



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-2005

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 Brady Ave.,
Steubenville, OH 43952, Jefferson County

Investigative Activity: Use of Force Policy Review
Involves: Steubenville Police Department (O)
Activity Date: 06/04/2026
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Goudy

Narrative:

On Monday, June 01, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy received the Use of Force Policy utilized by the Steubenville Police Department at the time of this incident. The document received is attached to this investigative report for further review.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Steubenville Police – Use of Force policy

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	City of Steubenville Police Department	Subject: Deadly Force		Order Number: O-101	
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Issue Date: Nov 2024	Effective Date: Nov 2024	Annual Review Date:	Rescinds: Old O-101	Amended: 9-6-24	

I) Purpose

- A) The purpose of this policy is to provide Steubenville Police Officers with guidelines on the use of deadly force.

II) Definitions

- A) Deadly Force: Any use of force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.
- B) Injury: Any harm to the body that does not require medical treatment.
- C) Serious Injury: Any harm to the body that requires medical treatment.
- D) Serious Bodily Injury: Any injury to the body such as a fracture, a laceration requiring sutures, an injury so serious as to require immediate hospitalization, or an injury resulting in death.
- E) Reasonably Believes: A conclusion made from all the facts known to the officer at the time that would cause a reasonable person, under the circumstances, to conclude that the information was true or probably true.
- F) Ready Position: Any use of or display of a firearm from unholstering to the point of taking aim.
- G) Pointing and/or Taking Aim: Any use of a firearm directly pointing at or forming a sight picture of a human being.
- H) Imminent (Death or Serious Bodily Injury): The facts and circumstances that create a reasonable belief that death or serious bodily injury is about to occur.

III) Policy

- A) The Steubenville Police Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. In vesting our police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of this

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department that police officers shall use only that force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others.

- B) Department members will use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force when it is safe and feasible to do so based on the totality of the circumstances. This includes continually assessing the situation and modifying the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety.
- C) Sworn officers of the Steubenville Police Department will use only the amount of force necessary and reasonable to control a situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm.
- D) When the use of force is necessary, the degree of force employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance employed by the person or the immediate threat the person poses to the officer or others.
- E) The use of force by officers of this department will, whenever possible, be progressive in nature. This force may be in the form of advice, warnings, persuasion, verbal encounters, physical contact, use of chemical agents, collapsible baton or other non-lethal weapons, or the use of deadly force.
- F) Officers must weigh the circumstances of each case and employ only that amount of force, which is necessary and reasonable to control the situation or persons. No officer will use unreasonable or excessive force toward any person.
- G) Officers shall deescalate the use of force when control is attained.
- H) Duty to Intervene - Any officer who observes a use of force that is not objectively reasonable has a duty, when in a position to do so, to intervene to prevent the use of unreasonable force. These observations will be promptly reported to a supervisor
- I) Police officers are required to make medical aid available when the use of force is used against a person, which results in any injury to the person.

V) Authorized Firearms

A) On Duty Firearms (Proficiency and Qualifications)

- 1) On Duty police officers shall, at all times, carry their approved duty weapon and issued or approved ammunition. Only officers demonstrating proficiency, as determined by State Qualification Standards, will be allowed to carry such weapons.
- 2) In special situations, the Chief of Police may authorize the carrying of special weapons and ammunition other than the standard issue firearm while the officer is on duty.

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- (a) Officers who are authorized to carry a personally owned firearm shall be required to qualify with the department issued weapon as an off-duty weapon, if applicable. If the department issued weapon is not the officer's primary weapon, it will be secured with the provided lock in place, in a secure area of their residence. The department issued weapon should only be used for law enforcement or training purposes.
- 3) All officers of the Steubenville Police Department shall qualify at least once a year, or as mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission in accordance with ORC Section 109.801 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 109:2-13-02, with the weapons they carry on duty, which are either departmental issues or personally owned, all backup firearms carried on duty, and all weapons carried off duty.
- 4) All Steubenville Police Officers will be issued the department's Use of Force policy and shall receive annual training on the departmental Use of Force Policies.

B) Condition of Firearms (Maintenance and Modifications)

- 1) Steubenville Police Officers shall keep their **duty** firearm clean and in workable condition at all times. Officers shall not operationally modify their **duty** firearm or ammunition in any way without permission of the Chief of Police.
- 2) The department approved sidearms are:
 - (a) Glock model #17 9mm pistol
 - (b) Glock model #22 40 caliber pistol
 - (c) Any firearm approved by the Police Chief
- 3) Only department approved ammunition will be used for the side arms
- 4) The department special weapons are:
 - (a) Remington 870 Police Magnum 12 gauge
 - (b) Colt M4 LE AR15
 - (c) Any special weapons approved by the Chief of Police
- 5) Only department approved ammunition will be used for the special weapons

C) Department Special Weapons

- 1) All officers assigned to the Patrol division will, while on duty, carry at least one of the department special weapons (Officer's Choice). They must also carry with them at least 5 00B and 5 slugs with the shotguns and 2 fully loaded magazines with the AR15.

