USE OF FORCE COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS
October 1, 2020

General Order 03-02-06, Canine Use Incidents

The Working Group provides the following recommendations specific to its review of the General Order G03-02-06, but incorporates all previous recommendations submitted to the Executive Steering Committee.

**Recommendation: Remove Canines as a Force Option**

Even when properly trained and certified, canines are still unpredictable and dangerous. CPD must remove canines as a possible force option.

**Alternative Recommendation: Implement Higher Standards on the Use of Canines as a Force Option**

Because we are recommending that canines be removed as a force option, we are not providing detailed edits to General Order G03-02-06. However, if CPD refuses to remove canines as a force option, we alternatively recommend the following provisions be incorporated into the order, in addition to incorporating all previous recommendations on use of force:

1. Canine use is prohibited unless necessary to prevent an imminent threat to death or serious bodily injury.
2. Canine use is prohibited against vulnerable people, including: children; pregnant women; the elderly; people in apparent medical distress or behavioral health crisis; people who present as frail, low body mass, or sickly; and people who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
3. Canine use is prohibited for crowd control unless necessary to prevent imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.
4. Canine use is prohibited as an intimidation tactic.
5. When issuing a warning of an intent to use a canine before resorting to force, Department members must consider whether a person may be noncompliant due to limited English proficiency or other language barriers, a medical condition, disability, age/developmental immaturity, behavioral health crisis, and/or drug or alcohol use, and adjust their verbal communication or use other communication techniques, including hand signals or other visual cues.
6. A Use of Force Report must be accurately and thoroughly completed, before the canine handler’s tour of duty ends, whenever a canine is deployed, not only when physical contact is made.
7. The Street Deputy and COPA must respond to all canine force deployments, not only those that result in potential life-threatening injury or death.
8. Canine handlers and other Department members must receive training on the medical impact of canine injuries, as well as the historical context of canine deployment on Black and Brown communities and the trauma caused by such tactics.
9. Canine handlers must be held accountable for the negative performance of their canines, including when a canine does not follow directions, provides false alerts, or attacks a person who did not pose an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm.

10. Canine deployment and force data must be listed on CPD’s Use of Force dashboard.

11. CPD should consider not using canines during traffic stops to sniff for possible narcotics in light of the intimidating nature of canines and unreliability of such alerts.