

# Criminal Justice Council Report 2021

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL  
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY POLICY  
REVIEW AND ANALYSIS



# CJC REPORT 2021

**Law enforcement policies provide the foundation – the rules and standards - by which agencies operate. Good policies go beyond this foundation and provide a framework for officer decision making in critical situations and build transparency and trust within the community. This report provides a comparative snapshot of key policies and procedures in Santa Cruz County law enforcement agencies.**

The purpose is to see where there is alignment, where there are gaps and where there are opportunities to improve. It is not a comprehensive look at local agency policies but provides a transparent overview of the policies that work to ensure officers respond safely and responsibly in key situations. While the purpose was to evaluate alignment of policies, the goal is not to necessarily have a standardized set of policies across jurisdictions. Local agencies and the communities they serve may have reasons why they have specific policies, don't have specific policies or have policies that differ from other agencies within the county. This analysis is to provide a transparent look at those policies and provide a starting point for evaluation by local law enforcement, elected leaders and the communities they serve. All local agencies participated voluntarily, openly, and transparently with the Criminal Justice Council to provide this information.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **There is widespread policy alignment between law enforcement jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County.**
- **On nearly every policy issue regarding use of force, technological deployment and release of information to the public, local law enforcement agencies had updated and modern policies**
- **Among the jurisdictions that don't already have a dedicated unit with sworn officers responding to behavioral/ mental health calls, 100% are supportive of the creation of an independent agency that would respond to these calls.**
- **Santa Cruz County is believed to be the first to conduct this type of public and transparent regional law enforcement policy review in the United States.**

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## SURVEY DEVELOPMENT AND METHODOLOGY

In light of national discussions regarding police policies and procedures, the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) embarked on an effort to review the policies pertaining to use of force, technology, independent oversight, behavioral health response and community transparency. The effort was led by CJC Chair, and Santa Cruz County Supervisor, Zach Friend and Santa Cruz City Council member Justin Cummings. The CJC created an ad hoc working group from within the general membership to oversee the creation of a survey that was sent in the Spring of 2021 to the Chiefs of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Capitola, Watsonville and the SC Santa Cruz County Sheriff. In Summer of 2021, the CJC engaged Applied Survey Research (ASR) to assist with data analysis, compiling findings and data visualization. Every local law enforcement agency openly and transparently participated in the process and worked actively with the CJC and ASR to provide policies relevant to the analysis and answer any questions necessary. This report is the result of these efforts.

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY POLICY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Law enforcement policies provide the foundation – the rules and standards - by which agencies operate. Good policies go beyond this foundation and provide a framework for officer decision making in critical situations and build transparency and trust within the community. The following provides a comparative snapshot of key policies and procedures in Santa Cruz County law enforcement agencies.

**100%**

Of the law enforcement agencies surveyed have a policy that:



**Requires their officers to use DE-ESCALATION**



**Bans choke holds, neck restraints, and/or carotid restraints**



**Requires duty to intervene**

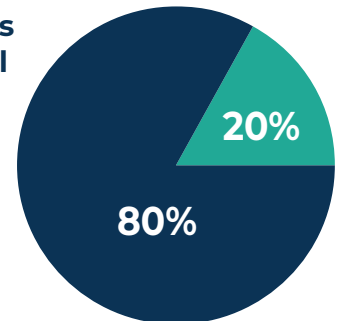


**Bans shooting at or from a moving vehicle under most circumstances**



Of the law enforcement agencies surveyed use **“Preponderance of Evidence”** as the **level of evidence needed to sustain a complaint against an officer.**

Does your department **report out on complaints against police personnel** to elected officials, to the community, or both?



■ BOTH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE COMMUNITY  
■ NONE OF THE ABOVE

Does your department **report out on use of force?**

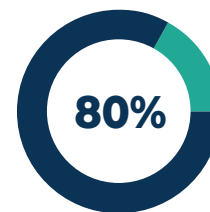
**80%**  
YES  
**20%**  
NO



Policy that requires less lethal force options prior to resorting to deadly force when reasonable or safe to do so



Policy requiring a warning before deploying lethal force when reasonable or safe to do so



Does your policy identify the display of a weapon as a use of force

n=represents 5 jurisdictions (Capitola PC, Santa Cruz PD, Watsonville PD, Scotts Valley PD, Sheriff's Department)

Does your agency **publish public records act requests?**

**60% YES**



Does your agency **release officer involved shooting body camera footage?**

**100% YES**



Does your agency require **implicit bias training?**

**100% YES**




Does your department currently have policy related to the **acquisition and use of technology for the purposes of surveillance and/or law enforcement?**

**80% YES**

**20% NO**


Does your department currently use **predictive policing technology?**

**100% NO**




Does your department currently use **facial recognition technology?**

**100% NO**



Does your agency have an **independent auditor?** The independent auditor is defined as someone outside of your agency who reviews all complaints against officers/deputies

