



CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

410 N. Phillip's Ranch Rd. Granite Shoals, Texas, 78654
Office: (830) 598-4818 Fax: (830) 598-4354

June 8, 2020

Use of Force Policy Review

Use of Force by police officers employed by the City of Granite Shoals is governed by Section 6.1 of the Granite Shoals Police Department Policy Manual. Additionally, use of firearms and use of less-lethal weapons are governed by Sections 6.2 and 6.3 respectively of the Granite Shoals Police Department Policy Manual. Investigation of Office Involved Shooting incidents is governed by Section 6.4 of the Granite Shoals Police Department policy. The following is a summary of some key points from those policies as well as other portions of the Granite Shoals Police Department policy and standard operating procedures:

Body Cameras & Dash Cameras

- Policy mandates that officers activate dash and body cameras anytime they are in contact with a member of the public. This includes but is not limited to traffic stops, calls for service, officer-initiated activity, etc.
- Camera systems are configured to activate both dash and body cameras with the activation of emergency lights in the patrol vehicle.
- Cameras are on a 30 second pre-event recording cycle. Once activated, the camera records video and audio for 30 seconds prior to activation.
- Videos are retained for a longer period than standard record retention policy dictates: 120 days on any incident not involving an arrest or use of force, incidents involving a misdemeanor, felony or use of force are retained indefinitely.
- Supervisors periodically review random body camera and dash camera videos from each officer to ensure compliance with policy.

Use of Force - General

- The policy was adapted from a model policy written by the Texas Police Chief's Association. This is considered one of the "gold standards" for policies in the State of Texas.
- The policy is reviewed by the Chief of Police at least once annually to ensure it conforms to current best practices.
- Our policy dictates a minimum amount of force be used to obtain a law enforcement objective, protect a third party from harm or protect the officer from harm. Use of Conducted Energy Weapons or other non-lethal weapons after an individual is handcuffed are specifically prohibited.
- We follow proper handcuffing procedures, our policies specifically prohibit the use of certain archaic leg restraints, sometimes referred to as hog tying.

Gary A. Boshears, M. P. A. – Chief of Police

The vision of the Granite Shoals Police Department is to instill a sense of pride to each and every citizen within our community. We strive to serve our community with integrity and professionalism, while providing proactive, two-way interaction with the residents, businesses, and schools to enhance the safety and security for all.



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- The policy specifically prohibits the use of chokeholds or other similar types of neck restraints and any other carotid artery restraint.
- The policy requires a supervisor be notified of any Use of Force incident.
- The policy requires on any Use of Force incident, the officer completes a separate Use of Force report. This includes anytime a firearm or less-lethal weapon is pointed at an individual but not deployed.
- Every Use of Force is reviewed by the Patrol Sergeant, Captain, and Chief of Police separately for compliance with policy.
- New amendment to our Use of Force policy states that if an individual is forcefully taken to the ground, they should be brought to an upright position once handcuffed and Emergency Medical Services shall be notified to evaluate the individual.
- Policies are more than sufficient to prevent incident similar to those currently in national news.
- Our policies are all based on model policies from the Texas Police Chiefs Association which are specifically written to prevent such incidents.
- Additionally, we have ongoing conversations with our officers about what is going on nationally and how things can be done better.

Use of Force – Less-Lethal Weapons

- Three less-lethal weapons specifically authorized by policy: Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), Baton, and Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser®).
- The police department does not utilize rubber bullets.
- Police Department utilizes Oleoresin Capsicum only in high-risk tactical situations such as a barricaded suspect. Police Department does not utilize other chemical agents.
- Use of Batons and Conducted Energy Weapons are restricted to when the officer encounters active physical resistance.
- The policy requires when a Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser) is deployed, Emergency Medical Services respond to the scene to evaluate the individual.

Use of Force – Lethal Force

- Officers receive periodic training in the use of lethal force.
- Our policy only authorizes lethal force in certain situations such as to protect the officer or another person from imminent serious bodily injury or death.
- The policy specifically prohibits attempting to shoot out tires on a vehicle.

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- The policy strongly discourages firing shots at a moving vehicle and encourages the officer to get out of the way of a moving vehicle.
- The policy prohibits the use of warning shots.
- Any use of deadly force would be reviewed internally as well as investigated by the Texas Rangers and the District Attorney's Office.

Transparency & Accountability

- All our policies are based off model policies from the Texas Police Chief's Association, considered one of the "Gold Standards" for policy in the State of Texas.
- We provide our officers with a significant amount of training on a variety of topics.
- We were one of the first agencies in this area to implement de-escalation training.
- We were one of the first agencies in this area to implement body cameras.
- In addition to Use of Force and other trainings, we put a priority in training our officers on community-oriented policing topics, leadership, and other subjects.
- Our citizens, City Council, and management are provided with a significant amount of information in our monthly reports, published on the city website.
- We post a significant amount of information on social media.
- Our annual report contains an analysis of all Use of Force incident throughout the year. This report is provided to the City Council and available on our city website. Please note, this is not a policy requirement, but a transparency measure I feel is necessary as Chief of Police. This information has been included in the police department annual report for the past four years.
- A failure of an officer to follow any of the policies or procedures outlined above would be a direct violation of policy and appropriate discipline measures would be followed.
- Our department is strongly focused on and committed to community-oriented policing principles; this is evident in actions officers take on a daily basis.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me to review this information. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Gary A. Boshears, M. P. A.
Chief of Police

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