

BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICIES IN LINE WITH #8CANTWAIT

PIO Number: 20-6-6

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#8CANTWAIT

BAN CHOKEHOLDS & STRANGLEHOLDS

REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

TOGETHER, THESE 8 POLICIES CAN DECREASE POLICE VIOLENCE BY 72%.

DUTY TO INTERVENE

BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

ESTABLISH USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

REQUIRE ALL FORCE BE REPORTED

Broward Sheriff's Office is compliant with #8CANTWAIT

The call to root out systematic racism and reform policy is being heard around the world and here in Broward County.

The Broward Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with jurisdictions across the county, is committed to increasing dialogue and transparency in order to have a better understanding of racial discrimination within the criminal justice system. It's important to openly address these issues and look at how we can improve upon the #8CANTWAIT recommendations BSO already meets. Part of that process has already begun with re-integrating a more comprehensive Early Warning System to detect potential behaviors that may cause harm to the public, establishing the first Use-of-Force Review Board in the agency's history, restructuring the Professional Standards Committee to include more minorities and civilians and offering Racial Equity and Implicit Bias Training program countywide.

“Every single day we are in contact with some resident in this community and have some form of dialogue. Broward County is one of the most diverse counties in the state of Florida. We need to understand the plights that truly exist that impact how we react with the people who we are supposed to serve,” Sheriff Gregory Tony said.

As part of BSO’s commitment to transparency, below are the department policies already in alignment with the #8CANTWAIT recommendations.

1. Ban on chokeholds and strangleholds

BSO does not teach chokeholds. Deputies will not use chokeholds to restrain or secure any person except in situations where deadly force is justified.

2. Require de-escalation

De-escalation training is provided to all sworn law enforcement personnel as part of their annual use-of-force training.

3. Require warning before shooting

Policy requires deputies to give some verbal warning, when feasible, before discharging a weapon.

4. Exhaust all other means before shooting

Under the totality of circumstances, deputies are trained to utilize alternative resources, such as de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention techniques and other less lethal options as long as its use does not compromise safety or law enforcement priorities.

5. Duty to intervene

BSO deputies are instructed on peer accountability and their legal obligation to intervene. Failure to intervene shall be treated the same as if the employee committed the violation.

6. Ban on shooting at moving vehicles

BSO policy prohibits shooting at or from moving vehicles unless life threatening exigent circumstances exist. We do not teach these techniques.

7. Require use of force continuum

BSO deputies are taught use-of-force guidelines and how to respond to the following types of resistance: passive resistance, active resistance, aggressive and deadly force. Deadly force is the last option.

8. Require all force be reported

Uniformed deputies have body-worn cameras and are required to activate them prior to taking any lawful action per policy. All use-of-force incidents are documented by both the patrol deputy and their immediate supervisors. All use-of-force reports are reviewed by the deputy’s command and forwarded to the Department of Professional Standards for review if issues are identified.