



POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REVIEW

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Fire and Police Commission

March 28, 2024

## SBPD Policy Section 300.1



The Santa Barbara Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the sanctity of life, dignity and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve.

# USE OF FORCE

## SBPD Policy Section 300.3

Officers shall only use the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officers at the time of the events to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. (Penal Code 835a)

## 300.3.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

The apparent immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others

The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the officer

Officer/subject factors including age, size, relative strength, skill, injuries sustained, etc.

The effects of suspected alcohol or drugs

The individuals apparent mental state or capacity

Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices

# DE-ESCALATION AND ALTERNATIVE TACTICS

## SBPD Policy Section 300.3.6

As time and circumstances reasonably permit, and when the community and officer safety would not be compromised, officers should consider actions that may increase officer safety and may decrease the need for force

- ▶ Requesting additional resources
- ▶ Formulating alternative plans with responding officers before entering an unstable situation that does not need immediate intervention
- ▶ Employing other tactics in order to increase safety and reduce risk

# DE-ESCALATION TRAINING & TRACKING

On a 2-year cycle, all Officers and Sergeants are required to attend regular training in various UOF tactics which includes de-escalation, bias-based policing and crisis intervention training

- Biased Based Policing
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Crowd Control Training
- Use of Force Training (includes De-escalation)
- Strategic Communications Training
- Arrest and Control Training
- Less Lethal Options Training
- Active Shooter Training

De-escalation Study Flag  
(as of February 2023)

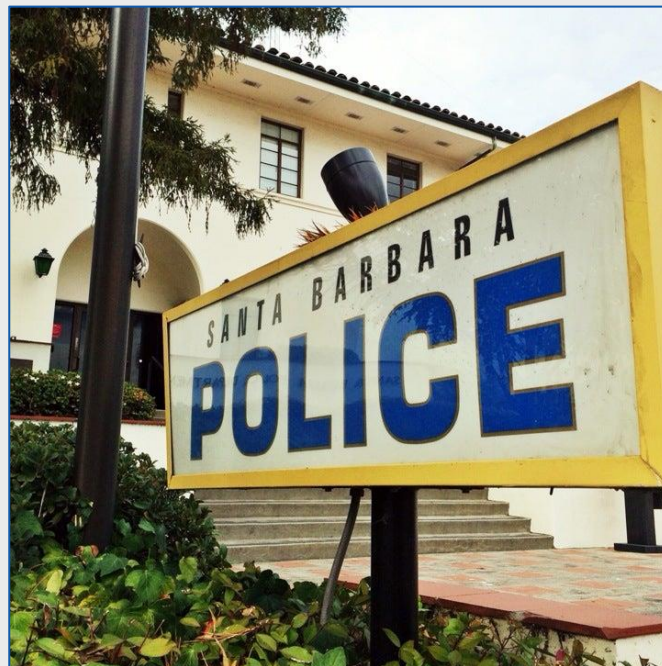
**In 2023, Officers  
identified 458 calls  
where de-escalation  
was utilized**



## DUTY TO INTERCEDE

### SBPD Policy Section 300.2.1

► Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or employee using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force



# What is considered a “Use of Force”?

**Control Hold with Subject Resistance**

*Physical pressure to encourage compliance*

**Leg Restraint**

*Hobble device to keep subject from kicking*

**WRAP**

*Restraint device to immobilize to ensure safety*

**Take-down**

*When necessary due to potential of injury to suspect and officer*

- Strike/Kick
- OC/Pepper spray
- Impact Weapon/Baton
- Taser
- Extended Range Impact Weapon/LL
- K9 Bite
- Firearm



Highest Force Used	Total
Control Hold/Grappling	7
Extended Range Impact Weapon	0
Firearm Fired at Suspect	0
Impact Weapon/Baton	0
K-9 Bite	2
Leg Restraint	0
OC Spray	1
Strikes/Kicks	9
Take Down	60
Taser	2
WRAP	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>



# 2023 Santa Barbara Police Department – Use of Force

Highest Force Used	2022	2023	% Change
Control Hold/Grappling	15	7	-53%
Extended Range Impact Weapon	0	0	0%
Firearm Fired at Suspect	0	0	0%
Impact Weapon/Baton	1	0	-100%
K-9 Bite	2	2	0%
Leg Restraint	6	0	-100%
OC Spray	2	1	-50%
Strikes/Kicks	13	9	-31%
Take Down	92	60	-35%
Taser	6	2	-67%
WRAP	10	12	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-37%</b>

Factors that lead to reduction in uses of force:

- Increased Field Supervision
- Emphasis/Training on De-escalation Techniques
- Increased Overall Training
- Utilization of Specialized Units
- Established Culture of Community Caretaking

