



January 4, 2017

Community Members:

Today, the Denver Police Department will unveil the new draft Use of Force (UOF) Policy. This draft policy is the product of best practices from across the nation, which have been extensively researched by the Denver Police Department. However, we greatly value having input from our respected community members, as you provide a diverse and important perspective. Therefore, I am asking that interested community members review the policy and send us your comments and suggestions to DPDPlanning@denvergov.org before February 5, 2017.

Crime prevention is our core principle and includes the sanctity of life of those we serve and our police officers. As the department continues to evolve from a traditional agency to a dynamic and innovative agency, we have been working to bring our policies in line with these principles. Paramount to that are previous policy changes, such as: de-escalation, decision-making model, shooting into moving cars, duty to render aid and provide medical treatment, duty to intervene, and removal of the carotid hold, to name a few. The new UOF Policy, will act in concert with those policies and principles.

Also, included in the department's transformational change, we have enhanced; police officer training, response to those suffering a mental health crisis, use of less lethal methods, implicit bias training for officers, and response to suicidal parties. Additionally, this month we will begin a mandatory 40-hour ethics training for all members of the Denver Police Department and we will continue evaluating and updating policies as they pertain to these principles.

Again, I encourage you to send input to DPDPlanning@denvergov.org before February 5, 2017, and I commit to carefully consider any recommendations you send regarding the policy.

Sincerely,

Robert C. White
Chief of Police