

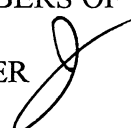
City Mgr Report
2-28-06

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT USE OF FORCE POLICIES

Attached for your information is a memorandum from Police Chief Samarra concerning the Police Department's Use of Force polices. We thought this would be useful information for Council.

Attachment

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2006
TO: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
FROM: CHARLES E. SAMARRA, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE POLICY



The purpose of this memorandum, is to introduce certain aspects of our Use of Force policy in light of the recent police officer shooting at the IHOP restaurant parking lot.

The Relevant Use of Force Directives listed below establish the policies and procedures against which the actions of Police officers are measured when there is a use of force. Police officers must comply with these standards when there is a use of force, and we provide annual mandatory training on the use of force standards for every Police officer.

The determination of whether or not there were any criminal violations by an officer involved in a use of force case is made solely by the Commonwealth's Attorney. When we complete our criminal investigation on such a case, we forward it to the Commonwealth's Attorney who renders the final decision.

Once the criminal investigation is complete and acted on by the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Police Department's role is to determine if there were violations of Police Department administrative policies and to take any personnel actions required.

10.32.04 USE OF LETHAL FORCE

C. Shooting at or from moving vehicles is authorized only when:

1. An occupant of the other vehicle is using, or threatening to use, lethal force by a means other than the vehicle; or
2. A vehicle is operated in a manner deliberately intended to strike an employee or a citizen and all other reasonable means of defense (including moving out of the path of the vehicle, see 10.32.06, E.1) have been exhausted, are not practical or are not present; and
3. The safety of innocent persons would not be unduly jeopardized by the employee's action.

10.32.06 USE OF VEHICLES/VEHICLE STOPS

E. Specific procedures for felony vehicle stops are covered in **Police Directive 11.21, Traffic Enforcement**. Sworn personnel will use these procedures when appropriate. The following procedures will be followed during all high-risk vehicle stops: **[61.1.7]**

1. Employees will not move themselves into or remain in the path of an occupied, moving vehicle for any reason except when conducting routine traffic direction and control.
2. Employees will not fire at a moving vehicle if the sole justification for doing so is that the driver attempted to strike an employee with the vehicle, unless the employee has first taken evasive action and the threat to the employee's safety remains or has worsened (e.g., the employee jumps out of the path of an oncoming vehicle and the vehicle swerves to again place the employee in the vehicle's path.)
3. Employees will refrain from reaching into an occupied vehicle in an attempt to immobilize the vehicle because of the potential for an employee to be severely injured during such action.

cc: Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager