



# Where We Stand

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8 Can't Wait

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



I am confident you have seen the national movement for police departments to implement the eight policy changes to reduce deaths during interactions with police officers. I have put together a short summary on each item to provide you with information concerning how our department's current policies address these topics.

UCI Police Department, along with most Orange County law enforcement agencies, uses Lexipol software to continually update their police policies. Lexipol is the nation's leading provider of public safety policy and training solutions for law enforcement, fire and rescue, and corrections personnel. Lexipol ensures that all police department policies are aligned with State and Federal law and their suggested policies are continuously updated as laws change.

We also have our University of California Police Departments Gold Book in which we have recently finished and implemented an updated, systemwide use of force policy. You can find a copy of those policies [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Liz Griffin  
Chief of Police



## ONE

# Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds

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UCI PD does not authorize chokeholds or strangleholds.

In light of recent events, effective Tuesday, June 9, 2020, our current use of force policy does not allow the use of the Carotid Control Hold as a control technique.



T W O

## Require De-escalation Training

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All officers currently receive de-escalation training and they are required to renew this training every two years. We are also currently looking for updated and more training related to implicit bias.

Our officers also receive additional training in Tactical Communication and Crisis Intervention.

Our Use of Force (UOF) policy specifically addresses de-escalation:

**“De-escalation:** When reasonable and practicable, officers should consider attempts to de-escalate situations in their interactions with subjects, through the use of advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics and alternatives to higher levels of force. “





## T H R E E

# Require Warning Before Shooting

Officers are currently trained to communicate before firing their firearm in an effort to gain compliance; however, there may be times when the dynamics of a scenario do not allow this to happen.

California Penal Code Section §835a(c)(1)(B) states:

“Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force against a fleeing suspect, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.”

Our UOF policy also states:

**“Verbal and Visual Warnings.** A verbal or visual warning of the intended use of force should precede its application unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply with an officer’s direction.
- (b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that a control device or weapon may be deployed.”

## F O U R

## Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting

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Officers are currently trained to use only reasonable force based on an objective assessment of the circumstances presented to them, starting with the mere presence of an officer in uniform and verbal commands as the first step in gaining compliance, which we refer to as command presence. Tactical communications are part of this training to gain voluntary compliance.

UCIPD Shooting Policy (337.3) in part states:

“...officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force.”

Our policy (300.3) states:

“Officers shall use only that amount of force that is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force is used.”

Our policy (300.8) also provides factors that should be taken into consideration.





## FIVE

### Duty to Intervene

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Officers already have a duty to intervene in accordance with the current policy described below:

**“Duty to Intercede.** Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law should promptly report these observations to a supervisor.”

## S I X

## Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

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Our UOF policy states:

**“Shooting at or from Moving Vehicles.** Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. Where feasible, officers should attempt to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others. Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.”







## SEVEN

### Require a Use of Force Continuum

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Our policy states that, “Officers shall use only that amount of force that is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force is used.”

Our officers are trained on the effectiveness of a variety of force options including their mere police presence, tactical communications, controlling force options, intermediate force options up to deadly force options. Our policy also outlines a list of considerations when deciding what level of force is to be used based on the circumstances presented.

## EIGHT

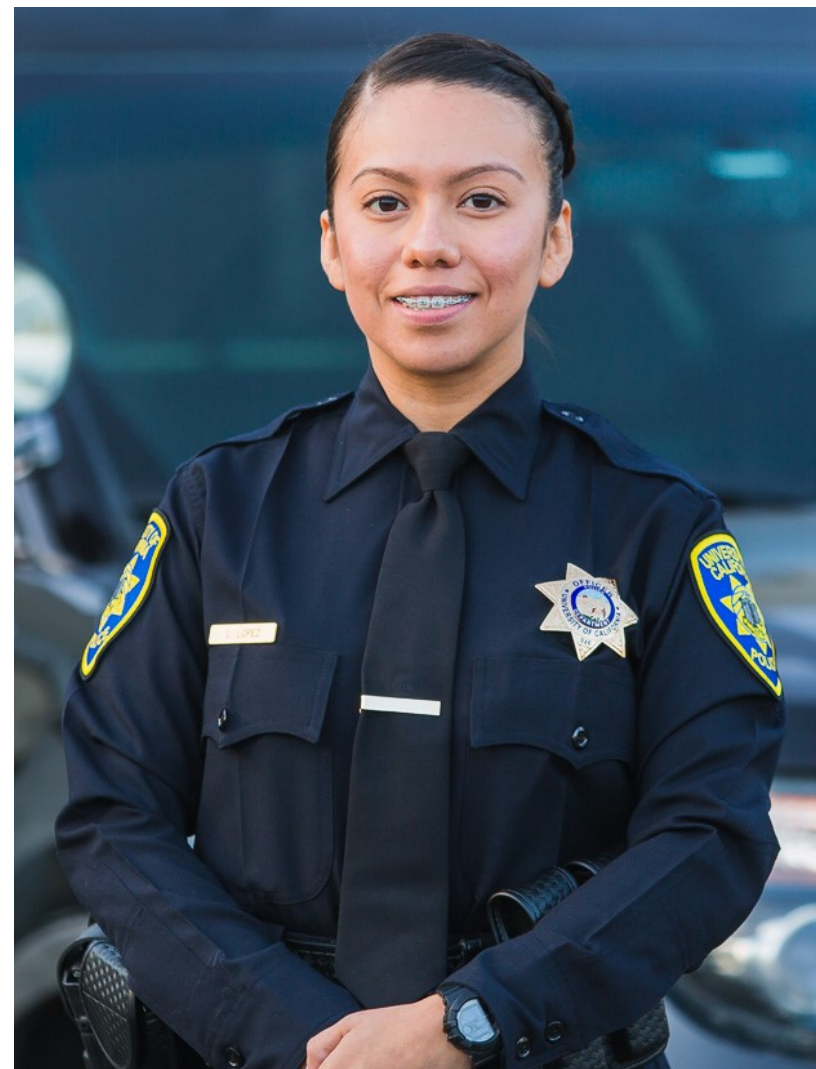
# Require Comprehensive Reporting

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All officers are required to promptly report any use of force to a Watch Commander and to document all uses of force. Once reported, a supervisor must respond to the scene and begin a use of force investigation.

To exercise oversight of all use of force incidents, Watch Commanders document all use of forces with a Supervisor's Use of Force report that is routed up the chain of command for review within 48 hours of the incident. Command level review is to ensure compliance with the policy and address any training issues.

For further accountability, UCI PD police officers wear body cameras and soon, all police patrol vehicles will have in-car cameras that will be used to document any use of force.



# We Invite You to Learn More

The UCI Police Department Policy Manual  
can be found at [www.police.uci.edu](http://www.police.uci.edu)

