

The Monrovia Police Department is fully committed to the continued delivery of compassionate and professional police services. We consider ourselves not only servants to the community, but members of our fine city. Legally reviewed federal and state mandated policy and procedure provide the basis for Monrovia Police Department's day-to-day service. Equally important to the Monrovia Police Department foundation, is our Community Activist Policing model, developed and utilized for over 29 years. Community partnership and collaboration, required to solve quality of life issues, are the central focus of police service to Monrovia community members.

Our hiring practices are incredibly stringent and in depth. As an example, applicants undergo a thorough, all-encompassing background investigation, polygraph examination, and psychological screening, just to name a few. Officers go through an initial extensive training program over an 18-month period. They continue participating in regular, state, and department mandated training and qualification throughout the remainder of their career. We are always seeking ways to improve through input and analysis of community needs and best legislative practices.

Monrovia Police Department LEXIPOL policies are based on state law, federal law, and best practices reviewed by legal counsel according to all state and federal mandates.

Below are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions from our community members:

Q: Does MPD allow officers to use chokeholds or strangleholds?

A: Our policy does not authorize an officer to use any "choke" or carotid control holds (MPD 300.3.4).

Q: Does MPD require its officers to use de-escalation techniques?

A: Our policy requires de-escalation techniques. De-escalation training has been a fundamental skill used by our officers for years. Officers are comprehensively trained in techniques focused on effectively reaching the most peaceful outcome (MPD 429.6). This training often utilizes our in-house Virtucom simulation system (operated by a state certified Tactical Communications Instructor), allowing for a variety of interactive scenarios that adjust to an officer's de-escalation skills. In 2017, our police department was officially recognized by the state of California and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, globally, for our progressive de-escalation training program. The Monrovia Police Department has also partnered with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to provide de-escalation classes to law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County.

Q: Does MPD Require officers to issue a warning before shooting their firearm?

A: Our policy states that when feasible, our officers shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and warn that deadly force may be used (MPD 300.4(b)).

Q: Does MPD train its officers to exhaust all alternatives before shooting their firearms?

A: Our policy states that officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether or not to use deadly force (MPD 300.4). Furthermore, Assembly

Bill 392, signed by Governor Newsom and enacted January 1, 2020, states deadly force can be used to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person or to apprehend a fleeing felon if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Q: Does MPD have a policy requiring officers to intervene if excessive force is being used?

A: Our policy states that any officer, present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances, shall intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force, and promptly report these observations to a supervisor (MPD 300.2.1).

Q: Does MPD have a ban on shooting at moving vehicles?

A: Our policy states that an officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others (MPD 300.4.1).

Q: Does MPD require the use of a force continuum or force ladder?

A: Our policy states all force used must be reasonable and necessary, and officers are only authorized to use force to affect an arrest, prevent escape or overcome resistance (MPD 300.3.1; California Penal Code section 835a). When using force, our officers are required to take into account the totality of circumstances.

Q: Does MPD require comprehensive reporting when an officer uses force?

A: Our policy requires that any use of force be documented promptly, completely and accurately within the case report (MPD 300.5). Following report completion, a prompt multi-layer review by a direct supervisor, a Watch Commander, and a Division Captain is conducted. Each layer of review measures the appropriateness of the force used to ensure it is within MPD policy as well as California state law. If deadly force were to be used, it would be independently reviewed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please call my office at (626) 256-8098 or email me at asanvictores@monrovia.laclen.org

Yours in Service,

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