



Series 300 Support Services	Effective Date 06/27/05	Review Date 06/27/06	Directive Number 304.2
Chapter 304 – Use of Force			
Reviewing Office Chief of Police			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces
References CALEA 1.2.2; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 1.3.3; 1.3.4; 1.3.5; 1.3.6; 1.3.7; 1.3.12; 71.2.1			
Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings			

USE OF FORCE

304.2 - 1 PURPOSE

To establish policy, guidelines and limitations for the Detroit Police Department (DPD) concerning the appropriate and acceptable use of deadly and less lethal force.

304.2 - 2 POLICY

An improper use of authority and/or excessive or unjustified use of force undermine the legitimacy of an officer's authority and hinders the department's ability to provide effective law enforcement services to the community. Officers who use excessive force or an unauthorized use of force shall be subject to discipline, possible criminal prosecution, and/or civil liability. Use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for a lawful purpose.

Research indicates that one of the most common factors found in both police excessive or unjustified use of force, and officer injuries and fatalities during force encounters is an officer's perceived compulsion to press forward, rather than to disengage (e.g., "back off") and explore other options. The most appropriate response choice to a situation often involves de-escalation, disengagement, area containment, surveillance, waiting out a subject, summoning reinforcements, or calling in specialized units. Following any use of force resulting in a citizen's injury, officers shall notify a supervisor and ensure that appropriate medical aid and/or emergency medical service is rendered as soon as possible.

304.2 - 3 Definitions

304.2 - 3.1 Actively Resisting

Means the subject is making physically evasive movements to defeat an officer's attempt at control, including bracing, tensing, pulling away, or pushing.