



WATAUGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

#8cantwait campaign

- 1 Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds**
The Watauga Police Department does not permit or train chokeholds or stranglehold restraints to gain submission or control. WPD also actively trains Officers to avoid targeting the head, neck, throat, groin, and other sensitive areas when using control mechanisms.
- 2 Require De-Escalation**
Watauga Police Officers are trained to utilize de-escalation techniques and only use force when it is reasonably necessary. The application of any force or pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.
- 3 Require Warning Before Shooting**
Watauga Police Officers are trained and expected to identify themselves and provide a verbal warning before using deadly force, where feasible.
- 4 Exhaust All Other Means Before Shooting**
Watauga Police Officers may only use deadly force to preserve life. An officer may use deadly force to protect any person from an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury. Officers are trained and expected to use only the minimum amount of force necessary.
- 5 Duty to Intervene**
The Watauga Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Every Watauga Police Officer has a duty to intercede if they observe another officer (even a supervisor) using unreasonable force. Every officer is additionally required to report any instance of unreasonable force.
- 6 Ban Shooting At Moving Vehicles**
Shooting at a vehicle is not permitted unless the person in the vehicle is threatening the imminent use of deadly force toward the officer or another person and there is no other option available.
- 7 Require Use of Force Continuum**
An ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
- 8 Require Comprehensive Reporting**
Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests. Watauga Police Officers are required to document every use of force. Each application of force is reviewed by a chain of supervisors to ensure compliance with our policies.