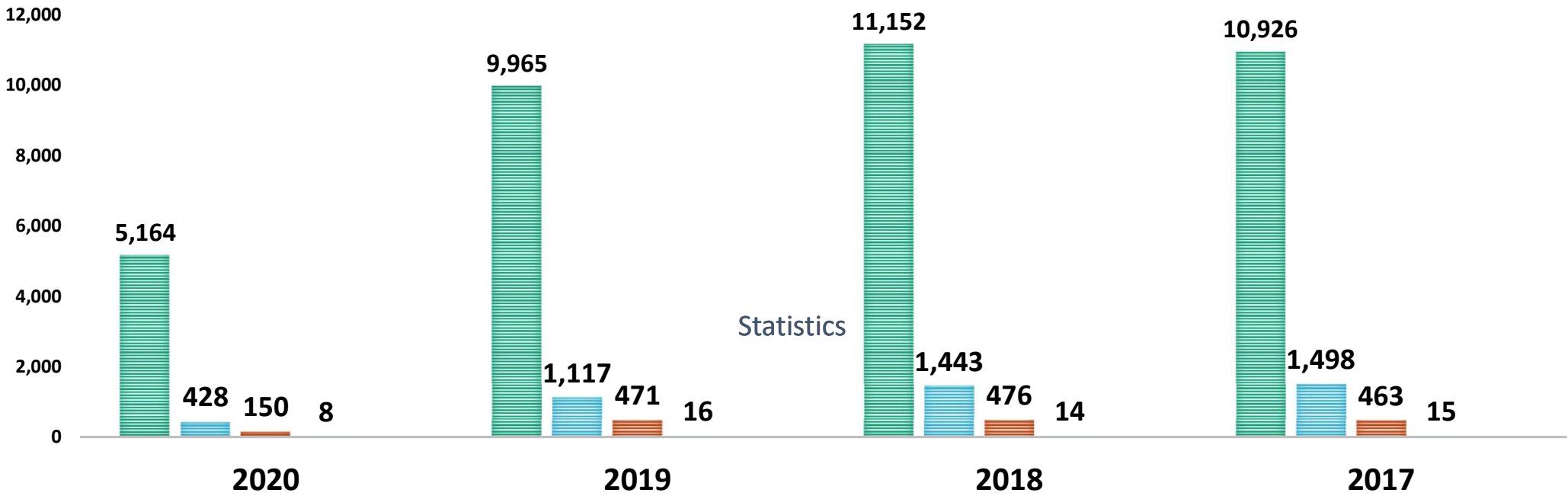


YEAR	2020 (partial yr)	2019	2018	2017
TOTAL MENTAL HEALTH CALLS	13	19	18	22
MENTAL HEALTH – USE OF FORCE	1	0	1	2
PERCENTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH INVOLVING USE OF FORCE	7.7%	0%	5.6%	9.1%



## USE OF FORCE/CALLS FOR SERVICE STATISTICS

■ CALLS FOR SERVICE  
 ■ REPORTS TAKEN  
 ■ ARREST  
 ■ TOTAL USE OF FORCE  
 ■ PERCENTAGE OF ARREST INVOLVING USE OF FORCE

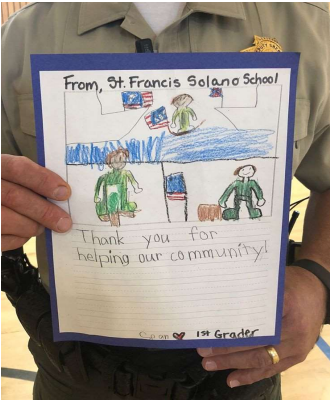


YEAR	2020 <sub>(partial)</sub>	2019	2018	2017
<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>5,164</b>	<b>9,965</b>	<b>11,152</b>	<b>10,926</b>
<b>REPORTS TAKEN</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>1,498</b>
<b>ARREST</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>TOTAL USE OF FORCE</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF ARREST INVOLVING USE OF FORCE</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

# Conclusion

# Sonoma Police Department

Our organization is made up of highly motivated professionals who are committed to making our city a safe place to live, work, and visit. I am honored to serve alongside them and, on behalf of our dedicated staff of professionals, we continue to proactively build and strengthen community partnerships through the delivery of high quality, efficient, and professional law enforcement services



# Thank you!

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

- As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to **serve** the community; to **safeguard** lives and property; to **protect** the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to **respect the constitutional rights of all** to liberty, equality and justice.
- With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will **enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor**, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.
- I recognize the badge of my office as a **symbol of public faith**, and I accept it as a **public trust** to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service.

# Summary – Use of Force

- **Extensive Training** -- State of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) sets standard training for all CA departments; Sheriff's Department augments with additional training requirements.
- **Review & Oversight** -- Thorough review of police conduct with civilian oversight and outside agency investigations.
- **Accountability** -- All incidents with any use of force are reviewed by management and progressive discipline occurs up to termination and civil charges can also occur.
- **Balance Rules with Good Judgement** -- Extensive polices (rules and regulations) outline how Officers are to operate; yet can't prescribe all situations; Officers need ability to use their best judgement in the moment based on the specific situations bringing the right mindset and cultural training.
- **Mental Health Support** -- Current protocols and commitments on how to interface with individuals that are having mental health issues.
- **Open to Reform and Continual Improvement** -- No perfect agency or person, yet Sonoma Police Department fortunate to have talented and professional staff. Police Department and Sheriff's Office are open to reform and changes have already been put in place.

# Questions / Discussion