



## POLICE DEPARTMENT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### CSUPD Use of Force Police Summary

The Colorado State University Police Department strives to protect life in all cases. We are also committed to being open and transparent about our policies and practices on behalf of our community. We are therefore pleased to share the following information regarding CSUPD use of force and other recommended best practices to which we adhere to avoid harm or loss of life to any individual:

#### **Officers Wear Body Cameras**

CSUPD patrol officers wear body cameras at all times while on duty. This practice was implemented three years ago.

#### **Use of Force Policy and Practices**

In 2019, CSUPD officers reported using force in only **0.04 percent** of more than 12,000 recorded police incidents. Throughout the entire 65-year history of CSUPD, officers have used lethal force in only three incidents.

**Ban Chokeholds:** CSUPD prohibits the use of chokeholds, in compliance with Colorado law, including any carotid restraint or applying any pressure to a person's throat or windpipe that is sufficient to prevent or hinder breathing.

**Require De-Escalation:** More than one-third of CSUPD officers are certified in crisis intervention training, which trains officers on skills to deescalate situations involving community members who are in crisis, such as experiencing a mental health issue. CSUPD's on-going training efforts focus on this certification for newly hired officers with the expectation that they will attend and complete this course during their first three years with our agency. We continue to striving for 100 percent of all sworn officers certified in these skills through a recognized training program as soon as possible. CSUPD officers also work regularly with area mental health organizations to connect community members in need with clinical resources and to ensure the equitable, compassionate treatment of all involved.

**Exhaust All Options Before Using Force; Employ a Use of Force Continuum:** CSUPD officers are trained to use the least amount of force necessary to resolve a situation. Officers focus on protecting life in all cases. With this training and goal in mind, officers assess options on a continuum when making decisions about how to respond in situations. The continuum provides numerous options other than use of force, depending upon the level of threat to other individuals or to the officer.

**Issue a Use of Force Warning:** CSUPD officers are trained to issue verbal warnings and commands before using force in all instances possible.

**Report Use of Force:** CSUPD requires that all use of force be reported into a central electronic system. Reports are reviewed by supervisors for objectively reasonable use of force, compliance with existing laws, and department policies. The central reporting system has an early warning component to address areas of concern. In addition, CSUPD requires every *display of force* to be reported through this system. Display of force is when an officer draws their taser, gun or other weapon to gain voluntary compliance. The reporting system is part of an early intervention system to help supervisors identify and address concerns about use of force or other actions, inform training needs, and prevent actions by officers that may be of concern.

**Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles:** CSUPD's policy is that officers should not create a situation where they are in jeopardy; instead of discharging their firearm at any vehicle or any of its occupants, they should move away from the vehicle whenever possible. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes that there are no other means to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others, such as members of the public. Per CSUPD policy, officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle to try to disable the vehicle.

**Uphold a Duty to Intervene:** CSUPD officers are required to intercede during police contacts in which they observe another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances. In addition to being required to report when they use force, CSUPD officers are required to report all incidents where any force is used by other officers that exceeds the degree permitted by law.