



# Milwaukee Police Supervisors' Organization

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April 26, 2021

Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission  
C/O Leon Todd, Executive Director  
Milwaukee City Hall  
200 East Wells Street Room 706  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to you today regarding FPC file 21058; your proposal to modify SOP 460. We, the Milwaukee Police Supervisors' Organization are the duly elected representatives of and by the sworn police supervisors of the Milwaukee Police Department; each of which were hired and later promoted with careful, thorough and individual consideration by your body.

First and foremost, we must express in no uncertain terms that no current member of ours ever wishes to use any force whatsoever against another human being, ever. Likewise, every one of our current members hopes those that you have hired, appointed and placed subordinates under our supervision, responsibility and Command that share that same odium against any use of force, especially deadly force.

To this end, the current SOP 460.25 is in no need of modification from its current form. This is true for many reasons, including the fact that the current policy clearly expresses an unambiguous prohibition to the use of "...chokeholds, strangleholds, lateral vascular neck restraints, carotid restraints, or any other tactic that restricts oxygen or blood flow to the head or neck..." But then you propose to strike the ensuing "...unless the member is involved in a deadly force situation and has reasonably exhausted all other options and tactics. Deadly force shall only be used when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself/herself or to others." Placing any restriction on self-defense and the defense of others in a deadly force situation will prove fatal if that turns out to be, as the current policy provides, the last reasonably available option to save a life or the life of another.

More importantly, and directly in-step with the facts stated above is the recently published report by the Wisconsin State Assembly panel "Report of the Task Force's Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards" dated April 21, 2021 (copy attached). This Task Force did many things which you have not; Assembled a Diverse group (as enumerated in Appendix 2) which included Elected Officials, Community Members, Academia, and Subject Matter Experts. This Task Force met jointly on multiple occasions, discussed matters collectively, received testimony from subject matter experts, and arrived at consensus recommendations. Again, as you have not. Most notably, one of the areas studies (as listed on page 4) is this topic and their Recommendation is the equivalent of our current policy.

For the reasons listed above, and in the attached report, we suggest SOP 460.25 remain as it is, and pray that no member of our Police Department or Community is ever forced into a deadly force situation.

Sincerely,

The MPSO Board of Directors