

Date: July 17, 2020

From: Texarkana Area Community Leadership Coalition (TACLCL)  
Rev. Chaurcey D. Boyd, CEO

To: Texarkana Texas City Officials  
Attn: Mayor, City Council, and Police Department

Thru: Mayor Bob Bruggeman

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As my previous correspondence stated, TACLCL is currently reviewing local law enforcement procedures on both the Arkansas and Texas sides in continuation of the initiative started in 2016/2017.

This primarily concerns the Police Department. However, I include the Mayor and City Council in my correspondence because of the necessity for Mayors and City Councils/Boards to be actively involved in moving the nation forward in resolving the issues of concern.

TACLCL has noted that the Texarkana Texas Police Department has updated its manuals/directives as reflected on the city's website. We certainly commend the city especially Chief Schutte and staff for recognizing the importance and community value of addressing the community law enforcement concerns. We certainly know this is not an easy task. We also recognize that needed corrections cannot all be made overnight yet matters involving deadly force should be expeditiously properly addressed. We are also aware that missteps will be made by both community citizens including us and city officials including the police department. Yet, such corrective efforts are of paramount importance. We are here to work with law enforcement officials to identify and implement needed improvements. We certainly acknowledge that many issues have roots in historical events/attitudes constructed before we were born. Nevertheless, each generation has the obligation to correct and not perpetuate wrongs of previous generations. Always know that I and TACLCL are your friends and not your enemies.

Of particular interest are two documents: (1) [Where We Stand](#) posted June 15, 2020 and (2) [Authorization of Deadly Force](#), dated July 1, 2020, as available on the City of Texarkana Texas website. Related to that is the [interview](#) that KTAL did with Chief Schutte as part of KTAL Beyond the Protests series as posted on July 9, 2020.

One point of seemingly ambiguity is the definition of and difference between, if any, a carotid action and a chokehold. The Where We Stand document says and KTAL highlighted that the choke hold is not authorized by the Texarkana Texas Police Department. However, the "Authorization of Deadly Force" document dated July 1, 2020 seemingly equates the carotid with the choke hold and therefore indicates the choke hold is authorized. All of this needs to be clarified within the Police Department, City of Texarkana Texas, the Where We Stand and Authorization of Deadly Force documents, **with KTAL**, and the community at large.

This ambiguity of definitions seems to be nationwide. Therefore, I understand why it seems cloudy in the local area. It appears that in the minds of at least some officers the carotid and choke hold are the same which may lead to a **dangerous conflation** in application when an officer engages a citizen if the carotid and choke holds are not the same. **This suggests the possibility of the presence of a systemic training deficiency nationwide.**

The differing terminology employed by the Minneapolis Minnesota Police Department ([e.g., section 5-311 of their manual downloaded in June 2020](#)) seemingly in effect at the time of the George Floyd incident is instructive as to the need for nationwide uniform deadly force including training specifications. Indeed, such a Uniform Specification is being talked about in Washington DC and across the nation. **I solicit your voice and activism in ensuring a Uniform Specification is formulated and implemented at least across the Police/Sheriff Departments within the Texarkana Area.**

As always, thank you for your service to Texarkana USA and the nation. You are appreciated! I look forward to and am always grateful for your responsiveness.

/s/

Rev. Chaurcey D. Boyd, CEO  
Texarkana Area Community Leadership Coalition (TACLCL)  
903-280-5439  
[taclc@cdblloyd.org](mailto:taclc@cdblloyd.org)  
[www.taclc.org](http://www.taclc.org)