

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LAKEWOOD REGARDING THE USE OF FORCE POLICY OF
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES RESOLVE AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby adopts the "Findings and Recommendations" attached hereto as Exhibit A, the contents of which are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Resolution, or any part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections or portions of this Resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Resolution irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2022.

Mayor 

ATTEST:

City Clerk 

EXHIBIT A

Findings and Recommendations of the Lakewood City Council in its Review of the Use of Force Policy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Whereas, as part of the City of Lakewood's ongoing Community Dialogue on race, equity, diversity and inclusion, the city has been conducting a review of the Use of Force Policy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is the law enforcement agency for the City of Lakewood; and

Whereas, cities around the nation have been conducting such a community review as part of a best-practice recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice's Task Force on 21st Century Policing;

Whereas, the Use of Force Policy is utilized county-wide by the Sheriff's Department in all of its service areas, and is not a policy of the City of Lakewood; and

Whereas, the City of Lakewood posted on its website the Sheriff's Department Use of Force Policy and asked for resident input, and 60 residents provided comments in the initial community review process, and 30 residents provided comments in the second community review process; and

Whereas, of the 60 responses received from Lakewood residents in the initial community review of the Use of Force Policy, 12 responses (20% of the total) expressed some type of concern or needed improvement with the Sheriff's Department's policy, actions or training. Those areas of concern or needed improvements focused primarily on topics such as: there not being enough emphasis or training on de-escalation techniques, implicit bias, and approaches for safely interacting with people with mental illness or in a mental health crisis; and

Whereas, 43 residents (72% of the total) expressed strong support for the existing Use of Force policy, Lakewood deputy sheriffs, the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, and the Sheriff's Department as a whole, with five residents (8% of the total) providing comments that were more neutral in character; and

Whereas, a similar type and percentage of responses were received by the 30 residents in the second community review; and

Whereas, a committee of the Lakewood City Council carefully reviewed the comments, studied the Use of Force policy, and requested additional information from the Sheriff's Department on the training it provides its personnel in the areas of de-escalation techniques, implicit bias, and approaches for safely interacting with people with mental illness or in a mental health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council makes the following findings and makes the following recommendations to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department related to the Use of Force Policy:

The Lakewood City Council finds that:

- 1. There is a high degree of positive feedback from a large percentage of Lakewood residents about the performance of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station and its deputy sheriff personnel, with which the Lakewood City Council concurs, and the City Council is very supportive of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station personnel's continued efforts to make Lakewood a safe community for all; and*
- 2. The Sheriff's Department is to be commended for posting its Use of Force Policy and related materials as well as a host of other policies, reports and documents on its website at <https://lasd.org/transparency/>; and*
- 3. The Lakewood Sheriff's Station was in the first wave of Sheriff's Stations to receive body-worn video cameras for its deputies, and the City Council is impressed with reports from the Lakewood Sheriff's Station's captain that the cameras have led to improved feedback to deputies on performance, with resulting improved training, and that the implementation of the cameras has correlated with a reduction in service complaints from the public; and*
- 4. Within the limits of their scope, the Council and its Public Safety Committee performed their own review of the Use of Force Policy and find the policy to be very reasonable and very professionally based, and the Council and Committee also find that Sheriff's Department personnel receive an extensive amount of training, including training above the national average in important areas such as implicit bias.*

The Lakewood City Council recommends that:

- 1. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department continue to look for ways to enhance the training provided to deputy sheriffs in the important areas of de-escalation, implicit bias, and safe interactions with those suffering from mental illness or mental crisis. The City Council believes that continually improving training and performance in these key areas is vital for maintaining and enhancing the community-wide public trust that is so essential for effective public safety; and*
- 2. The Sheriff's Department and the Lakewood Sheriff's Station continue to look for ways to positively utilize the body-worn cameras and improve the feedback that deputies and the city receive on how the cameras are improving deputy performance.*