



Tulsa Police Department

This policy statement and the procedures thereunder are intended for Police Department use only. The policies, procedures, and regulations are for internal Police Department administrative purposes and are not intended to create any higher legal standard of care or liability in an evidentiary sense than is created by law. Violations of internal Police Department policies, procedures, regulations, or rules form the basis for disciplinary action by the Police Department. Violations of law form the basis for civil and/or criminal sanctions to be determined in a proper judicial setting, not through the administrative procedures of the Police Department.

Policy # 101B

Effective Date 04/01/2025

Policy Name Review Boards

Approved Date 03/31/2025

Approved by Dennis Larsen, Chief of Police

Previous Date 08/10/2023

PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

Remove the Director of Planning, Policy, and Quality Control.

POLICY:

The Tulsa Police Department, to improve tactical procedures, supervision, and training, has established panels to review all deadly force incidents. These boards will review the reports, investigations, as well as recorded testimony from officers and witnesses, when necessary.

SUMMARY: Procedures for departmental review boards

APPLIES TO: All sworn personnel.

DEFINITIONS:

DEADLY FORCE REVIEW BOARD (DFRB) – Board that will review all incidents of deadly force that are referred to the Board by the Chief of Police.

USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB) – Board that will review all advanced uses of force, other than CEW and any incident referred to the Board by a division commander.

PROCEDURES:

A. DEADLY FORCE REVIEW BOARD (DFRB)

1. Every member of the DFRB will not have been directly involved in the incident under review.
2. The officer's representative shall not serve in an assignment which would create a conflict of interest for the officer or the City of Tulsa
3. The Chief of Police will appoint the DFRB from the following ranks for incidents involving Tulsa Police Officers or employees:
 - a. A Bureau Deputy Chief to act as Chair.
 - b. The Division Commander of the involved officer.
 - c. The Training Division commander.
 - d. An officer of equal rank to the officer involved.
 - e. An officer below the rank of captain chosen by the officer being reviewed (officer's representative).
 - f. The Public Affairs Section Major (non-voting).
 - g. The Special Operations Team (SOT) Leader or Team Commander (non-voting).
 - h. The Tulsa Police Department Legal Advisor (non-voting).
 - i. Rangemaster (non-voting)

- j. Defensive Tactics Lead Instructor (non-voting)
- k. Peer 2 Peer Program Leader or Team Leader (non-voting)

4. If the incident involves a Tulsa Police Reserve Officer, the following will also be appointed:
 - a. The Special Operations Division Commander (non-voting).
 - b. If the Tulsa Police Reserve Officer was assigned to a TPD partner, the Division Commander of the partner will be appointed as the Division Commander of the involved officer (voting).
 - c. If the Tulsa Police Reserve Officer was working a special event (e.g., Fairgrounds, River Parks), the Special Operations Commander will be appointed as the Division Commander of the involved officer (voting).
5. The duties of the Board will be to:
 - a. Thoroughly review the criminal investigation report.
 - b. Thoroughly review the administrative investigation completed by IA.
 - c. Hear direct testimony from officers and witnesses when necessary.
6. The Board will develop findings and make recommendations to the Chief of Police in the following areas:
 - a. Whether the use of deadly force complied with policy.
 - b. Tactical considerations.
 - c. Training considerations.
 - d. The quality of supervision.
 - e. The process and the quality of the post-incident investigation.
7. The Chief of Police will review all findings and forward the decision to the officer's or employee's bureau Deputy Chief.
8. The Chief of Police will report the decision and any resolutions along with the Board's findings to all sworn personnel.
9. The bureau Deputy Chief will review and forward the findings along with the Chief's decision to the officer's or employee's division commander.
10. The division commander will review and initiate the required action.
11. Data and/or statistics related to the use of deadly force will be identified at the Deadly Force Review Board meetings and directed to the Training Division to be incorporated into training when appropriate.
12. The DFRB will meet quarterly.

B. USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD (UFRB)

1. Each member of the UFRB will be an officer not directly involved in the incident.
2. The Chief of Police will appoint the UFRB from the following ranks for incidents involving Tulsa Police Officers or employees:
 - a. The Operation Bureau Deputy Chief.
 - b. The Training Division commander.
 - c. SOT Commander.
 - d. Defensive Tactics Lead Instructor.
 - e. K-9 Lieutenant.
 - f. The Division Commanders of involved officers

g. Public Affairs Section Major (non-voting).

3. The UFRB will identify individual training and performance improvement opportunities of needs. The Board will look for patterns which reveal global training needs and make recommendations to the Training Division as appropriate.
4. The UFRB will develop findings and make recommendations to the Chief of Police in the following areas:
 - a. Whether the use of force complied with policy.
 - b. Tactical considerations.
 - c. Training considerations.
 - d. The quality of supervision.
 - e. The process and the quality of the post-incident investigation.
5. The goal of the UFRB will be to provide feedback to improve officer and supervisor performance. The UFRB will also make training, and policy and procedures recommendations to provide better police service.
6. The officer's chain of command is charged with referring any concerns regarding compliance, decision-making, tactics, supervision of reporting to the UFRB for review.
7. The UFRB will meet monthly to review the use of force forwarded to them.

REGULATIONS: None

REFERENCES: None