Use of Force Recommendation 62

Release Data on Use of Force on an Annual Basis

Agenda

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Objective

To support our Strategic Plan of **Community Outreach** through restoring our internal and external communications; focusing on and understanding what's important to our team and community members.

Highlights

- *The recommendation is to release data on the department's Use of Force on an annual basis.*

- *This report should present the public with detailed information on the trends identified in Use of Force for that year.*

- *PERF has made the recommendation to improve transparency and accountability within the department.*

Current Policy

- *Currently, the Use of Force statistics are only provided upon public records request.*

- *The Proficiency Skills Unit* **does** *tally Use of Force statistics;*
    - *for internal use*
    - *to voluntarily submit to the FBI -* **National Use-Of-Force Data Collection initiative.**
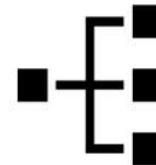
Gap Analysis

- Recommendation
  - Annually release a Use of Force Report to the public.

- Current Policy
  - The collection of Use of Force data is for internal use, but shared upon a public records request.
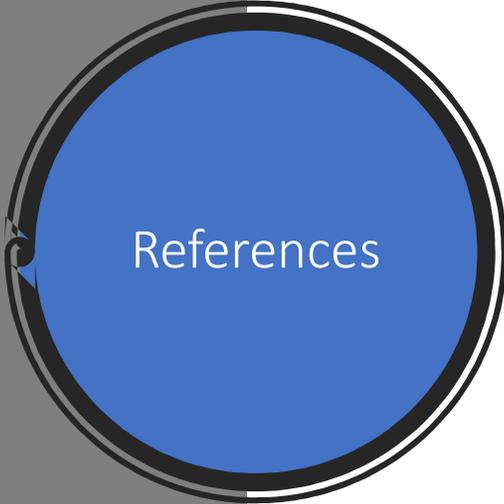
Reference;
PERF Guiding Principles on Use of Force (2016)

To build understanding and trust, agencies should issue regular reports to the public on use of force.

- *Agencies should publish regular reports on officers' use of force, including:*
  - *Officer involved shootings*
  - *Deployment of less-lethal options*
  - *Use of canines*
- *Reports should include demographics information about the officer and subjects involved in use-of-force incidents and circumstances under which they occurred*
- *These reports should be published annually at a minimum and be widely available on agency's website and hard copy.*

References

Not all departments release Use of Force Data, but the many who are, are releasing the Use of Force data publicly via a variety of methods. Here are some examples:

ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT
- NYPD
- Seattle PD
- LAPD

QUARTERLY RELEASE OF USE OF FORCE DATA
- Portland PD
- NYPD

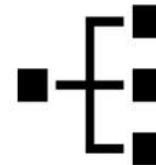**ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING USE OF FORCE DATA**
- Gilbert PD
- Maricopa PD

OCCASIONAL RELEASE OF USE OF FORCE DATA
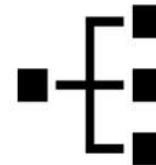- Albuquerque PD

Pros

- *Reviewing Annual Use of Force reports, it illustrates:*
  - *How infrequently Departments use force in proportion to the number of calls responded to.*
  - *When force is used, it's usually minimal.*
  - *This is all in stark contrast to what the public sees on the news, and they should be able to see these facts.*

- *It supports transparency, accountability and builds community trust.*

- *We are already collecting this data and it would be relatively simple to report online.*

- *There is a current appetite for this information by the public.*

Cons

- *Statistics are only as good as what's reported. Caution should be had to provide meaningful data.*

- *If no context is included with data, an inaccurate narrative could be heard.*

- *The media sometimes appears to use certain data and leave out other data to support their own conclusions.*

- *Best practices are still being established for what kind of data to collect and through a standardized collection system. Caution should be had during implementation. Other police departments have been challenged to provide complete, accurate, timely and useful data.*

- *Who is going to write this report? Some reports are 100 pages long. Some Departments release data then suddenly stop. We need to do it in a way that is sustainable.*

- *People viewing the statistics may not be trained in Use of Force and could misinterpret data based on lack of experience.*

Proposed Action

Release Use of Force data annually to the public but do so in a meaningful but sustainable manner.

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