



**Recommendation:**

#### **4. Required officer communication and identification prior to the use of force**

When encountering child subjects age-appropriate verbalization is important to ensure that officer expectations are known, the subject remains calm, and de-escalation can be achieved. The use of the language “when feasible,” “shall attempt,” and “make an attempt” as it relates to an officer’s obligation to identify himself/herself and warn a subject prior to the use of force (General policy under Procedures I.A. and B.) is concerning. When attempting to apprehend a subject an officer should be required to identify himself/herself as a police officer. Failure to have this as a requirement can lead to confusion, fear and unnecessary escalation of the incident. This risk is especially high for children and youth, who are often victimized and are socialized to distrust strangers. Clear communication and identification increases officer and subject safety. Further, prior to using force, an officer should be required to warn a subject and require that officers allow reasonable time for a subject to comply with the warning.

**Recommendation:** Rather than leading with an exception or limitation on the policy, the General policy sections should be revised: A.

B.

Finally, we want to be sure you are aware that our Center was among the organizations who submitted recommendations on the use of force policies to the Community Police Commission, per their request, and we were pleased to see several of our suggestions included in their recommendations. While it is not clear to what extent those recommendations were addressed in these policies, we want to note that our Center also offered recommendations on the bias-free policing policies and we urge the parties to take measures to ensure continuity between the use of force policies and the bias free policing policies. If possible, we would appreciate knowing what the Monitoring Team's process will be for addressing these