WHERE WE STAND

A comprehensive look at your West Lafayette Police Department....

UPDATED JUNE 23, 2020
BAN CHOKEHOLDS

The use of “chokeholds” is not authorized by your West Lafayette Police Officers.

Unless deadly force is justified officers shall not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head or restricts respiration. Policy section 300.4.

REQUIRE TO EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

West Lafayette Police Officers are bound by Indiana Code 35-41-3-3

In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Policy section 300 covers use of force.

REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

West Lafayette Police Officers are instructed to issue a verbal warning prior to the use of deadly force where feasible. Policy section 300.4 covers this area.
DUTY TO INTERCEDE

The West Lafayette Police Department requires an officer who views excessive force to intercede regardless of rank or tenure.

Any officer who fails to intercede shall be subject to discipline to the same severity as if they themselves engaged in the prohibited use of force. This policy also requires the officer to report their observations to a supervisor promptly. This requirement is covered in our policy under section 300.2.1

REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

Your West Lafayette Police Department trains all officers in de-escalation techniques.

Officers complete an annual four-hour Interpersonal Communication and De-escalation Course intended to De-escalate volatile situations and Minimize the potential for use of force. West Lafayette Officers also attend a Cultural communication course Intended to improve communication and understanding of our diverse Population in West Lafayette.
BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Shooting at a moving vehicle is rarely effective, and officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle.

A West Lafayette Officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle 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 officers or civilians.

REQUIRE USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

Officers are required to make decisions in rapidly changing situations.

The Use of Force Continuum concept is an aged concept from previous decades and has given way to more knowledgeable, science-based use of force training and policies. Use of Force is covered in section 300, and the policy falls in line with Federal and State regulation.

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

The West Lafayette Police Department requires officers to document any use of force in a police report thoroughly. Documentation requirements are covered in policy section 300.5.

The West Lafayette Police Department has partnered with the FBI and reports use of force incidents to the National Use of Force Data Collection Database.
THE USE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS (BWC)

Your West Lafayette Officers are equipped with state-of-the-art body worn cameras for full transparency and accountability.

Officers shall activate the BWC to record all calls for service and law enforcement related encounters and activities. Policy section 421 covers the use of Body Worn Cameras.

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION (PMC)

The West Lafayette Police Department is governed by the West Lafayette Police Merit Commission.

The Commission is a diverse body of appointed civilian members whose duties include; selection, appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline and dismissal of police department members. For more information regarding the PMC and their appointment please visit www.westlafayette.in.gov
SOCIAL SERVICES TRAINING

Your West Lafayette Police Officers are well trained on social service needs for those in our community.

Many of our daily calls are for those in need of services and not criminal in nature. It is imperative that our officers have adequate training in a diverse field of needs. Your officers have annual training in assisting and identifying those in a mental crisis. Nearly every officer on the WLPD is a certified Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member. These officers have expanded training (40 hours) in assisting those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Our officers also attend annual training with Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, YWCA/ Domestic Violence, Autism, Dementia, Alzheimer’s, addictions, disabilities, homelessness and the list goes on. Your officers have hundreds of hours of continual training each year to assist our community members in whatever the situation may call for. Throughout this training we have built significant community partnerships and have the ability to offer many local resources for those in need.

“The Men and Women of the West Lafayette Police Department are committed to building strong relationships of trust and accountability with our community.”

- Chief of Police
  Troy Harris
CONNECT WITH US

www.westlafayette.in.gov/wlpd/

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