

## **Use of Force Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations**

### **Presentation Overview to San Marcos City Council**

**July 6, 2021**

#### **I. Mission and Charge**

The San Marcos Use of Force Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of 15 members appointed by the City Council to study the Use of Force policies of the San Marcos Police Department, compare those policies to national standards, and make recommendations.

#### **II. Overview of Ad Hoc Committee Work**

The Ad Hoc Committee convened a total of 6 times over the course of 6 months. The first two meetings involved an in-depth review of the 8CantWait, a campaign recommending several policy initiatives for cities around the use of force. In addition, the committee conducted a deep dive into the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force. Next, the committee studied use of force from a legal perspective and the current force standard established in *Graham vs. Connor*.

The Ad Hoc Committee dedicated the remaining meetings to a line-by-line critique of the current San Marcos Police Department's Use of Force Policy. Several resources were utilized to inform recommendations to the current policy, such as the Texas Best Practice Model for Use of Force Policy and other Texas municipal police department's Use of Force policies (i.e., Arlington PD, Corpus Christi PD, and Lubbock PD)

All policy recommendations provided by the Ad Hoc committee received either a majority or unanimous vote.

#### **III. Key Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee**

1. A review of the current SMPD Use of Force Policy revealed no reference of de-escalation. This term was added to the definition section of the policy, as well as the procedures section of the policy.
2. The Ad Hoc committee also observed through its review of the current policy that medical aid was lacking. Therefore, the committee added a section to the policy on "Medical Attention", for anyone injured after use of force has been applied.
3. Finally, the committee added a section to the policy on "Departmental Analysis", which provides additional language clarifying a timeframe for when the department's use of force report will be made available and how it can be accessed by the public.