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CITIZENS' CORNER

A QUARTERLY CIRCULAR BY POLICE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

THE USE OF FORCE POLICY & THE JCF

What is Use of Force Policy?

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Use of Force Policy provides guidelines on when and how JCF members may use force while performing their duties.

Why is there a Use of Force Policy?

The Use of Force Policy exists to prevent the loss of life and to ensure that the protection of human rights and human dignity remains a priority for the JCF.

The policy was designed to adhere to international policies and best practices that respect the right to life and control the excessive use of force.

JCF members complying with the use of force policy will help to build public trust and encourage cooperation between JCF members and citizens.

When may a JCF member be allowed to use force?

The policy requires JCF members to use only the amount of force necessary to control incidents.

The level of force to be used by a JCF member depends on the level of threat in each situation.

Reasonable force may be lawfully used by JCF members in the following situations:

- To make a lawful arrest;
- In self-defense; and
- To protect other members of the police force or other citizens who are facing an immi-

or in response to a spoken threat or insult, the force in such situations become unlawful.

Balancing Personal and Public Safety

The policy aims to balance the safety of JCF members with public safety by ensuring that when force is used, members take reasonable steps to reduce or prevent injury and death to:

- Attackers; and
- Bystanders.

The policy seeks to strike a balance that allows JCF members to use lethal force, when necessary, but only in a way that is proportional to the threat or risk.

Conclusion

A modern police force must work to increase public trust. The JCF's Use of Force Policy is one such attempt by the JCF to do so by emphasizing the importance of preserving human life. JCF members must conduct themselves in ways that reflect and adhere to the Use of Force Policy. While discharging their duties in a challenging environment, they must always consider the safety of those whom they swore to protect as much as their own when it comes to using force.



nent threat of danger.

JCF members should use force only when necessary and as a last resort. Where possible, pepper spray and other less-lethal weapons should be used instead of deadly force.

Improper Use of Force

Where JCF members use force to punish misbehavior, for revenge

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