

Here is the City police use of force policy

The Bethlehem Gadfly George Floyd killing, Police June 17, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 

BPD-Directive-3-1-1-Use-of-Force

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PURPOSE: To provide all members of the Department with guidelines on the appropriate use of force in the performance of their official duties.

POLICY: The performance of law enforcement functions raises the possibility that, under circumstances of necessity, officers may be called upon to utilize force, including deadly force, in the performance of their official duties. Society and the rule of law prohibit the unnecessary use of force; thus, when force is used, it must be objectively reasonable and justifiable. This creates the need for the establishment of a specific policy to guide officers in the proper application of force and to prohibit the use of excessive force.

NOTE: This Directive is for the internal use of the Bethlehem Police Department only and does not enlarge the Department's, an officer's, or other employee's civil liability in any way. This Directive should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against the Department, officers, or employees. A violation of this Directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by the Department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with Department policy and controlling legal authority.

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