

Schmidt, Kim

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Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:20 AM
To: DOJ: Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability
Subject: Submission from Concord Friends Meeting (Quakers)

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Our faith community is very concerned about the use of violence in law enforcement. It is especially troublesome that inherent biases about racial and ethnic minorities can lead to use of force with harmful consequences, causing individual and community trauma and suffering.

We have endorsed a national campaign to help reduce this threat to people in our community and ask that the following recommendations be adopted.

All policing agencies in NH should adopt policies to ensure the following:

1. Officers de-escalate situations before using force
2. Police departments have a "Force Continuum or Matrix" included in their use of force policy, defining weapons/types of force used to respond to specific types of resistance
3. Officers to give verbal warning before using deadly force
4. Policies explicitly prohibit chokeholds and strangleholds or limit these tactics in situations where deadly force is authorized
5. Officers are prohibited from shooting at people in moving vehicles unless person is a deadly threat
6. Officers must exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before using deadly force
7. Officers must intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force
8. Officers must report all uses of force, including threatening a civilian with a firearm

According to Campaign Zero, which launched the initiative, these 8 policies, if implemented together, can decrease police violence by up to 72%, based on their 2016 data analysis.

Sent on behalf of Concord Friends Meeting Richard Kleinschmidt, clerk