



Monroe Police Department



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We'd like to take a moment to thank all those who have expressed their support for the Monroe Police Department during this time of the national turmoil. We truly do appreciate all of your kind words. We have been fielding many questions over the last few weeks concerning our policies and the laws of the State. We've compiled a list of some of the most frequently asked questions. We are aware that this post is long, but the answers to many of these questions are not simple and require some explanation. We hope you take the time to read through the entire post. Thanks again for your support.

Is comprehensive use of force reporting required?

The Monroe Police Department has long required our officers to report every incident where force is used. Every incident involving force is investigated to see if the use of force was necessary and if the appropriate level of force was used. We have body worn cameras and in-car cameras to assist in our investigation of the use of force. We also submit use of force reports annually to the State of Connecticut which are reviewed and critiqued for potential patterns or incidents of excessive force.

Do we require our officers to follow the Use of Force Continuum?

The concept of the Use of Force Continuum has evolved from its origins and is no longer considered best practice in law enforcement. The use of force continuum implies that a given incident follows a linear pattern where, if one level of force doesn't work, the officer moves to the next level of force. Unfortunately, interactions don't always work that way and can shift back and forth during the course of a single interaction. Our officers are trained to use the level of force that is objectively reasonable at the given time in the interaction and to constantly reassess to see if a lesser level of force would be feasible to safely effect an arrest and overcome resistance.

Do we require De-Escalation training?

All Monroe Police Officers are trained in de-escalation training. It is a part of the Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training counsel curriculum and has been for several years. De-escalation is incorporated into our practical skills training and our policies. In addition to that, we've sent nearly every officer and dispatcher to Crisis Intervention Training through the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE).

Are we required to exhaust all means before shooting?

Monroe Police officers are trained to use all available measures to de-escalate a situation before resorting to any amount of reasonable force. Discharging a firearm is considered a deadly use of force and should only be used as a last resort. Our training ingrains the value of human life into our officers. They know, and understand, that there is always a danger of injuring an innocent person when firing a weapon, and every officer is admonished to always use the utmost caution in such cases.

Do we forbid chokeholds and strangleholds?

The Monroe Police Department does not train our officers to use chokeholds or strangleholds. A chokehold or a stranglehold is also considered a deadly use of force and would only be permitted as a last resort in a situation where deadly force is warranted.

Are we required to issue a warning before shooting?

Monroe Police officers are required to give a verbal warning before the use of a firearm is deployed where such a warning is feasible under the circumstance.

Are we banned from shooting at moving vehicles?

Shooting at a moving vehicle is prohibited unless the officer reasonably believes that there are no other means available to avert the threat of a vehicle, such as the vehicle being used in a ramming attack, or if the occupants of the vehicle are using or threatening to use deadly force against the officer or another person present. That being said, it is our policy, and State law, that our officers do not intentionally position themselves in the path of a fleeing vehicle so as to create a threat to the officer.

Do we have a duty to intervene?

When a Monroe Police officer is hired, they take the Oath of Office and swear that they will serve honestly and faithfully the State of Connecticut and the Constitution of the United States. We understand that we are a symbol of public faith and trust. The Monroe Police Department general orders demand that an officer take action to prevent a crime from continuing, which includes an assault by another officer. Any Monroe Police officer who observes another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances, if in a position to do so, has the duty to intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force and report their observations to a supervisor.