# 2023 Santa Barbara Police Department – Use of Force

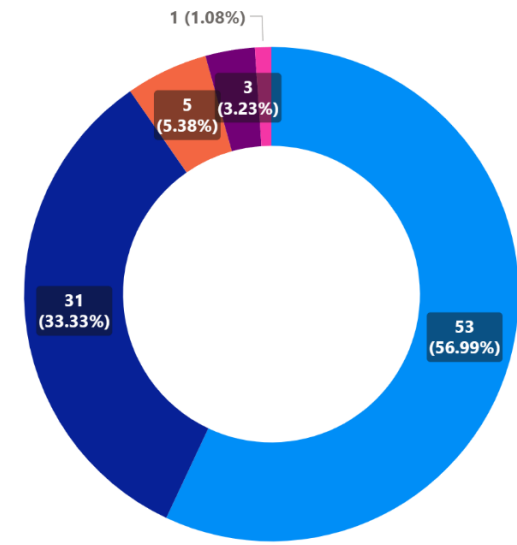
## 93 Incidents of Force Used

Out of 47,232 calls for service in 2023, 99.8% did not result in force used.

## 99.8% force not used

Based on 47,232 calls for service and 93 incidents of force used

UoF Broken Down by Race



● Hispanic ● White ● African American/Black ● Other ● Filipino

# 2023 SBPD – Use of Force Injury Details for 93 Incidents

## Categories of Injuries

- No Injury
- Complaint of Pain – no visible injury
- Minor Injury – ex: abrasion, puncture, redness
- Serious Injury – broken bones, requiring surgery, extended hospital care

### Subject Injuries



### Officer Injuries (per incident)



# OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY AFTER A UOF INCIDENT

## *(Primary and back-up officers)*

- Provide first aid if necessary
- Alert communications, request medical, additional officers, a supervisor and CSI
- Secure and protect scene
- Provide statements to supervisor
- Prepare/complete reports as necessary detailing facts regarding UOF



# SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITY

- Respond to the incident scene
- Ensure medical care for suspects and officers
- Determine if more resources are needed
- Ensure CSI is on scene to photograph
- Interview suspects/officers/witnesses
- Ensure safety of officers and suspects
- Review all reports
- Complete UOF report
- Notify Watch Commander



# USE OF FORCE – REPORTING AND SUPERVISOR REVIEW

- ▶ The Santa Barbara Police Department has specific Use of Force reporting forms that must be completed by all supervisors for every Use of Force incident.
- ▶ The form is routed from Sergeant to Commander to Assistant Chief and finally to Community Accountability to ensure a thorough review of every use of force incident at every level of the organization.

## USE OF FORCE DOCUMENTATION

Supervisors should utilize this document to review an officer's Use of Force Report and to assist the supervisor when preparing an investigation into the force used.

- I. An officer's report that documents their use of force should contain the following information
  1. **Initial Assessment**
    - A. Day/date/time:
    - B. Location/address/specific area:
    - C. History of area, crime or subject:
    - D. Why did you initiate contact, i.e. justification?
      1. Dispatched / duty assignment / self-initiated/uniformed?
      2. Investigatory Stop - Reasonable Suspicion.
      3. Probable Cause.
      4. Other reasons.
    - E. Officer(s) involved, Badge #(s):
    - F. Subject(s) involved:
  2. **Contact and Observations**
    - A. Observations made on arrival and during the contact
    - B. Suspect(s) information (size, number, description, clothing)
    - C. Environment or climate
    - D. Clothing worn
    - E. Suspect's demeanor and conduct
    - F. Body language - position
    - G. Evidence of intoxication or drug use
    - H. Prior encounters with police
    - I. Surroundings - cover, backup, escape routes
    - J. Training, ability, and skills of officer
  3. **Action and Dialogue**
    - A. Physical and verbal behavior of both subject and officer
    - B. Verbal interaction and commands given to the suspect
      1. Identification of police
      2. Notice that they are under arrest
      3. Commands and warnings issued, as well as subjects reaction
      4. Attempts to de-escalate
      5. Threats or confrontational statements
    - C. Disobey commands, intentions to resist or assault officer
    - D. Lack of verbal encounter or refusal to speak

- E. Physical encounter
    - 1 Type of resistance by the suspect
      - i. Fighting stance, clenching fists, targeting with eyes
      - ii. Removing clothing
      - iii. Escalation of force
    - 2 Physical control techniques employed by the officers
      - i. Application of force necessary to gain compliance
      - ii. Assessment between applications
      - iii. De-escalation of force
      - iv. Other force options available
  - F. Indicate each and every type of force used and the evaluation of each use of force.
4. **Final Stage**
    - A. Conclusion regarding the encounter
    - B. Post arrest events - illustrate subjects state of mind during the encounter
    - C. Medical care provided to subject and officer
    - D. Photographs taken
    - E. Evidence collected
    - F. Damage to police equipment

