

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
POLICY RECOMMENDATION
WITHDRAWN 11/13/13**

**RPD POLICY AND PROCEDURES
3.9 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO BE CARRIED ON DUTY
3.23 SWORN PERSONNEL - EQUIPMENT
4.30 USE OF FORCE POLICY**

LESS LETHAL WEAPONS

Rationale:

The Community Police Review Commission recently reviewed an Officer-Involved Death (OID) case involving a resident of the Riverside community. The Commission found that the involved officer's "Use of Deadly Force" was reasonable, within Riverside Police Department's Policy and within the scope of both State and Federal Law. The officers all felt that they were in danger of being injured or killed. The department appropriately allows officers to make the decision as to what method should be used to stop a threat. However, emphasis should be given to trying to use and exhaust the least lethal method available if at all possible. This could be done by strengthening some of the use of force policies.

3.9 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO BE CARRIED ON DUTY:

Officers on duty in the field shall carry the following required equipment:

A. UNIFORM DUTY:

1. Firearm - Fully loaded with extra rounds
2. Handcuffs and case
3. Flashlight
4. Notebook
5. Pen and pencil
6. Baton
7. Issued identification card
8. California Driver's License
9. Handcuff and shotgun key
10. All required report forms
11. Helmet

12. Leather gear as described in Section II

13. "RIPP" Restraining Hobble shall be readily available for use.

14. Ballistic vest shall be worn by all first responders assigned to field duties and working in a uniformed capacity.

3.23 SWORN PERSONNEL - EQUIPMENT:

A. POLICY:

The following issued or optional equipment is authorized for use by sworn personnel. Any additional optional items will be subject to approval by the Chief of Police. Unless otherwise specified by this Policy, optional equipment will not be issued or paid for by the Department but may be acquired at the officers' own expense.

B. HELMET:

1. **General Duty:** Black Kevlar Ballistic, with attached face shield.

2. **Motorcycle:** Black high crown with white backing.

C. IMPACT WEAPONS:

The Mid-Range Baton shall be part of the regular equipment of an officer and shall be furnished by the Department. The Expandable Baton and Ten Inch Baton are authorized optional items and may be carried in lieu of the Department issue baton; however, uniformed officers must have a Mid-Range Baton readily available when in the field. The following impact weapons are authorized for sworn personnel after appropriate certification by an authorized Department defensive tactics instructor.

1. **Mid-Range Baton:**

This item shall be solid hard wood, composite hard wood known as Diamond Wood or anodized aluminum. This baton is 26 or 29 inches in length, black in color with smooth surface.

2. **Expandable Baton:**

This optional item must be the 21 inch, 29 inch or 31 inch baton. Either black or silver anodized aluminum with a black foam or rubber grip.

3. **Ten Inch Baton:**

This optional item must be constructed of either hard wood or hard plastic, 10 inches in length, black with a smooth finish.

4. **Long Baton:**

This baton shall be 42 inches in length and constructed with hard wood only. This

baton must be black or blond in color with a smooth surface. This baton shall be for Mobile Field Force only, and used only during Mobile Field Force deployment.

D. CHEMICAL AGENT:

Departmental issued aerosol Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) agent.

E. FIREARM:

Glock, .40 caliber Models 22, or 23, and for Special Operations Division personnel only the Springfield .45 caliber, semi-automatic handgun, with magazines, or personally owned handgun subject to Department approval.

F. HANDCUFFS:

Silver or black single hinge ratchet type with chain or hinged crosspiece.

G. FACILITY KEY AND ACCESS CARD:

Departmental issued key and access card for access to Department facilities.

H. "RIPP" HOBBLE:

A restraining device made of one-inch wide polypropylene webbed belting with a tested strength of 700 pounds, equipped with a one-inch wide steel, alligator-jawed, friction-locking clip and bronze swivel.

I. FLEX-CUFFS:

Disposable reinforced plastic restraining device used to temporarily restrain subjects in custody.

J. KNIFE:

Folding blade type not to exceed 3-3/4 inches blade length with an overall length of 9 inches in the open position. This item is optional.

4.30 USE OF FORCE POLICY:

H. LESS LETHAL FORCE:

Each officer is provided with equipment, training and skills to assist in the apprehension and control of suspects as well as protection of officers and the public. To do this, non-deadly force applications should be considered by officers. These may include, but are not limited to, chemical irritants, electronic control devices, less lethal munitions, and canine deployment as described in the Riverside Police Department Policy Manual §§ 3.23, 4.43, 4.49, and 8.1 respectively.

Recommendation:

The Commission recommends that RPD Policies 3.9, 3.23 and 4.30 be revised to include appropriate modifications which might read as follows:

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2. Handcuffs and case
3. Flashlight
4. Notebook
5. Pen and pencil
6. Baton
7. Less lethal weapon systems
7. Issued identification card
8. California Driver's License
9. Handcuff and shotgun key
10. All required report forms
11. Helmet
12. Leather gear as described in Section II
13. "RIPP" Restraining Hobble shall be readily available for use.
14. Ballistic vest shall be worn by all first responders assigned to field duties and working in a uniformed capacity.

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Each officer is provided with equipment, training and skills to assist in the apprehension and control of suspects as well as protection of officers and the public. To do this, non-deadly force applications should be considered **as a first option** by officers. These may include, but are not limited to, chemical irritants, electronic control devices, less lethal munitions, and canine deployment as described in the Riverside Police Department Policy Manual §§ 3.23, 4.43, 4.49, and 8.1 respectively.

The Commission believes that placing emphasis on less lethal weapon systems as a first option for officers may result in fewer deaths in altercations with suspects who refuse to obey the commands of officers.

Dale Roberts, Chair
Community Police Review Commission

Date