



or hearing impairment, language barrier, or emotional crisis, and have no criminal intent. This may not make the individual any less dangerous, but it may require a change in tactics that will be more effective while maintaining officer safety, if these circumstances are known to the officer. In determining the reasonableness of a response to an individual in crisis, officers may consider the following:

- a. Whether the individual poses an imminent threat of harm to themselves or other.
- b. Whether some degree of force is reasonably necessary to address the threat.
- c. Whether the force option used is reasonable under the circumstances.

VI. ***Duty to Intercede***

Officers have a duty to intercede to prevent the use of excessive force. Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances must, when in a position to do so safely, intercede to prevent the use of excessive force. Officers must promptly report any excessive or unreasonable force to a supervisor.

VII. ***Use of Force General Guidelines***

Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer may encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident.

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.