**20% YES** **80% NO**

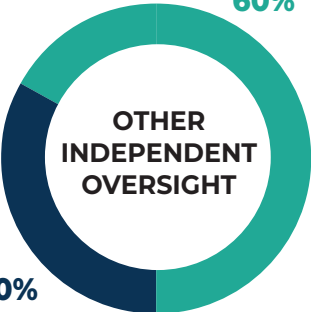


INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

■ YES ■ NO

If your agency does not have an independent auditor, does it have any other type of **independent oversight?** (\*Note: if this question does not apply please select N/A)

**40% YES** **60% NO**



OTHER INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT

■ YES ■ NO



Does your agency receive equipment through the **federal 1033 program?**

**100% NO**



**100%** Do not do **no-knock warrants**


**100%** Policy that limits **dynamic entry**






n=represents 5 jurisdictions (Capitola PC, Santa Cruz PD, Watsonville PD, Scotts Valley PD, Sheriff's Department)

# POLICY ALIGNMENT ACROSS JURISDICTIONS
























































**COLOR KEY**

 Policy language has strong similarity to at least one other jurisdiction

 May be some agreement/similarity but language is different or unknown

 No similarity to other jurisdictions

 yes  no

DOES YOUR JURISDICTION HAVE A POLICY ABOUT...	CPD	SHERIFF	SCPD	SVPD	WPD
DE-ESCALATION					
BAN OF CHOKE HOLDS, NECK RESTRAINTS, AND/OR CAROTID RESTRAINTS					
BAN OF NO-KNOCK WARRANTS					
LIMIT TO DYNAMIC ENTRY					
BAN SHOOTING AT OR FROM A MOVING VEHICLE UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES					
DUTY TO INTERVENE					
REQUIRE LESS LETHAL FORCE OPTION PRIOR TO RESORTING TO DEADLY FORCE WHEN REASONABLE OR SAFE TO DO SO					
WARNING BEFORE DEPLOYING LETHAL FORCE WHEN REASONABLE OR SAFE TO DO SO					
DISPLAY OF WEAPON AS A USE OF FORCE					
ACQUISITION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSES OF SURVEILLANCE AND/OR LE					
UNLAWFUL FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE DISCRIMINATORY CALLS OR REPORTS BASED ON A PROTECTED STATUS*					
Would your jurisdiction be willing to consider developing and adopting such policies?	YES	—	—	MAYBE	MAYBE

\*race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, national origin, place of birth, sex, age, religion, creed, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, weight or height.

yes  no

DOES YOUR JURISDICTION...	CPD	SHERIFF	SCPD	SVPD	WPD
USE A USE OF FORCE MATRIX OR CONTINUUM?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PUBLISH PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RELEASE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING BODY CAM FOOTAGE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAVE AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE ANY TYPE OF INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REQUIRE/PROVIDE IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
USE "PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE" AS THE LEVEL OF EVIDENCE NEEDED TO SUSTAIN A COMPLAINT AGAINST AN OFFICER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REPORT OUT COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE PERSONNEL TO ELECTED AND/OR COMMUNITY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RECEIVE EQUIPMENT THROUGH 1033 PROGRAM?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REPORT ON USE OF FORCE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
USE PREDICTIVE POLICING TECHNOLOGY?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
USE FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADOPT OBAMA'S 21ST CENTURY POLICING?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS UNIT	CPD	SHERIFF	SCPD	SVPD	WPD
DOES YOUR AGENCY HAVE A DEDICATED UNIT OR STAFF THAT RESPONDS TO BH/MH CALLS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IF YES ARE THESE INDIVIDUALS SWORN OR NON-SWORN	N/A	BOTH	NON-SWORN	N/A	NON-SWORN
WOULD YOUR AGENCY BENEFIT FROM THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY THAT RESPONDS TO BH/MH CALLS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WOULD YOUR AGENCY BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE CREATION OF THIS NEW UNIT	YES	NEUTRAL	YES	YES	YES



**The Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County (CJC) was created over thirty years ago in an effort to provide a more effective criminal justice system for the residents of Santa Cruz County. The all-volunteer membership works to:**

- increase coordination and cooperation between criminal justice partners - government, non-profit, educational and others
- to reduce youth involvement in gangs
- to provide a forum for discussion and development of recommendations for strategies related to solutions to crime and violence locally
- provide long-range planning for the criminal justice system – with a focus on addressing countywide gang prevention and intervention
- provide timeline information on criminal justice matters and act as an advisory body to public entities in Santa Cruz County

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## **MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES**

The CJC has a diverse membership that includes community leaders and subject matter experts from throughout the county. The membership includes local elected leaders from the Board of Supervisors and local City Councils, all of the Chiefs of Police and the Sheriff, the District Attorney and Chief Probation Officer, the Public Defender, the County Superintendent of Schools, the President of Cabrillo College, the Superior Court, the County Behavioral Health Director and local non-profit leaders. The CJC meets quarterly and these meetings are open to the public. More information about meetings and the CJC can be found on the CJC's website.

**[www.santacruzjc.org](http://www.santacruzjc.org)**



**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE COUNCIL**  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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OF SANTA CRUZ  
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