

Montague Police Department

CHIEF CHRISTOPHER P. WILLIAMS



Position statement

At all times the Montague Police Department regards police brutality, violence, racism and the injury or death of a black person (or any person) while in police presence or custody as wholly unacceptable.

The MPD strives, at all times to treat everyone with dignity, respect, and empathy during day to day operations and service to our community. The MPD is firmly resolved in our commitment to those we are sworn to protect and serve in our community. We accomplish this through a culture of respect to all, rigorous training and accountability.

-Chief Christopher P. Williams

Policy discussion

- ▶ The tragic events that have taken place in other parts of our nation do not reflect the culture or practice of the MPD.
- ▶ The MPD Use of Force Policy is representative of current best practices and guides our officers to ensure that any force used is appropriate for the circumstance, and all force is used only when absolutely necessary.
- ▶ Use of force is guided by the “Use of Force Model”, a continuum developed by Dr. Franklin Graves and Professor Gregory Connor, and is held nationally as the accepted best practice in guiding interactions in which police officers are required to use force.
- ▶ MPD policy requires mandatory reporting of every use of force. Required in each report is the type of force used, the subject’s age/gender/race/ethnicity, the officer involved, and whether injuries resulted. The department maintains this data and continuously monitors it for any causes for concern or signs of disparity.
- ▶ All training regarding the use of force is reviewed annually, and is in compliance with all standards set forth by the governing body of police training in Massachusetts.
- ▶ Chokeholds or the intentional obstruction of a persons airway are NOT techniques or practices utilized by Montague Police Officers.

Foundational Training of all Officers

- ▶ Every Full-Time officer has attended Police Recruit Academy.
 - ▶ This program is an intensive 800 hour of diverse training.
 - ▶ Dozens of topics are covered, including:
 - Loyalty to Profession & Community
 - Bias & Sexual Harassment
 - Ethical Decision Making
 - Procedural Justice
 - Problem Solving
 - Diversity
 - Proper Use of Force
 - Fair & Impartial Policing

Additional training for all officers

- ▶ Montague does not stop at basic training provided through the Police Recruit Academy. The state of Massachusetts mandates 40 hours per year of police in service training, which is among the highest in the nation.
- ▶ All MPD officers attend this minimum of in-service training per year. Every MPD officer receives additional training. This includes sessions such as: Legal updates, Mental Health Awareness, Dynamics of Addiction, Extremism Awareness, Interactions with Youth, and Mental Health First Aid.
- ▶ Leadership has attended Cultural Bias/Diversity training and are in process of advanced training through the FBI Leadership Institute. Consisting of three distinct 28 hour sessions of Supervisor, Command, and Executive Leadership. All of our Sergeants have completed the Supervisor Training and full completion of this program is an on going goal.
- ▶ Several officers have received additional 40 hour training funded by the Department of Mental Health dealing with Critical Incident Training.
- ▶ De-escalation is a core component of almost all police training attended by Montague Officers, and every effort is always made to avoid force through empathetic communication and fair treatment.
- ▶ Training and awareness are cornerstones of our departmental growth. WE are here to serve the community and we take that monumental responsibility seriously.

Arrest/Charged Statistics

Last 3.5years

January 1, 2017 – June 6,2020

Arrests/Charged – (1230 Total)			
		Male	Female
White	1100	700	400
Black	121	93	28
Asian	7	4	3
Pacific Island	2	2	0

Injury Statistics	
Minor Injuries	2
Major Injuries	0
Deaths	0

Use of Force Statistics			
		Male	Female
		46	17
White	57		
Black	6		

Types of Force Used	
Total Incidents	63
Compliance Techniques	38
Defensive Tactics	5
OC "Pepper Spray"	9
Taser Display (No Use)	7
Taser Drive-Stun	2
Taser Deployment	1
K-9 Apprehension	1

Traffic Citation statistics

Last 5 years

January 1, 2015 – June 6, 2020

Race	Traffic Citations
White	3142
Black	109
Asian	24
Indian	1
Other/Unknown	430
Total	3706

Gender	Traffic Citations
Male	1976
Female	1730
Total	3706

Final Thoughts from the Chief -

The Montague Police Department remains committed to building trust, legitimacy, and transparency with our community and beyond. We will continue to strive for improvement, constantly reviewing our policies and practices to ensure we are at the forefront of the best practices in policing, and remaining vigilant in our oversight, training, and community engagement.

We are deeply thankful for the strong, positive relationships we have with our community, and will strive to perpetually enrich them, no matter how uncomfortable or difficult the narrative may be for us. **We look forward to important conversations to come.**

- Chief Christopher P. Williams

Thank You

