



NEWS RELEASE

July 21, 2020

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Lockhart Police Department gives report on policies, practices

The Lockhart Police Department discussed its policies and practices at a Tuesday, July 21 meeting of the Lockhart City Council.

In light of recent national events and with respect to the 2014 President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which was created to strengthen community policing and trust among law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, Lockhart police prepared a detailed presentation that addressed how the department's policies and practices compare with national trends in law enforcement.

"It is a cause for concern when any segment of the community lacks confidence or trust in our public safety services," Lockhart City Manager Steven Lewis said. "Our goal is to build meaningful, sustainable, trusting and effective working relationships."

The presentation titled "Police Practices and Response to Resistance (RTR)" includes a report on the Lockhart Police Department's Response to Resistance policy, which was updated in 2019.

"The use of force in response to resistance by law enforcement requires constant evaluation and is a serious responsibility," Lockhart Chief of Police Ernest Pedraza said. "The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidelines on objectively reasonable response to resistance.

"While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of objectively reasonable force to be applied in any situation, each officer is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial and objectively reasonable manner."

To see the full presentation and read the full Response to Resistance policy, visit https://www.lockhart-tx.org/page/police_policies.

