

# Olympic College

## Use of Force Policy (Draft B)

### **Mission;**

As uniformed security officers/guards for Olympic College our mission is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students, faculty, staff and guests that work or visit Olympic College.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide Olympic College Security Officers/Guards with guidelines on the use of non-lethal force and proper use of restraint devices.

### **Introduction**

While in the performance of official duties, the use of force may be necessary in an act of self defense, to maintain order, enforce the law, protect the safety of the campus community, and prevent the loss of Olympic College property. Limits have been placed on police/security use of force to ensure the rights of individuals and to limit possible liability to Olympic College and the security department. There are many situations where an individual may not follow verbal direction from a security officer, or is actively resisting and the use of force used shall be restricted to that which is reasonably, necessary and proper for the safe compliance or restraint of an individual. This policy will address the escalating continuum for the use of force.

### **Definitions**

**Necessary:** No reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist and that the amount of force used was reasonable to accomplish the lawful purpose intended.

**Force:** Any actions taken by a member of the security department to control a situation or the behavior of others.

**Excessive Force:** Is any physical force that exceeds the degree of physical force permitted by this policy.

**Force Continuum:** Officers will utilize a progressive scale of force and only use that force that is necessary to control the situation or detain suspects. A use of force continuum is a guideline for officers on what is generally considered to be a reasonable force response based on a level of resistance or assaultive behavior demonstrated by a suspect. A use of force continuum is only a guideline because it does not take into consideration the totality of the circumstances that may warrant a lower or higher force response from the officer. Officers are expected to use reasonable and necessary amounts of force based on the totality of the circumstances with which they are confronted. A level of force may be bypassed (up or down) if circumstances preclude its use or there are reasonable grounds for bypassing it. The use of force continuum is as follows:

**Level 1:** Presence;

**Level 2:** Verbal / tactical commands, physical guiding, escorting or touching;

**Level 3:** Physical strength, skill, pain-compliance control holds, handcuffs, use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray;

**Level 4:** Use of impact weapon, less-lethal munitions and/or taser;

**Unauthorized use of force;** The following use of force is NOT authorized. No officer/guard shall use any force against another person except in self defense, to prevent injury to another person, or control a combative subject. The use of force for any other reason constitutes a violation of this policy and will be subject to review and possible disciplinary action

As uniformed security officers/guards in the performance of our duties and to support our mission, the use of force policy is provided and may be appropriately used in self defense or to defend others from harm. To overcome a subject's combative or assaultive behavior and control, disable, or subdue persons bent on harming themselves or others.

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