### The Supervisor's investigation should contain the following information:

- Describe where the incident occurred. Include lighting, visibility, and weather conditions.
- General summary of call officers responded to. The summary is intended to give reviewers an overall picture of the incident, the actions of all involved parties contemporaneous to the incident.
- Identification of each and every type of force that was used.
- Type of medical treatment provided, if any, and/or if subject transported.
- Hospitalization for pre-existing condition, illness or injuries not related to the use of force should be indicated as no with an explanation of reason for hospitalization in summary.
- Identification of all officers who were at the scene who used force or witnessed the use of force.
- Identification of all witnesses at the scene.
- Whether all witnesses were interviewed and summary of their statements.
- A precise description of the facts as he/she understands them based on his/her investigation.
- Indicate whether the force was de-escalated or stopped when resistance de-escalated or stopped.
- Evaluate whether the force was consistent with injuries and compare electronic weapon download to electronic weapon information reported by officers.
- Explanation of video collected and reviewed.
- Whether he/she identified and considered all relevant evidence including testimony, video and physical evidence.
- Discuss discrepancies/inconsistencies discovered during the investigation, and whether they were resolved or remain unresolved.
- Indicate by an affirmative statement that no discrepancies were encountered.
- Did you resolve all material inconsistencies between witness statements, officer statements and evidence reviewed?
- Whether the subject was asked if he/she was injured, and subject's response.



### SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT Use of Force Memo

FILE NUMBER: [ ]-[ ]		DATE: [ ]-[ ]-[ ]	TIME: [ ] hrs.	DAY:
LOCATION: STREET ADDRESS / INTERSECTION		CITY: [ ]	ZIP CODE: [ ]	
AGENCY OF JURISDICTION: [ ]		PHONE #: [ ]-[ ]-[ ]		
<b>SBPD OFFICERS INVOLVED</b>				
NAME: (Last)	(First)	RANK:	ID #	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>OTHER OFFICERS INVOLVED</b>				
NAME: (Last)	(First)	AGENCY/RANK	ID #	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>CIVILIANS INVOLVED OR WITNESSES</b>				
NAME: (Last)	(First)	PHONE #		
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]-[ ]-[ ]		
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]-[ ]-[ ]		
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]-[ ]-[ ]		
MAIN REPORTING OFFICER:		CHARGES:		
[ ]		[ ]		
SUSPECT(S)/RECIPIENTS OF FORCE APPLICATION:		SUSPECT(S) WEAPONS USED:		
[ ]		[ ]		
OFFICER(S) INJURIES:	NONE <input type="checkbox"/>	MEDICAL CARE OFFERED	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>	
		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTERED <input type="checkbox"/>	
SUSPECT(S) INJURIES:	NONE <input type="checkbox"/>	MEDICAL CARE OFFERED	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>	
		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTERED <input type="checkbox"/>	
CIVILIAN(S) INJURIES:	NONE <input type="checkbox"/>	MEDICAL CARE OFFERED	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>	
		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTERED <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AFTER ACTION CHECKLIST:</b>				
<small>CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</small>				
<input type="checkbox"/> WITNESSES CONTACTED / DOCUMENTED IN REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> BOOKING PHOTOS PRESENCE / ABSENCE OF INJURIES			
<input type="checkbox"/> FORCE EVIDENCE COLLECTED / PROCESSED INTO EVIDENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> SUSPECT DAMAGED / SOILED CLOTHING BOOKED			
<input type="checkbox"/> INJURY PHOTOS / PROCESSED INTO EVIDENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OFFICER DAMAGED / SOILED CLOTHING PHOTOS BOOKED			
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPP REPORTS FROM ALL INVOLVED OFFICER(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPOSURE FORMS REQUIRED			
<input type="checkbox"/> BODY WORN/IN-CAR VIDEO/AUDIO CAPTURED	<input type="checkbox"/> PROPERTY DAMAGE DOCUMENTED IN REPORT			
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER VIDEO / AUDIO CAPTURED	<input type="checkbox"/> PETS / OTHER ANIMALS INVOLVED AND DOCUMENTED			
SUPERVISOR: [ ]	DATE: [ ]	WATCH COMMANDER: [ ]	DATE: [ ]	

### SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT Use of Force Memo

SUPERVISOR'S INTERVIEWS WITH SUSPECT:

SUPERVISOR'S REVIEW OF DE-ESCALATION STRATEGIES AND TACTICS:

SUPERVISOR'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Reviewed videos, reports, evidence, and injuries.
- Force applied was in compliance with policy.
  - Debrief conducted with officers.
- Force applied was in compliance with policy but other policy violations identified.
- Recommend Use of Force review board be convened due to very serious injury or death to another.
- Recommend an administrative investigation.
- Recommend commendation for exemplary tactics and performance.

INVESTIGATING SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Use of Force Memo

SUPERVISOR'S SUMMARY:

SUPERVISOR'S INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES:

WATCH COMMANDER'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Supervisor completed appropriate use of force investigation.
- Videos, reports, evidence, and injuries were consistent.
- Force applied was in compliance with policy.
  - Debrief conducted with officers.
- Force applied was in compliance with policy but other policy violations identified.
- Recommend Use of Force review board be convened due to very serious injury or death to another.
- Recommend an administrative investigation.
- Recommend commendation for exemplary tactics and performance.

WATCH COMMANDER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWED BY FIELD SERVICES DIVISION ASSISTANT CHIEF: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY COMMANDER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_