

Welcome 2020!

Each new year brings new changes and opportunities. Trista Kennedy is currently very busy getting the Woodland Police Department (WPD) prepared for new requirements which begin in 2020. After January 1, 2020, all law enforcement agencies must post all current policies, practices, procedures, and training materials that would be available to the public, if requested, on their websites. This requirement is specified in a law passed in 2018, Senate Bill (SB) 978. So that the WPD is in compliance with the law, Trista has had to review and prepare all of these documents for the internet and then have them uploaded to the WPD website. Every time that a new training or procedure is created, the website must be updated. So, while you are volunteering at the WPD this year, don't forget to ask Trista if she needs any help, because she will be very busy with this project.



Another law that went into effect January 1st, Assembly Bill (AB) 392, has been discussed frequently in the news. This new law revises the chapter of California *Penal Code (PC)* which outlines the criminal procedures for arrests. Prior to AB 392, the statute authorized a peace officer to use reasonable force during an arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. In these situations, deadly force was justifiable when arresting a person who had committed a felony *and* was fleeing or resisting arrest. The newly added *PC* Section 835(a) amends the circumstances when a peace officer is justified in the use of deadly force. After January 1, 2020, deadly force may still be justifiable if the officer reasonably believes that deadly force is necessary to defend against threat of death or serious injury to any person. The conditions for using deadly force to apprehend a fleeing person have changed. In that case, the officer must reasonably believe that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another person unless apprehended. *PC* Section 835(a) also adds several other considerations for officers in these situations.

A companion bill to AB 392, SB 230, was written and passed during the same legislative session. This law requires law enforcement agencies to rewrite use of force policy and provide mandatory training to all peace officers so that they are prepared to comply with AB 392. Together these two bills formed a legislative package that has gained national attention for California because it provides a comprehensive use of force policy. While AB 392 updated the legal standard for the considerations and procedures to determine when force can be used in California communities, SB 230 provides the tools and training needed to effectively minimize the use of force and include decision-making procedures in alignment with the AB 392 standard. The policies required by SB 230

must include de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to the use of force, specific guidelines for the application of deadly force, and factors for evaluating and reviewing all use of force incidents. Our WPD will have to make sure that the policies and training are developed by January 1, 2021. Trista will then have to make sure these documents are available on the WPD website.

SB 273 is another law going into effect on January 1, 2020. This is a revision of felony domestic violence law. It extends the statute of limitations for felony domestic violence from three years to five years and makes changes to domestic violence training for peace officers. Some of the new procedures and training to be developed are intended to provide safety for the officer and the victim. As with all procedures and training, this is one more set of documents that Trista will prepare for the website!

As Volunteers in Policing (ViPs), we always try to help support the WPD workload where possible, so the changes that 2020 brings for the WPD also affects us. As we all greet 2020, it is also a good time to decide what project or training to try in the new year. Morgan always has great ideas, but also talk to fellow ViPs. Perhaps you can train a colleague on school patrol, traffic calming, or case record filing. Remember to walk around and ask the records staff if they need help or if any of the officers need a squad car washed. As volunteers we all want to do what we can to support the WPD in 2020!