D) Public Display of Firearms

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- 2) When not in use, firearms shall be carried and secured in their proper cases or holsters. Officers shall only remove a firearm from its carrier when authorized and, to the greatest extent possible, public display of a firearm shall be avoided.

(a) Officers in civilian clothing will be allowed to have their weapon exposed as long as his badge is in plain view near their weapon.

- E) Storage / Home Safety of Department owned or issued Firearms. A department owned or issued firearm kept at home should be unloaded and locked in a safe place when it is not under the direct control of the officer.

F) Exigent Circumstances

- 1) Under extreme emergencies or situations it may be necessary for an officer to use any type of weapon or ammunition that he/she may find available.(i.e. LA Police shootout with bank robbers).
- 2) Chokeholds, causing the restriction of air or blood shall be considered deadly force. Chokeholds should only be used where deadly force is warranted. This also includes any carotid control/restraint hold, which is defined as any technique that temporarily restricts blood flow through the application of pressure to the side of the neck.

VI) Use of Deadly Force

A) Ready Position

- 1) An officer may take the ready position when he reasonably believes it necessary to protect himself/herself or other persons from the potential use of deadly force or serious bodily injury.

(a) Whenever an officer assumes the ready position, he/she shall articulate this position in the offense or arrest report outlining the facts and circumstances, which justified the action.

B) Pointing and/or Taking Aim (UOF Report Required)

- 1) An officer may take this position when he reasonably believes it is necessary to protect himself/herself or other persons from the potential use of deadly force or serious bodily injury.

Whenever an officer assumes this position, he/she shall submit a "Use of Force Report" outlining the facts and circumstances, which justified the action. This report shall be reviewed through the chain of command and at each level of the review, the reviewing supervisor shall be responsible for making a referral to the Chief of Police if the review reveals a possible violation of department policy. When determining justification for the action taken, only those facts known to the officer at the time of the action may be considered.

C) Warning Shots

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- 1) Generally, the use of warning shots is prohibited.

D) Authorization for the Use of Deadly Force

- 1) Deadly force may only be used by officers when they reasonably believe that:

- (a) Deadly force may be necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.

- 2) Fleeing Felon Rule

- (a) Generally, shooting at a fleeing felon is not allowed, unless the following conditions apply:

- (b) In order for a police officer (under Garner) to use deadly force against a fleeing felon:

- i) The suspect must threaten the officer with a weapon

Or

- ii) The officer must have probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm,

- iii) The use of deadly force is necessary to prevent the suspect's escape,

And

- iv) The officer must give some warning of the imminent use of deadly force- IF FEASIBLE (TENNESSEE v. GARNER 1985)

E) An officer is authorized to fire his firearm under the following circumstances:

- 1) When engaged in target practice or competition at an approved range, or at an approved location.

- 2) To destroy a suffering animal but only when the firearm discharge will not jeopardize human life or property, and when other means of disposal are impractical.

- (a) When an injured animal or dangerous animal is involved, every effort should be made to obtain the permission of the owner if applicable. Great care should be taken to protect members of the general public in the area from such dangers as ricocheting bullets. If possible, avoid killing an animal in the presence of children.

- (b) When an animal is destroyed for humane reasons whether injured or dangerous, a report will be forwarded to the Animal Control Officer.

VII) Use of Force/Discharge of Firearms Reports

- A) Excepting as provided in Sections VI E 1 and 2, whenever a member of the Department discharges a firearm shall do the following

