General Fact Sheet

ABOUT OUR MODEL POLICY

The Stanford Center for Racial Justice (SCRJ) has been working on a **Model Policy** to help small and mid-sized cities who want to review and update their current use of force policies. Its design draws from existing policies in over 100 cities around the country, with a goal to promote use of force policies that are fair, safe, and equitable for everyone.

TEN CHAPTERS

The Model Policy consists of the following chapters:

1: Authorization and Standards for the Use of Force
2: De-Escalation
3: Speaking Techniques, Physical Controls, and Personal Body Weapons
4: Chokeholds
5: Foot Pursuits

6: Vehicle Pursuits
7: Impact Weapons
8: Firearms
9: Duty to Intervene and Render Medical Aid
10: Crowd Control

DESIGN THEMES

These three design features are present throughout the Model Policy:

- **Authorization Standard:** Provides a clear articulation of when an officer has permission to use force. Force is authorized when officers have a Lawful Objective and follow the Force Standard.

- **Force Standard:** Governs the amount of force that can be used. The force used must be the least amount of force necessary to achieve a lawful objective. It must also be proportionate to the circumstances.

- **De-escalation:** Adopts de-escalation techniques as an overall design feature that should be incorporated into officer tactics before any use of force is applied. Officers must continuously consider and deploy strategies to reduce the need for force before and during encounters.

EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS

In addition to Model Policy chapters, the project will include explanatory documents and supplemental materials that we expect to release over the ensuing months to help readers understand different components of the Model Policy and external factors that may impact policy language.

NEXT STEPS

SCRJ is beginning its **beta release** of the Model Policy. During this phase, SCRJ will be seeking continuous feedback from experts, community groups, law enforcement, and other stakeholders—particularly those who are most impacted by public safety and policing issues. SCRJ also plans to develop implementation, training, and evaluation tools. Each chapter will be updated with revisions and additional information as the project expands.

For questions or to collaborate with us on the Model Policy, visit the **Frequently Asked Questions** section of our web page.