



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
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Tacoma Police Department Responds to Position on “8 Can’t Wait” Campaign

Tacoma, Wash. – The Tacoma Police Department is committed to implementing all of Campaign Zero’s “8 Can’t Wait” goals, and Chief of Police Don Ramsdell has directed a review of the department’s policies and procedures to determine ways to make these goals more prominent in its policies and training.

The department, which currently has policies consistent with five of the eight goals, has received inquiries regarding its position on the campaign.

“We agree with the goals and principles of the campaign,” Chief Ramsdell said. “And we’re not waiting. We’re pushing forward on all of those goals and look forward to working on this with the Citizen Police Advisory Committee.”

The current position of the department as it relates to the “8 Can’t Wait” goals are:

1. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

The department’s training does not include use of chokeholds or strangleholds, nor does it specifically ban them. Chief Ramsdell supports this policy and has directed staff to draft a policy to specifically forbid these methods.

2. Require De-Escalation

The department has de-escalation at the heart of its “use of force” policies, guided by a comprehensive use-of-force continuum. In addition, prior to the recent requirements adopted as a result of I-940 passage, the department implemented training for its officers in de-escalation tactics. The department is in the process of revising its training to match the state requirements.

3. Require Warning Before Shooting

Chief Ramsdell supports this policy and has directed staff to draft a policy which would incorporate a verbal warning prior to taking deadly force.

4. Exhaust All Other Means Before Shooting

The department's current use-of-force policy mandates that officers only use deadly force as a last resort.

5. Duty to Intervene

Chief Ramsdell supports this policy and has directed staff to draft a policy which would explicitly require officers to intervene if a fellow officer clearly uses excessive force.

6. Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

The department's current policy bans shooting at moving vehicles unless necessary to protect against imminent danger to the life of an officer or others.

7. Require Use of Force Continuum

The department currently has, and abides by, a use-of-force continuum.

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting

The department has a comprehensive reporting system which clearly defines a reportable use of force. However, Chief Ramsdell has ordered a review of how use-of-force is reported to determine if the department can be more transparent and responsive to any issues arising from use-of-force.

The Tacoma Police Department's policies are available at <https://data.cityoftacoma.org/Public-Safety/Tacoma-Police-Department-Policies/wggi-jjh2>.

Learn more about the Citizen Police Advisory Committee by visiting <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=21954>.

Information about Campaign Zero's "8 Can't Wait" campaign is available at <https://8cantwait.org/>.

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