

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

20-O-1449

AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCILMEMBERS ANTONIO BROWN, JENNIFER N. IDE, NATALYN M. ARCHIBONG, MATT WESTMORELAND, ANDRE DICKENS, AMIR FAROKHI, AND MICHAEL JULIAN BOND

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, 3010 - "USE OF FORCE", TO INCORPORATE PROCEDURAL CHANGES REGARDING ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, millions of people worldwide watched in horror as a Black man, George Floyd was killed before our eyes by a Minnesota Police Officer while his fellow officers stood by in silence; and

WHEREAS, citizens globally reacted through protests and demanded action to prosecute the officers involved in the killing, while chanting about the need for systematic changes in existing policing policies which could have allowed such an atrocity to occur; and

WHEREAS, "8 Can't Wait" is a project by the anti-police-brutality agency, Campaign Zero, created in an effort to reduce police violence through the adoption and implementation of restrictions in police use of force policies which are found to be associated with reductions in killings by police; and

WHEREAS, Campaign Zero was launched in August 2015 as a result police protests in Ferguson, Missouri, following the death of an unarmed black teenager Michael Brown, by a white police officer; and

WHEREAS, the agency recommends eight procedural changes which they have determined result in decreased police violence by 72% and have shown to reduce killings by police and save lives, including, These include: 1) Banning chokeholds and strangleholds; 2) Requiring de-escalation strategies; 3) Requiring warning before shooting; 4) Exhausting all alternatives before shooting; 5) Duty to intervene (from other officers); 6) Banning shooting at moving vehicles; 7) Requiring use of force continuum; and 8) Requiring comprehensive reporting (involving use of force against civilians); and

WHEREAS, the time is now to take swift actions to implement real systematic changes in police policies and begin to reinvent the culture of policing with use of force in support of other alternative methods; and

WHEREAS, several cities, including the City of Pittsburg and City of Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., Tampa, F.L. and City of Somerville, M.A., have either previously incorporated the alternatives to use of force in their police procedures or adopted modified versions of the eight principles recommended by Campaign Zero; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council supports the long-term goal to develop a non-police group to respond to non-criminal calls, and other reforms to curb use of excessive force; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms issued an Executive Order on June 4, 2020 to convene an Advisory Council to examine the City’s use of force policies and procedures in order to make recommendations for any operational or legislative changes within 45 days of the issuance of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council supports APD amending its Standard Operating Procedures to incorporate procedural changes which supports alternatives to use of force; and

WHEREAS, further changes may be considered following recommendations from the Mayor’s Policing Advisory Council.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Atlanta Police Department review and update the Department’s Standard Operating Procedures, 3010 - “Use Of Force”, to incorporate procedural changes regarding alternatives to use of force.

SECTION 2: That alternatives to use of force which studies have shown to reduce police violence against citizens include following 1) Banning chokeholds and strangleholds; 2) Requiring de-escalation; 3) Requiring warning before shooting; 4) Exhausting all alternatives before shooting; 5) Duty to intervene; 6) Banning shooting at moving vehicles; 7) Requiring use of force continuum; and 8) Requiring comprehensive reporting, are incorporated into APD’s SOP 3010- Use of Force.

SECTION 3: That preliminary and initial Force Supplement Reports are created by objective defensive tactic instructors independent of field operators.

SECTION 4: That where APD’s current Standard Operating Procedures may already include one or more of the aforementioned procedures for alternative use of force, a through review shall be conducted to determine which additional updates are needed.

SECTION 5: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict