

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: LESS LETHAL WEAPONS / ASP TACTICAL BATON

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I. Purpose

To provide guidelines for the use of less lethal weapons.

II. Statement of Policy

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department that police officers shall use only that force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the life of the officer or others. Less lethal weapons include, but are not limited to hands, ASP expandable baton, O.C. pepper spray, Taser, etc. The department does not authorize the use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques.

III. Authorized Impact Weapons

- A. All Uniformed and Investigative Personnel will be issued a 21 inch ASP Expandable Baton with a foam handle, model number F-21C.
- B. No officer shall carry or use any other baton than the one described in paragraph "A" above while in the performance of their duties as a police officer. The Chief of Police may grant exceptions for officers engaged in special operations such as ESU or narcotics operations. In such cases, the officer must be certified with the baton before being allowed to carry it.

IV. Carrying of Impact Weapons Off Duty

Police personnel will be allowed to carry an approved impact weapon off-duty. Only the departmental issued impact weapon is approved for carrying off duty. Other impact weapons may be approved for off duty use provided that officer has the baton registered with the ASP Baton Instructor and the officer has been certified with the baton. The Chief of Police has authority in determining which batons will be carried off duty. Request for approval must be in writing and sent to the Departmental ASP Instructor. The ASP Instructor will then forward the request to the Chief of Police.

V. Use of Impact Weapons

- A. The ASP Baton is a defensive tactical tool that will be utilized against assaultive suspects who may cause bodily harm. The weapon may be used to protect citizens and law enforcement officers from physical resistance to arrest. The

baton may also be used as a control and restraint weapon in the event of passive resistance.

- B. Any officer, who strikes someone with an ASP Baton while in the performance of his or her duties as a police officer on or off duty, shall complete a Police Response to Aggressive Resistance Report within 24 hours of the incident. The report will be reviewed in the manner described in SOP P040, Section V.
- C. The Watch Commander will forward a copy of the Police Response to Aggressive Resistance Report to the Patrol Division Captain or his designee.
- D. If any person complains of an injury after being struck with the ASP Baton or if injury is readily apparent, the officer shall provide the person access to medical attention.

VI. ASP Expandable Baton Certification

- A. Each officer is required to complete an eight hours basic certification class for the expandable baton before the officer will be issued the baton.
- B. Each officer will undergo biennial recertification training on the use of the ASP Expandable Baton. Review of this policy and the use of force policy are required at the recertification training. Each baton will be inspected during this time by a certified instructor.

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton

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Chief of Police