



# CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer  
Mayor

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## CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**MAYOR YVONNE M. SPICER, WITH CHIEF OF POLICE STEVEN D. TRASK**

### **A JOINT ORDER TO REVIEW AND ADOPT COMMON SENSE REFORMS TO THE USE OF FORCE POLICIES OF THE FRAMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**ORDER NO. EO2020-005**

WHEREAS, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the many Black lives before them lost due to police violence and systemic racism within law enforcement and society in general, have caused outrage and anguish throughout the United States as well as in the Framingham community; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 people are killed by police every year in America, and Black people are three times more likely to be killed than other racial groups; and

WHEREAS, the City of Framingham and the Framingham Police Department are committed to policies and practices which respect the inherent life, liberty, dignity, and worth of all individuals by preserving human life, and minimizing physical harm and the reliance on Use of Force; and

WHEREAS, current events and ensuing public demonstrations across the country have brought police reform to the forefront, specifically the need for review and reform of Use of Force policies of police departments; and

WHEREAS, many have called for Campaign Zero's "8 Can't Wait" recommended reforms, including President Barack Obama in a recent address to the nation, as outlined in his 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force Report; and

WHEREAS, the command staff and officers of the Framingham Police Department have shown a deep professional commitment and belief in best practices in police work to negate the need for Use of Force, but continued diligence and a proactive, common sense approach to limits on police Use of Force are needed to maintain public trust in our law enforcement officers, ensure accountability and transparency, and to continue to heal our community;

Now, therefore, pursuant to our authority under Article III, Section 2 of the Framingham Home Rule Charter as to the Mayor and under G.L. c. 41, s. 97A as to the Chief of Police, we hereby order the following (some of which already are in place but which are reiterated here for purposes of completeness and clarity):



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1. The Framingham Police Department shall require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance, and otherwise, with the goal of eliminating the need to use force whenever possible.
2. The Framingham Police Department shall establish and maintain a system which restricts the most severe levels of force to the most extreme situations and creates clear policy restrictions on the use of each police weapon and tactic.
3. The Framingham Police Department shall prohibit the use of chokeholds and strangleholds, including carotid restraints, except where deadly force is authorized and there is no alternative.
4. The Framingham Police Department shall require its officers to give verbal warnings in all situations where possible before using deadly force.
5. The Framingham Police Department shall prohibit officers from shooting at people in moving vehicles unless the person poses a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle (for example, shooting at people from the vehicle).
6. The Framingham Police Department shall require any police officer to exhaust all other alternatives, including non-force and less lethal force options, prior to resorting to deadly force.
7. The Framingham Police Department shall require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and to immediately report these incidents to a supervisor.
8. The Framingham Police Department shall require comprehensive reporting from all members of the Department each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians, including requiring officers to report whenever they point a firearm at someone, in addition to all other types of force.
9. The Chief of Police shall undertake and complete a review of the existing Use of Force and related policies within the Framingham Police Department within 60 days of the issuance of this order for additional recommendations for new policies and revisions to existing policies consistent with this order. Said review shall include engagement with the Framingham community via public meetings and with the members of the Framingham Police Department to obtain a diverse range of input, experiences and stories, and the findings of the review shall be shared with the community for additional feedback. The review shall specifically include an evaluation of recommendations for the promotion of safety and equity identified by the Framingham Police Officers Union in its June 8, 2020 correspondence with the Mayor and the Chief of Police, including a potential expansion of the Jail Diversion Program, the potential creation of Behavioral Health and Neighborhood

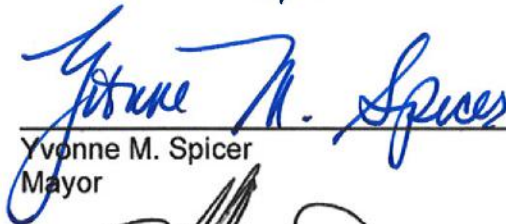


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Outreach Units in the Department, and the incorporation of reality-based trainings on de-escalation, racial bias and the Use of Force in the Department's regular training programs. The Department will present the results of its review to the public.

SIGNED THIS 16 DAY OF JUNE 2020

  
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Yvonne M. Spicer  
Mayor

  
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Steven D. Trask  
Chief of Police

cc: City Council, School Committee, City Division and Department Heads, Boards and Commissions, Chief Operating Officer, City Solicitor, Dr. Robert Tremblay, Media Outlets