

**Rutland City Police Commission**  
**Special Meeting, January 25, 2021**

In attendance: Chief Kilcullen, Cmdr. Sheldon, Cmdr. LaChance, Sgt. Whitehead, Sgt. Dickerson, Cpl. Williams, Cpl. Anderson, Property Clerk Ryan Brady, Commissioners Sargeant, Romeo, Brown & Langston, members of the public

AGENDA:

1. New State law requires a language change to Directive 401, Response to Resistance, prior to the department's applications for Federal and State public safety grants; removal of the words "unless Deadly Force would be justified" from p7 of the attached document. The Commission will take testimony, debate, and consider authorizing this change to the directive.

18:01 Meeting open, Chief Kilcullen explains the language in RPD directive 401 is in compliance with federal law and out of compliance with state law. This does not allow the Department to certify that all RPD directives are in compliance with all applicable laws; a requirement of grant applications. Chief Kilcullen explains the Department of Public Safety is working on proposed changes to state law for this legislative session that may address this issue, but with uncertain outcomes. There is an opinion that 'prohibited chokeholds' would be allowed when Deadly Force is justified under the state's 'deadly force' statute, but that is only an opinion.

Cmdr. LaChance states the current state legislation does not protect our staff in a situation where deadly force is authorized.

Motion placed on the floor to Authorize the Chair to sign a revised directive 401 that deletes the words "Unless Deadly Force would be Justified" from Section V, Paragraph E. (LB/TR)

Debate includes questions on the need to immediately change the directive and the need to contact our state legislators to inform them of the disconnect between state and federal law and the resulting risk to police officers in the state. Cpl. Williams explains 'choke' holds are not part of basic training but were once part of advanced ground combat training that has been removed from the curriculum under current law.

Motion fails by a vote of 0-3.

Motion to adjourn at 18:41 (TR/LB) passes by a vote of 4-0