

ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Discussion on Policing  
Reforms and Initiatives



# Police Chief's Message



- ▶ The Atherton Police Department protects the Town with the community's safety in mind. Our policies and standard operating procedures demonstrate this core belief.
- ▶ The ideals expressed in "#8Can'tWait" are addressed by the requirements of SB 230. SB 230 was approved by California Governor Newsom in September 2019.
- ▶ SB 230 mandates important use of force policies and training, including an emphasis on de-escalation and the sanctity of life.
- ▶ The Department has developed a series of use of force principles to improve community relations while balancing the safety of our officers and the community we serve.

# Training Programs & Policies



- The Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training, known as POST, dictates various training requirements that police personnel must have on a continuous basis.
- Some of these topics include: Use of Force (AB 392), Crisis Intervention Training, De-Escalation, Racial Profiling/Implicit Bias, Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Immigration Training (SB 54).
- In FY 2019/2020, our officers received 2,720 hours of training. This is a more than the typical police agency.

# The Tools We Use



- Less-lethal, sometimes called non-lethal, munitions are just a step below the deadly force continuum.
- The less-dangerous options give police officers another avenue to manage suspects in a situation.
- These tools can include:
  - 40 mm launcher, Taser, Baton and OC spray.

# Tools Continued...



- Bodycams
- In Car Video
- K9
- ALPR
- ASP Baton
- De-escalation
- Crisis Intervention
- Scaled Officer Response (2 to 3 in most cases)

# Local Statistics



In 2015 - 2019 -

- 55,000 calls for service (inclusive of 15,000 traffic stops)
- 300 arrests
- No Uses of Force
- 6 Citizen complaints (all unfounded or officer exonerated)

In 2020 -

- 2 Authorized Uses of Force in 2020 - Wrist lock/40mm
- Last officer involved shooting was in 1979

# President Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force (2015)



## *6 Pillars of Law Enforcement*

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Policy and Oversight
- Technology and Social Media
- Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Training and Education
- Officer Safety and Wellness

# President Trump's Executive Order on Safe Policing (June 2020)



- Order creates a database to track police officers with multiple instances of misconduct.
- Uses federal grants to encourage departments to meet certain higher certification standards on use of force.
- Calls on departments to involve social workers and mental health professionals on calls dealing with homelessness, mental illness and addiction.
- Questions limits to power
- Order calls for police departments to ban the use of chokeholds, except when an officer feels his or her life is endangered.

## Attorney General - 8 Procedural Rules (June 2020)



- In response to the recent calls for police reforms, in June 2020, the State of California Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, made a "call for broad police reforms and proactive efforts to protect lives."
- Attorney General identified 8 Procedural Rules

# AG Becerra's 8 Procedural Rules



- Intervention
- Ban Chokeholds and Carotid Restraints
- De-Escalation
- Proportionality
- Verbal Warnings
- Moving Vehicles
- Deadly Force As Last Resort
- Comprehensive Reporting
- *Canine Use*

# #8Can'tWait Campaign



A national movement called '8 Can't Wait' pursues 8 major changes to policy and training. All of the #8Can'tWait changes are reflected in current Lexipol Policies.

- **Require De-escalation**
- **Duty to Intervene**
- **Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds**
- **Require Warning Before Shooting**
- **Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles**
- **Require Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting**
- **Require 'Use of Force' Continuum**
- **Require Comprehensive Reporting**

# Opportunities for Improvement



- Develop sincere community relationships with each point of contact
- Engage with the community and improve their understanding of the Department's role and operations.
- Don't become complacent with traditional approaches and processes that may engender race-biased behavior.
- Each policy should be examined to verify that its operations and procedures are consistent with the mission and strategy of the Department.

# Next Steps



- Pursue Federal Accreditation – Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
- Provide continued support for focused training
- Expand Public Engagement, Transparency and Outreach (could include a survey)
- Continue a Practice of Town Hall Meetings focused on community policing
- Continue to Host an Annual Citizens Academy

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



*Questions are the path to learning*