

The Denver Police Department Presents

New Policy Information



TIMES ARE CHANGING, SO ARE WE.

As the needs of our community change, so must the way law enforcement engages and serves its residents. Keeping in line with our mission of operating a police agency with a focus on preventing crime in a respectful manner, demonstrating that everyone matters, we continue to make numerous philosophical and policy changes. Crime prevention is our core principle and includes the sanctity of life of those we serve, those we encounter as we enforce the law, and our police officers. Denver Police officers do an outstanding job every day and as the entrusted peace keepers of Denver, we must adapt with the changing culture and needs of our community, which is why we are evolving our Use of Force (UOF) policy and continuing to move away from traditional policing to dynamic and innovative policing.



Traditional Policing (Old Way)



Innovative Policing (New Way)

LEGAL: Standard enforcement decision generally was whether the action of the officer was legal.

NECESSARY: All officer decisions require a determination if actions are legal, necessary, and appropriate, allowing for critical thinking.

STAND YOUR GROUND: Officers used to be trained to not give up ground when dealing with volatile situations, which restricted options.

ADAPTIVE & RESOURCEFUL: Officers now adapt to situations while maintaining control, keeping themselves and others safe. This offers the ability to utilize more resources and increases options.

INFLEXIBLE: Occasionally, citizens complained that officers were rigid and disrespectful.

RESPECTFUL & IMPARTIAL: Officers are now taught to maintain control in a polite, professional manner while handling interactions judiciously and empathetically.

RUSHED RESPONSE: Regardless of the situation and possible dangers to all parties involved, officers were trained to resolve situations as quickly as possible. This limited options and decreased safety.

SLOW DOWN: When possible, slow response to the situation, allowing for critical thinking. Officers are taught to utilize time, distance and cover.

ENFORCING: Officers reacted to crime. They focused on eradicating crime through enforcement.

PREVENTION: Crime prevention through relationships with the community, including a focus on hiring and training officers who are integrated in the community.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

Another principle, which went into effect in 2016, is the responsibility of police officers to provide medical attention, immediately after it is safe to do so, during an incident and not use force to recover ingested contraband. Additionally, we previously made changes to the UOF policy including not shooting at moving vehicles unless deadly force (other than the vehicle) is being used against an officer or another person by use of a weapon other than the vehicle. Lastly, the policy includes stronger language about the duty of officers to intervene and report inappropriate force by other law enforcement officers.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We want to hear from you! Read the full policy draft at Denvergov.org/Police and send us your ideas.

Email your comments to DPDPlanning@Denvergov.org by 11:59 PM on February 4, 2017.