

RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 334

RESOLUTION RE-AFFIRMING THE VINELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT'S POLICIES RESTRICTING THE USE OF FORCE.

WHEREAS, research has shown that certain types of force permitted for law Enforcement have caused unnecessary injures and in some cases, deaths; and

WHEREAS, such uses of force must have restrictions to prevent both intentional and unintentional injuries or death caused by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, it has become more apparent that reform be considered in the use of force by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a request for reform on the use of force by law enforcement has been considered and as a result of studies a series of eight proposed reforms have been identified as "Eight Can't Wait;" and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Vineland Police Department has adopted the "Eight Can't Wait" policies, among other policies, to restrict the use of force and has been following that guidance for many years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland has and continues to expend substantial sums of money to provide its Police Department with the tools necessary to assure that the use of force by its officers is as restrictive as reasonably possible including body cameras for all officers to assure compliance, non-lethal tasers, and extensive training to prevent possible injury or death among other tools; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Safety and Deputy Chief of the Police Department have continued to implement policies and training to instill the need of all City law enforcement to reduce the use of force and have acknowledged that the Vineland Police Department has and shall continue to maintain policies that could reduce injuries or death caused by law enforcement including the following "Eight Cant Wait."

1. Ban chokeholds and strangle holds except in circumstances necessary to address an imminent threat to life.
2. Require officers to first try to de-escalate a situation when possible before using force.
3. Require a law enforcement officer identify him/herself and provide a verbal warning before an officer uses lethal force when feasible to do so under the circumstances..
4. Requiring officers to exhaust all means of de-escalating a situation before utilizing lethal force where circumstances permit and only then if there is a threat of death or serious injury to the officer or another person is imminent.

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5. All officers are required to intervene when they see an unreasonable use of force by other law enforcement officers and to take all reasonable steps to stop such inappropriate use of force. Officers are also responsible to file a critical incident report to a supervisor should they believe an unreasonable use of force has occurred.
6. Prohibit officers from firing a weapon at a moving vehicle, which could injure passengers and bystanders except as authorized in accordance with Attorney General's Guidelines.
7. Require a use of force continuum, which outlines an officer's initial reaction, weapon choice and when to escalate or de-escalate a situation.
8. Require officers to provide comprehensive reporting whenever they use or threaten to use force against civilians.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Vineland that the use of force restrictions known as Eight Can't Wait are acknowledged and re-affirmed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vineland Police Department by and through the Director of Public Safety and Deputy Chief shall continue to maintain policies to reasonably restrict the use of force except where absolutely necessary subject to guidelines regarding the same submitted by the New Jersey Office of Attorney General..

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk