



**City of Phoenix**

**Office of Accountability and Transparency**  
***Police Department Responses to OAT Recommendations***

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**Department: Phoenix Police Department**

**Department Head: Michael G. Sullivan, Interim Chief**

**Project Title: OAT Monitoring Report – Discretionary**

**OAT Report Number: Incident OAT23-035**

**PSB Report Number: RTR23-1178 & PGP23-3080**

Based on Phoenix City Code 20-13 and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of Accountability and Transparency (OAT) and the Phoenix Police Department (PPD), the below information is provided by PPD in response to the OAT Monitoring Report for Incident OAT23-035.

***OAT Recommendation #1: “Conduct a Full-Scale Professional Standards Bureau Investigation”***

***PPD Response:*** Agree

***Implementation Target Date:***

August 21, 2024

***Explanation:*** PPD agrees with OAT’s recommendation that the Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) conduct a full-scale investigation for serious misconduct allegations and response to resistance incidents resulting in serious injury or which have the potential for City liability, based on the current language in the PSB Manual.

PPD is committed to conducting thorough investigations of all excessive force-related misconduct allegations brought to the Department’s attention, whether through external means, including citizen complaints, or via internal means, such as a PPD supervisor conducting an Administrative Review of an incident.

Regarding this incident (RTR23-1178) - a use of force involving the deployment of a police canine – there was no allegation, or evidence, of excessive force or any other type of alleged employee misconduct identified. And, PSB has not received a complaint alleging excessive force.

A thorough fact-finding administrative review by three successive supervision levels within the Tactical Support Bureau (TSB) was completed. In accordance with Operations Order 1.5.5.C.(1), this incident received a Policy Outcome Determination of “Within Policy”, meaning that no force-related misconduct or unusual circumstances occurred related to this incident and it was not forwarded to PSB.

PPD conducts in-depth Administrative Reviews of all Responses to Resistance (Uses of Force) by PPD employees, including using a police canine.

**Follow-up:** The PSB Bureau Manual will be updated to delineate the types of incidents that will be mandated (i.e. officer involved shootings, in-custody deaths, misconduct) for a full-scale PSB Investigation, or those that could be discretionary (i.e. serious injury or potential for City liability). Furthermore, to strengthen its commitment to use-of-force accountability, PPD will implement a new, mandatory Executive Leadership review for any use of force involving a police canine.

**Note:** The PPD Canine Unit currently complies with 19 of 20 recommendations from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) publication Guidance on Policies and Practices for Patrol Canines (May 2020).

Implementation target dates for the OAT recommendations are based on the organizational level that is impacted by the follow-up actions described above. The implementation target date for Bureau-level policy and process changes is three months. For Department-level policy and process changes, the implementation target date may be six months or more to allow for the review of the current policy, the development and approval of the new policy, and the development, approval, and delivery of training to more than 3,000 employees for department-level training.