

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO ADOPTING
USE OF FORCE REDUCTION POLICIES

WHEREAS, systemic violence against minorities, especially black people, is embedded throughout the history of the United States, and is an issue which a number of community members in the City of Greensboro have voiced passionate concern about;

WHEREAS, minorities, both throughout history and today, have been devalued by authorities in the criminal justice system resulting in outcomes that are not equal to that of their white counterparts;

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was adopted to curtail the violent, racist state-sanctioned antics against minorities who are unfairly targeted by authorities in the criminal justice system throughout this country;

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, the murder of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, while in police custody, has caused protestors across the country to protest his death and the ongoing systemic racism that is woven into the fabric of the criminal justice system in the United States;

WHEREAS, all Americans should consider it their call of duty to combat racism, both unconscious and conscious, throughout our communities and within the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Greensboro called upon the Greensboro Police Department to revisit their use of force policies and form deep, meaningful, year-round relationships with local communities and their leaders to better understand the issues that impact their neighborhoods and perceptions about those charged with protecting and serving said communities;

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Greensboro engaged in meaningful discussions with its police department concerning principals to reduce and prevent violent encounters with criminal suspects and members of the public in general;

WHEREAS, as a result of the meaningful discussions with its police department, the City of Greensboro has seen constructive police policy changes in an effort to achieve policies to reduce the number of violent encounters with citizens;

WHEREAS, specifically, on February 10, 2020 the Greensboro Police Department adopted a policy banning officers from shooting at moving cars unless there are no other means available to stop an imminent deadly threat; and on June 8, 2020 the Greensboro Police Department adopted a policy directing officers to use the minimal amount of force necessary in overcoming resistance and effecting arrest; and on June 8, 2020, the Greensboro Police Department adopted a policy banning chokeholds absent the need to use deadly force; and on June 8, 2020 the Greensboro Police Department adopted a policy directing officers to intervene, both verbally and physically, in any use of force which violates policy or training; and on July 13, 2020, the Greensboro Police Department adopted a policy requiring, where feasible, officers to verbally warn a person before the use of deadly force, the use of a Conducted Electrical Weapon, release of chemical munitions, or release of police canine;

WHEREAS, as a result of these discussions the City evaluated the current policies of the Greensboro Police Department concerning de-escalation, use of force decision-making, and reporting, and found those policies to comport with national best practices, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Greensboro can further its goal of reducing and preventing violent encounters with criminal suspects and members of the public in general through ongoing communication with its police department, and continued research and training to remain committed to national best practices; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Greensboro will continue to lend its support to its police department, and will commit to funding for the training necessary to continue to achieve the goals set out herein.