

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1

February 16, 2005

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2005

SUBJECT: SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES POLICY

POLICY:

**SHOOTING AT A MOVING VEHICLE.** Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle. For the purposes of this Section, the moving vehicle itself shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer's use of deadly force. An officer threatened by an oncoming vehicle shall move out of its path instead of discharging a firearm at it or any of its occupants.

**SHOOTING FROM A MOVING VEHICLE.** Firearms shall not be discharged from a moving vehicle, except in exigent circumstances and in the immediate defense of life.

It is understood that this policy may not cover every situation that may arise. In all situations, officers are expected to act with intelligence and exercise sound judgement, attending to the spirit of this policy. Any deviations from the provisions of this policy shall be examined rigorously on a case by case basis. The involved officer must be able to articulate clearly the reasons for the use of deadly force. Factors that may be considered include whether the officer's life or the lives of others were in immediate peril and there was no reasonable or apparent means of escape.

The above prohibitions exist for the following reasons:

1. Bullets fired at moving vehicles are extremely unlikely to stop or disable the moving vehicle.
2. Bullets fired may miss the intended target or ricochet and cause injury to officers or other innocent persons.
3. The vehicle may crash and cause injury to officers or other innocent persons if the bullets disable the operator.
4. Moving to cover, repositioning and/or waiting for additional responding units to gain and maintain a superior tactical advantage maximizes officer and public safety and minimizes the necessity for using deadly force.

5. Shooting accurately from a moving vehicle is extremely difficult and therefore unlikely to successfully stop or prevent a threat to the officer or other innocent persons.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Section 1/556.40 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Chief of Staff shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
Chief of Police

**DISTRIBUTION "A"**