



# WHERE WE STAND

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## Understanding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office's Use of Force Policy

January 2022



## USE OF FORCE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Deputies may use force, to the extent permitted by law, training, and policy. Deputies are authorized to use proportional, objectively reasonable force to establish control and gain compliance when the deputy perceives it is necessary given the circumstances known to the deputy at the time of the incident.

A reverence and respect for the dignity of all persons and the sanctity of human life shall guide deputies in the use of force and be the governing principle. The use of force shall end when resistance ceases, or the deputy has accomplished the lawful purpose.

### ACCREDITED AGENCY

#### Accreditation is Voluntary

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) is an accredited agency and is officially recognized by three independent accrediting councils for meeting essential requirements of professional standards in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. ASO is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. ASO is one of fewer than 50 agencies in the country to hold this Triple Crown accreditation.



*"As Sheriff, I am given the gift of protecting and serving our community. It disturbs me when I see others abuse that power and there is no room in law enforcement for those who do. I am committed to building and maintaining relationships through community engagement."*

—Sheriff Sean Casey

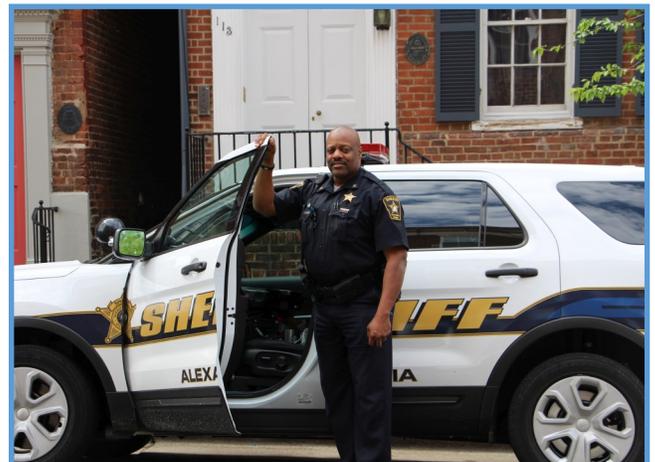
**COMMUNITY,  
COMPASSION &  
COMMITMENT**

**See something. Say something.**

**DO SOMETHING!**

**WE CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO:**

- ◆ Serve our community with integrity, fairness, and compassion.
- ◆ Use only necessary and reasonable force in resolving incidents.
- ◆ Intervene and hold accountable those who fail to do so.



## **CHOKEHOLDS AND CAROTID RESTRAINTS BANNED**

The use of chokeholds and carotid restraint holds is prohibited. Chokeholds are deemed deadly force.



## **REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION**

*Deputies receive de-escalation and crisis intervention training.*

Deputies receive de-escalation and use of force training each year. They receive instruction on strategies to gain voluntary compliance, reduce the level of force required in a situation, or prevent any use of force, if possible. This training involves both verbal de-escalation and physical crisis intervention skills. Additionally, **77 employees are certified in Crisis Intervention, a 40-hour, specialized course in de-escalation techniques for interacting with those having a mental health crisis.**

## **REQUIRE WARNINGS**

Deputies must advise, warn, command, or verbally persuade, when tactically feasible, prior to the use of force.

## **USE OF FORCE ALTERNATIVES**

*Deputies are required to make decisions in rapidly changing and quickly unfolding situations.*

When the use of force is necessary, deputies must assess each incident based on policy, training, and experience to determine which force options are appropriate and reasonable to bring the situation under control in the safest manner possible for all persons involved.

The "Use of Force Continuum" is an outdated concept from previous decades that was replaced with more knowledgeable, science-based use of force training and policy. These new policies continue to emphasize de-escalation and using the least amount of force necessary to resolve incidents safely.

## DUTY TO INTERVENE

*Deputies are required to intervene if they observe excessive force or witness other misconduct.*

The duty to intervene is a required responsibility that enhances accountability, community safety, and the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals.

## REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

*Deputies are required to immediately notify their supervisor following any use of force.*

All use of force incidents must be thoroughly documented and will undergo an administrative review.

## SHOOTING AT, OR FROM, MOVING VEHICLES PROHIBITED

Deputies may not shoot at a moving vehicle or its occupants. The only exceptions are when an occupant is using or threatening to use deadly force by a means other than the vehicle or if there are no other reasonable means of defense (including moving out of the vehicle's path).

## MEDICAL AID

*Medical aid must be provided.*

Once the scene is safe, and as soon as possible, deputies are required to provide appropriate medical aid or medical treatment to any person who is obviously injured, alleges an injury, or requests medical attention following a use of force incident.



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