GENERAL ORDER – 2020-0004

TO: All Department Personnel
FROM: Chief A. Kevin Kennedy
DATE: June 9, 2020
RE: Use of Force - Duty to Intervene

In accordance with the Department’s Use of Force Policy, UOF: 01, officers may only use the force that is reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives such as to make a lawful arrest, to place a person into protective custody, to effectively bring an incident under control, or to protect the lives or safety of the officer and/or others.

In each individual instance, lawful and proper force is restricted to only that force reasonably needed to control and terminate unlawful resistance and to prevent any further physical attack against the police officers or any other person. This would include lethal or less-lethal force, with lethal and less-lethal weapons, or weapons of opportunity to terminate unlawful resistance and to prevent any further physical attack upon the officers or any other person.

In accordance with the Policy UOF: 01 and Rule 4.02 “Conduct Unbecoming an Officer,” officers shall intervene and stop excessive use of force by other officers and report such incidents immediately or when reasonably able to do so to a supervisor.

Based on the circumstance, intervention may require verbal communication and/or physical intervention. The failure to intervene and/or report such behavior may result in disciplinary action, termination, as well as civil and criminal liability.

By Order,

A. Kevin Kennedy
Chief of Police