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An Administrative Order  
Office of the Mayor  
City of Atlanta

2020 JUN 16 AM 1:45

Administrative Order No. 2020-18

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING THE CHIEF  
OPERATING OFFICER TO COORDINATE WITH THE INTERIM  
CHIEF OF POLICE TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT  
REFORMS OF THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND  
WORK RULES OF THE APD CONCERNING THEIR USE OF FORCE.**

**WHEREAS**, my vision for One Atlanta centers around five Citywide goals focused on creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive City; world-class employees, infrastructure and services; an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible government; thriving neighborhoods, communities, and businesses; and residents who are equipped for success; and

**WHEREAS**, the One Atlanta vision serves as the framework for creating a more Affordable, Equitable, and Resilient city; and

**WHEREAS**, to achieve these goals public agencies, residents, businesses, non-profits, philanthropy, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and more must work together; and

**WHEREAS**, police nationwide have shot and killed nearly 1,000 people annually since 2015, including approximately 181 shootings in the state of Georgia since 2015 which is approximately 18 shootings per million people in the state of Georgia<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, although half of the people shot and killed by police are white, black Americans are shot at a disproportionate rate, accounting for less than 13 percent of the U.S. population, while being killed by police at more than twice the rate of white Americans<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Police Department (APD) has long had a commitment as an agency to the implementation of best practices on how police practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust; and

**WHEREAS**, these include being one of 15 law enforcement agencies out of 18,000 in the nation to be recognized for implementing the 21st century policing methods, and receiving a model city designation for APD's efforts to implement and follow the 59 recommendations set in place by President Barack Obama's Task Force On 21st Century Policing; and

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

**WHEREAS**, additionally, APD has implemented implicit bias training, requires officers to visit the National Center for Civil and Human Rights as a part of their training; and the City support efforts to provide housing for our police officers in many of our communities in which they are serving in; and

**WHEREAS**, nevertheless recent incidents of persons needlessly facing injury or death at the hands of APD officer have shown that these efforts have not been enough to address the urgent need for reform within the Atlanta Police Department to rebuild the trust so desperately needed throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in light thereof, there exists a need to examine the City of Atlanta's use of force policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with my commitment to equity in Atlanta, on June 4, 2020 I issued Administrative Order 2020-17 via which I convened an advisory council consisting of community members and partners, both existing and potential, to make recommendations for any operational or legislative changes to the City of Atlanta's use of force policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-17 the Police Use of Force Advisory Council shall convene and provide initial recommendations to me within fourteen (14) days of the entry of the order; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of recent events it is obvious to me that even more immediate actions must be taken; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly I am hereby directing the Chief Operating Officer to coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to immediately adopt and implement reforms of the standard operating procedures and work rules of the APD concerning their use of force; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically these reforms must comply with state law concerning the use of force by a peace officer in the state of Georgia<sup>3</sup>, and must address APD officers' response to resistance, must require de-escalation generally, and specifically prior to the use of deadly force, must implement a duty to intervene, must provide for the reporting of all uses of deadly force by a police officer must be reported to the Citizens Review Board, and must specifically provide lawful restrictions on when an officer may use deadly force at a suspect who is in a moving motor vehicle.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA**, pursuant to Section 3-104 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 2-182(4) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, it is hereby ordered that:

**SECTION 1:** The Chief Operating Officer shall coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to immediately adopt and implement reforms of the standard operating procedures and work rules of the APD concerning their use of force.

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<sup>3</sup> See OCGA § 17-4-20

**SECTION 2:** Specifically, these reforms must comply with state law concerning the use of force by a peace officer in the state of Georgia<sup>4</sup>, and must

address APD officers' response to resistance, generally and specifically regarding the use of deadly force, in accordance with the principle that officers should use only the amount of objectively reasonable force necessary to successfully protect themselves or others to effect an arrest or to bring an incident under control when dealing with members of the community, suspects, detainees;

require de-escalation generally, and specifically prior to the use of deadly force, in accordance with the principle that officers should use de-escalation techniques to "gain voluntary compliance" and avoid or minimize the use of physical force and to continuously develop, update and train officers in de-escalation techniques;

require the reporting of all uses of deadly force by a police officer to the Citizens Review Board;

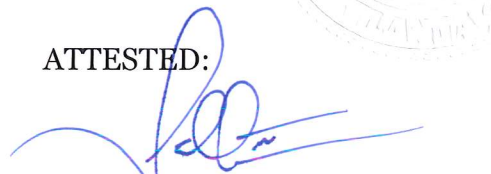
adopt and implement a duty to intervene whereby if a police officer sees another officer using force that beyond what is reasonable under the circumstances, they are duty-bound to intercede and prevent that use of force, and must immediately report the use of such force to an on-duty supervisor; and

provide lawful restrictions on when an officer may use deadly force at a suspect who is in a moving motor vehicle.

**SO ORDERED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:

  
Municipal Clerk

**Foris Webb, III**  
**Municipal Clerk**

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<sup>4</sup> See OCGA § 17-4-20