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## **Mayor Joe Hogsett Announces Proposed Changes to IMPD's Use of Force Policy**

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett announced a series of planned changes to Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's Use of Force Policy.

“The challenges are massive – tumors of hate that have grown largely unchecked for centuries – but no matter how complicated these times may seem, let there be no confusion: we are confronted in this moment with matters of basic morality. Matters of basic right and wrong,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “In 2016, shortly after I took office, we implemented an update to IMPD's use of force policy and last week, we submitted long-needed changes to the department's Use of Force Review Board. But it has been clear in listening to those who have spoken out, that our use of force policies can and should be improved. So today, Chief Randal Taylor has submitted a new draft use of force policy to the IMPD General Orders Committee.”

The proposed new Use of Force Policy seeks to:

1. **Create clear standard for use of deadly force:** The Use of Force Policy proposes that IMPD adopt the standard for deadly force adopted by California in Assembly Bill 392. By adopting this language, IMPD can ensure training is clear and consistent with current best practices.
2. **Update our requirement for identification and warning before deadly force:** The proposed Use of Force Policy updates the requirement for identification and warning before deadly force can be utilized in line with national best practices.
3. **Prohibit the use of chokeholds:** While IMPD training does not consider chokeholds an appropriate technique, the proposed Use of Force Policy explicitly prohibits the use of this tactic.
4. **Outline clearly defined de-escalation requirements:** IMPD has been implementing de-escalation training for some time, and there are de-escalation provisions in the existing General Order 4.7, which relates to mental health issues. However, this proposal would explicitly outline de-escalation guidelines in the Use of Force Policy itself.



5. **Define an officer's duty to intervene and report when another officer uses inappropriate force:** This was not previously in IMPD's Use of Force Policy and is now included in the proposed Use of Force Policy.
6. **Prohibit shooting into moving vehicles:** The proposal, submitted to the General Orders committee today, includes a clear prohibition on shooting into moving vehicles, as well as a prohibition on shooting from a moving vehicle.
7. **Require comprehensive reporting of lethal and non-lethal uses of force:** Coupled with existing General Order 1.31, this proposal will require comprehensive reporting of officer uses of force.
8. **Clearly specify rules for using various levels of less-lethal force:** This change contains principles consistent with continuum of force principles currently being discussed nationally.

The General Orders Committee will review the draft Use of Force Policy next week. Once approved, all officers will be able to review the amended policy utilizing the department's digital training tool. Beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>, IMPD will start training officers on the new policy. This process should take 2-3 weeks. These changes will be further reinforced as officers go out to the firing range for their annual training, beginning in August 2020.

Additionally, Mayor Joe Hogsett announced that he has asked the Civilian Police Merit Board to conduct an analysis and review of IMPD's existing progressive discipline policy. In particular, the board will compare IMPD's current discipline matrix to models set forth by other cities and engage with neighborhoods, faith leaders, and City-County Councilors, in order to provide recommendations as to what modernizations should be implemented.

Lastly, Mayor Hogsett outlined his intention to propose additional funding for the expansion of the city's Group Violence Intervention strategy as part of the 2021 budget process. This investment will bring additional staff and resources to bear in an effort to interrupt the cycle of hopelessness and violence that has gripped too many Indianapolis young people.

These changes join a series of criminal justice reforms begun in the first term of the Hogsett administration. In 2017, the IMPD created an Office of Diversity & Inclusion and instituted implicit bias training for all officers. In recent years, the department has increased the diversity of its recruiting classes while growing the number of neighborhood beats, promoting more localized community policing. The department has also participated in several programs aimed at engaging at-risk individuals with a mental health-focused approach through the city's innovative MCAT program and the creation of the new Assessment and Intervention Center.

In 2019, Mayor Hogsett and the City-County Council included \$1.2 million in the 2020 City-County Budget to fund the rollout of a body worn camera program for all IMPD officers. Implementation of the program will begin in Quarter 3 of this year, with a goal to outfit 100 officers per week with the technology.



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