



**CITY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
24 EAGLE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
TELEPHONE (518) 434-5100
WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV
MAYOR@ALBANYNY.GOV

KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 1-20

June 8, 2020

City of Albany Policy Regarding The Albany Police Department's Use of Force and Training Policies

WHEREAS, this nation has a long and indefensible history of systemic, institutional, and individual racism, which is particularly reflected in the relationship between police forces and Black communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers nationwide have repeatedly engaged in excessive force and unjustifiably destroyed personal property in and unto communities of color; and

WHEREAS, incidents of police brutality have also occurred in the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is not immune or exempt from the systemic racism, discrimination, bias, and implicit bias that exists throughout our nation, state, and city; and

WHEREAS, City of Albany residents are diverse, and all possess universal human rights and are entitled to dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is committed to equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, City of Albany law enforcement are responsible for protecting all life and property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany seeks to eliminate — and then prevent the reemergence of — any unlawful or disparate treatment in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany remains committed to community policing and 21st century policing strategies that encompass mutual respect between residents and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany law enforcement officers must participate in effectuating these policies throughout the City and its law enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department needs to revise its policies to better protect the lives and rights of all individuals, particularly members of the Black community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor of the City of Albany, by the authority vested in me by the charter and laws of the City of Albany, do hereby order:

Section 1. Banning Certain Restraint Techniques

- a. The Albany Police Department and its law enforcement officers shall not employ a so-called “chokehold,” nor restrain any individual by placing a knee upon the individual’s neck, nor otherwise restrain any individual in a manner that restricts the flow of air or blood by compressing the windpipe, diaphragm, or the carotid arteries on each side of the neck.
- b. The Albany Police Department and its law enforcement officers shall not restrain any individual by connecting or tying rear-cuffed hands to cuffed or shackled ankles or legs, or as such practice is more commonly known, “hog-tie,” any individual.

Section 2. Duty to Intervene

- a. Any member of the Albany Police Department who is present and observes another member of the Albany Police Department using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances or in any way physically or verbally escalating a law enforcement interaction shall safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force or escalation.
- b. Any member of the Albany Police Department who observes such use of excessive force or physical and/or verbal escalation shall promptly report such observations to a supervisor.

Section 3. Reaffirmation of Albany Police Department Training Requirements

- a. The Albany Police Department and its law enforcement officers shall reaffirm their commitment to the Department's training requirements on issues such as de-escalation and recognition and reduction of implicit bias in policing.
- b. Specifically, the Albany Police Department and its law enforcement officers shall require the training of and emphasize de-escalation tactics and techniques, which seek to minimize the likelihood of the use force during an incident, such that, by slowing down or stabilizing a situation, more time, options, and resources become available for incident resolution.
- c. The Albany Police Department and its law enforcement officers shall similarly seek to eliminate the use of implicit bias, which refers to the automatic associations people make between groups of people, as well as stereotypes about those groups, from the Department's policing through mandated trainings.

Section 4. Police Academy Training on History of Racism and Bias in Policing

- a. All current members of the Albany Police Department shall undergo not less than eight (8) hours of training annually on the history of racism and systemic bias in policing.
- b. All recruits currently in the Albany Police Department Academy, as well as all future recruits in the Academy, shall undergo such training on the history of racism and systemic bias in policing.

Section 5. Effective Date

- a. This Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Albany to be affixed this 8th day of June, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy M. Sheehan", written over a horizontal line.

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. ...", written over a horizontal line.

WITNESS