



Use of Force Recommendation 18

Guidance for

*Add a Sentence Emphasizing “the Sanctity
of Life”*



Agenda

- Recommendation Highlights
- Gap Analysis
- Discussion Points
- Committee Feedback
- Further Analysis
- Final Guidance



Recommendation Highlights

- *MPD should add a sentence emphasizing the **sanctity of human life** as a core value in its Use of Force policy.*
- *Baltimore PD is given as an example. Their Use of Force policy states, “The policy of the Baltimore Police Department is to **value and preserve human life** in all situations.”*

Definition of Sanctity:

- *The state or quality of being holy, sacred or saintly.*
- *Ultimate importance and inviolability (having to be respected and not ignored)*

Gap Analysis

PERF's Recommendation

- *If MPD's Use of Force policies are consolidated as recommended, [sanctity of life]...only need to be included once.*
- *If policies remain separated, however, it is important that the concept...of the **sanctity of human life**...be included in both the **Special Order**...and **Use of Force Philosophy & Definitions**.*
- *"...The sanctity of life should be included in this **initial Policy Statement**..."*

Current Policy

- **DPM 2.1.1, Use of Force Philosophy & Definitions**, includes the concept of **sanctity of life** at the **beginning**.

*This can be traced back to at least 2012.

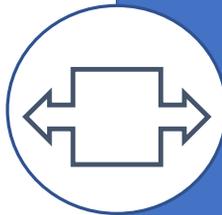
- **DPM 2.1.2, Use of Force Special Order** includes the concept of **sanctity of life** at the **end/conclusion**.

*Effective since 2018.



Discussion Points

- *Most agencies are including the concept of “sanctity of life” in Use of Force Policy in the beginning. It’s the standard.*
 - *Some use “sanctity of life” and others use more easily understood statements like “respects the value of every human life”.*
- *Including this statement in our policy is a reminder of our core values.*
- *There are really no negatives for including this in our policy.*
- *For the most part, we’ve already implemented this recommendation.*



Committee Feedback

The Committee was in unanimous support of keeping a “sanctity of life” statement in our policy.

- They agreed that we should simplify and use layman’s terms to make it easier for officers and citizens to understand.
- Important to keep, because some officers don’t value human life, proven by many situations involving minorities. (Reverend Helen Hunter)
- It is flowery language which is just rhetoric but glosses over the reality of police work. (Michael Scott ASU)



Final Guidance

For the most part, we are already in compliance with this recommendation:

*Simplify the phrase “**sanctity of life**” to layman’s terms: “The policy of the MPD is **to value and preserve** human life ~~in all situations.~~”*

Update the following verbiage in policy:

The MPD is committed above all **to value and preserve** human life, human rights, the dignity of every individual, and the Constitution of the United States and the State of Arizona.



Discussion