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- B) Whenever any member of the Department discharges a firearm, in addition to any other reports that may be required, the member involved shall notify their supervisor of such. Notification shall be as soon as possible except when due to injuries or other circumstances make it impractical to do so.
- 1) The Chief of Police shall place the officer on administrative leave pending the completion of a review by departmental investigative personnel, and at the discretion of the Chief of Police, any other pending investigations. It shall be further ordered that the officer(s) involved shall attend a psychological debriefing while on administrative leave. This debriefing is mandatory for the officer(s) involved and shall be optional for the officer's family members.
 - 2) Prior to returning to active duty:
 - a. The officer shall undergo a psychological evaluation approving the officer to return to active duty and
 - b. The officer shall be re-qualified on any service firearm the officer is authorized to carry.
- C) In the event of any use of deadly force that results in serious bodily injury or death, or the discharge of a firearm at a suspect, the on duty turn commander shall:
- 1) Respond to the incident scene.
 - 2) Relieve the officer from line duty, and
 - 3) Take control of the firearm and secure it until the Detective Division or Investigating Agency arrives. The weapon will then be turned over to the Detectives or Investigating Agency.
 - (a) The supervisor that is responsible for removing an officer's weapon, should insure that any such removal is done in a manner that is discreet and outside of public view so as not to cause embarrassment to the officer.
 - (b) The supervisor should also secure any and all potential video evidence, including body cameras, VICS, etc. of the involved officer and other involved officers as soon as practical and reasonable.
 - (4) Notify the Chief of Police, or his designee.
 - (5) Upon notification, the Chief of Police or his designee shall contact the City Law Director to determine if the investigation is going to be conducted by the Steubenville Police Department or an outside agency.
- D) Administrative Leave and Psychological Debriefing.

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- 1) In the event that an officer's use of force results or is alleged to have resulted in the proximate death or serious physical injury of another, the officer shall be removed from line duty and placed on administrative leave with pay pending investigation.
- 2) An officer whose use of force results or is alleged to have resulted in the proximate death or serious physical injury of another shall be afforded the services of a professional psychologist and/or psychiatrist while the case is under investigation and pending findings by the Chief of Police.
 - (a) Professional assistance shall include critical incident stress debriefing.
- 3) The Chief of Police shall place the officer on administrative leave pending the completion of a review by departmental investigative personnel, and at the discretion of the Chief of Police, any other pending investigations. It shall be further ordered that the officer(s) involved shall attend a psychological debriefing while on administrative leave. This debriefing is mandatory for the officer(s) involved and shall be optional for the officer's family members.
- 4) Prior to returning to active duty:
 - (a) The officer shall undergo a psychological evaluation approving the officer to return to active duty and
 - (b) The officer shall be re-qualified on any service firearm the officer is authorized to carry.

USE OF FORCE POLICY SUPPLEMENT 1

F. Deployment of .223 Caliber Rifle

1. The .223 Caliber Rifle shall be deployed only in situations where standard issue weapons such as the shotgun or pistol may be ineffective. Officers shall secure supervisory approval before deploying the AR-15 Rifle. The approving supervisor shall document the reason for authorizing deployment of the rifle in a supplemental report, explaining the circumstances and/or other factors which justified use of the rifle rather than other means to achieve a police tactical objective.
 - (a) EXCEPTION: Under conditions of extreme emergency where immediate threat to life exists or where prior supervisory approval is not possible or feasible, supervisory approval will not be required. In such cases, the officer deploying the rifle shall notify a supervisor as soon as possible and explain the factors which influenced his/her decision to deploy the weapon. The supervisor shall document the incident as in the above paragraph.
2. Incidents in which the Rifle may deployed include but are not limited to:
 - a. Armed or barricaded suspect(s).
 - b. "High Risk" car stops involving suspects believed to be armed.
 - c. Sniping incident(s).
 - d. Riot situations involving armed suspects.
 - e. Criminal acts involving armed suspect(s).
 - f. Incidents in which suspect(s) are known or believed to be wearing body armor or concealed by protective cover and/or are shooting or threatening to shoot officers of citizens.

Messages

From: Ettor A Canestraro Jr (SPD) **To:** Agency - SPD

Subject: New Patrol Rifles

To All,

I will be putting the new patrol rifles into service and into the cruisers within the next 24 to 48 hours. The rifles will be secured into the racks and the bags with the spare magazines will be in the rear cargo area of the cruisers. The rifles will be in cruiser carry status, meaning the bolt will be closed on an **empty chamber**, on safe, with a full magazine inserted. Red dots will remain powered on and backup iron sights will be folded down. It will be the responsibility of the officers assigned to the cruiser or any officer driving it temporarily to make sure they occasionally check the status of the weapon lights and the red dots, ensuring the rifle is **clear and safe before doing so**. If at any point batteries need to be replaced before the scheduled intervals, please let me or your turn supervisors know and we will get it taken care of. If anyone has any questions or issues just let me know. For the three officers who have yet to complete the mandatory training and quals with the new rifles, you will continue to sign out the old Colt rifles or a shotgun until we can complete the training and quals which I plan to do as soon as the weather permits. For everyone else whose city car or cruiser does not have a new rifle assigned or other division officers that don't carry their own approved personal rifles, plan on qualifying on both the old and new rifles until the old Colt rifles are permanently phased out.

Thank You,

Capt Canestraro