



On May 30, 2018, the ACLU of Southern California and the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police sent a letter to City leadership recommending a series of changes to the Pasadena Police Department's Use of Force Policy.

The letter identifies six major deficiencies in the Policy that must be addressed by the Department:

1. The Policy does not **mandate officers de-escalate** interactions with the public that may lead to violence.
2. The Policy does not require officers to **exhaust alternatives** to using force against an individual.
3. The Policy does not require officers to use only the level of force that is **proportional** to the threat of harm they face.
4. The Policy does not provide **clear guidance** to officers about when they may use force.
5. The Policy does not prohibit certain uses of force widely considered to be **dangerously unsafe**, like chokeholds and shooting at moving vehicles.
6. The Policy's definition of "deadly force" is **inconsistent with the law**, and may allow officers to use lethal force when the law does not allow it.

We believe that making changes to these six areas will put Pasadena's Police Department in line with best practices established by departments across the country, will help reduce incidence of police violence, and will protect the safety of Pasadena police officers and the public.

Our letter encourages City leadership to begin a community-led, independent process for formalizing reforms to this Policy.