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# Safety Committee

# January 13

Chief Paul M. Pazen



# Outline

- Overview
- OIM recommendations
- Moving forward with evidence-based solutions with the community

# Overview

# Use of Force Policy – Main Policy Tenets

A clearly stated philosophy - The department recognizes the value and sanctity of all human life and is committed to respecting and protecting the dignity, safety, and civil rights of community members, including the right to be free from inappropriate force

Guidelines that increased accountability – Officers must articulate that they had the authority to use force, and that the force was reasonable and necessary under the totality of circumstances

A policy that goes beyond the Graham v. Conner ruling, which states, “Just because an officer can use force, does not mean an officer should use force”

Utilizes de-escalation principles including time, distance, and cover to increase public and officer safety

# Crowd Management Objectives

Attempts are made to coordinate with event organizers, to communicate both legal and operational needs and expectations to the event's leadership

Traffic management to minimize the impact of the event on the normal flow of traffic as well as safely escort demonstrators

Law enforcement officers will make every effort to differentiate between individual misbehavior and actions of the crowd in general

Denver Police Department first seeks voluntary compliance

# Initial Protests

May 28, 2020 – Protests related to incident involving the Minneapolis PD (5/25) resulting in the death of George Floyd

- People started to congregate at state Capitol
- CSP reports shots fired
- Protest group grows and separates
- Specific challenges on I-25, District Six Station, and the Capital complex
- Multiple reports of assaults, looting, and property damage

# Initial Protests

The OIM report outlines the DPD response to protests during the first 5 days. However, significant protests continued throughout the year and still occur today. In general, during the first 5 days:

- Peaceful First Amendment activity generally occurred during the day with acts of violence increasing during the nighttime hours
- In the first 5 days, 54 weapons were recovered including 25 firearms
- In response to police presence or orders given, members of the crowd threw bottles, rocks, and fireworks at officers causing numerous officers to sustain injury
- 74 community members injured; 81 officers sustained injuries, 11 placed on limited duty, and 4 required significant time off of work
- More than \$4 million in damages to private businesses and government buildings

# Committed to Improvement

- The circumstances faced by our officers and command staff were extraordinary, and DPD has and will continue to review these events and our response to identify potential gaps or opportunities for improvement in policies, practices, training, and procedures
- The Denver Police Department is committed to learning from its response to the unprecedented protest activities occurring not only in Denver but throughout the country and is adapting and implementing necessary changes based on smart practices learned from these nationwide protest events.

# OIM Recommendations

# OIM Recommendations

Rec. 1: Tracking less-lethal munitions - Agree

**Draft policy completed – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**

Rec. 2: Creation of rosters – Agree

**Draft policy completed – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**

Rec. 3: BWC use and spot checks – Agree

**Draft policy completed for implementation on Jan 31, 2021 and adjustments made for protective gear. BWC usage noted in OIM report lacks context.**

Rec. 4: Use of force reporting – Agree

**Draft policy completed to reflect reports being completed by end of shift – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**

Rec. 5: Issue multiple dispersal orders – Agree

**Continue to adhere to requirements of Law Enforcement Integrity Act, effective June 19, 2020 and stipulation from June 26, 2020**

# OIM Recommendations

Rec. 6: Record dispersal orders – Agree

**Crowd management manual updated June 19, 2020**

Rec. 7: Badge number and name on protective gear - Agree

**Completed November 25, 2020**

Rec. 8: Training and certified for pepperball & 40 mm – Agree

**Current policy. Incidents contrary to policy will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action will be taken**

Rec. 9: Review and report to public– Agree

**Public dashboard created to update progress**

Rec. 10: Disallow rubber-ball grenades during crowd control operations– Agree

**Draft policy completed – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**

# OIM Recommendations

- Rec. 11: Clear and specific standards for NFDDs – Agree  
**Draft policy completed – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**
- Rec. 12: Revise standards for pepperball– Agree  
**Draft policy completed – Implementation on Jan 31, 2021**
- Rec. 13: Develop mutual aid agreements – Agree  
**Meeting scheduled on Feb 10, 2021**
- Rec. 14: Mutual aid partners to adhere to DPD policies – Agree in part  
**Meeting scheduled on Feb 10, 2021**
- Rec. 15: Period joint trainings and exercises – Agree  
**Examining our options with partners during a pandemic**
- Rec. 16: Internal review and evaluation – Agree  
**Has been occurring since the protests started and will continue**

# Summary

The DPD is committed to working through these recommendations and seeking additional feedback from subject matter experts to ensure evidence-based solutions

All policy and manual changes will be published before the January 31 deadline and we are scheduled to meet with our metro-area partners prior to the February 28 deadline as set by the department in our response dated December 8, 2020

# Moving Forward with Evidence-Based Solutions with the Community

# Moving Forward

- Finalize policy changes based on OIM recommendations and our own review
- Develop detailed mutual aid partnerships
- Continue to review and improve operations related to crowd management events through training
  - Requires appropriate staffing levels and funding
- We look forward to working collaboratively with the OIM and our community throughout this process

# Questions?

