

# # 8 C A N ' T W A I T

A Project by Campaign Zero

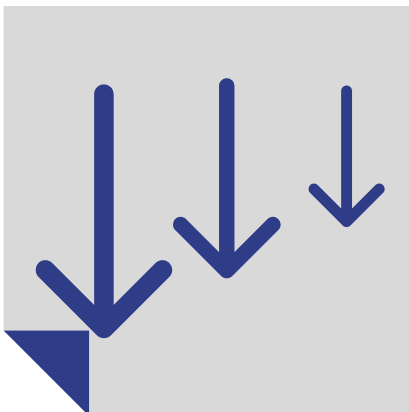
Clarification from your  
Erie Police Department



## Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds



Yes, except in deadly force situations.



## Require De-escalation



De-escalation is always the first option, when possible.



## Require Warning Before Shooting

Banned by EPD - not always practical.



## Exhaust all other means Before Shooting

✓ Similar to de-escalation, EPD exhausts all other means before shooting.

Example: In 2020, a barricaded subject shot at Officers. The incident was resolved with the least amount of force necessary.



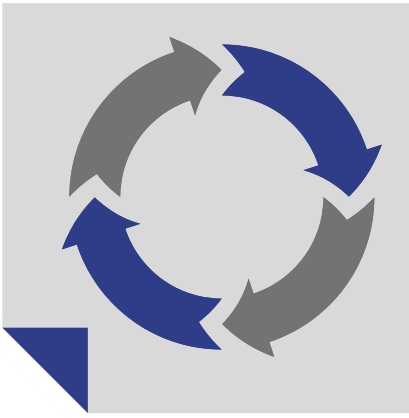
## Duty to Intervene

✓ It is our duty to intervene if we see a crime being committed by another officer. State law requires law enforcement to report the information.



## Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

✓ Applicable except in extreme deadly force situations.



## Require Use of Force Continuum

EPD does not have a continuum which requires officers to 'scale up' regardless of the level of force they are facing. This concept is not best practice.

Consider: An officer using pepper spray or a taser on an active shooter before deploying lethal force.



## Require Comprehensive Reporting



EPD is committed to proper documentation.

# FAQs



Q: What training do Erie Police Officers receive in the areas of de-escalation and anti-bias policing?



A: All Erie police officers are trained in CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) within the first year of their employment. This training consists of 40 hours of de-escalation techniques and scenarios.

Also, officers receive a minimum of twelve hours total of de-escalation, anti-bias, proper holds and restraints and community policing training in a five-year training cycle in compliance with Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training (Colorado POST) requirements.

**Q:** Does the Erie Police Department have body worn cameras and are officers required to activate these cameras on all contacts?



**A:** The Erie Police Department has deployed body worn cameras for all patrol officers since early 2016. Officers are required to activate their cameras if at all possible on any official contacts, enforcement actions or emergency situations such as emergency vehicle operations or uses of force.

Q: Is body worn camera footage available to the public and how long is it retained?



A: Body worn camera footage is available to the public within the guidelines laid out in the Colorado Open Records Act governing law enforcement records and the Colorado Rules of Evidence. Footage is retained based on the following schedule:

1. General Operational Actions or Activities. Ex: operational checks, bar checks, suspicious incidents, and all other similar types of actions which have no evidentiary value: 120 days (no summons)
2. Contact/Traffic stop with a summons or warning: 120 days
3. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Notes Only: 1 year
4. Possible Complaint: 3 years
5. Use of Force: 3 years
6. Evidence: Remain stored on a secured server, unless authorized for deletion by the appropriate Court or District Attorney.



**Q: Does the Erie Police Department review and revise its policies and procedures on a regular basis?**



**A:** The Erie Police Department uses a written directive system which lays out guidelines and best practices to promote the safety and well-being of the public and the officers. These directives are reviewed on an annual basis and revised as needed to comply with state law and to maintain general best practices. The Erie Police Department has been Accredited with the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police for over 15 years. The Erie Police Department is currently going through a reaccreditation. All directives and all areas of the department are reviewed and inspected by outside law enforcement officials.

**Q: How does the Erie Police Department handle complaints against officers or non-sworn employees?**



**A:** All complaints against Erie officers are investigated. Complaints of a criminal nature are reviewed by the appropriate District Attorney's Office. Investigations of complaints of misconduct are conducted by a sergeant or command staff member. Once the investigation is complete the case is discussed with all sworn department supervisors, including the chain of command and presented to the Chief of Police for a finding. A panel of Erie community members reviews all department internal affairs investigations. They too provide recommendations to the Chief of Police.

Q: Does the Erie Police Department allow “choke holds”?



A: The Erie Police Department expressly prohibits neck restraints except in a situation that requires use of deadly force.