STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8

POLICE USE OF FORCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and other state laws guarantee every person the equal protection of the law and the freedom to exercise and enjoy civil and political rights without discrimination on the basis of religion, race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut has long struggled to make that guarantee a reality, especially with respect to people of color, extending as far back as its colonial origins, through its years of legalized slavery after statehood, and continuing to the present time, during which a disproportionate number of law enforcement activities, including uses of force, are directed at Black people and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, a Minneapolis police officer's killing of George Floyd has revealed once again the injustice and cruelty that Black people and other people of color suffer at the hands of law enforcement, and has thereby awoken the public's demand for reforms to our law enforcement agencies and progress toward a just and equitable society; and

WHEREAS, these recent events and the justifiable public anger over them once more confront us with what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called 'the fierce urgency of now'; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed, and in more recent instances I have signed, legislation promoting police accountability and transparency as well as broader reforms to our criminal justice system, such as Public Act 11-71, Public Act 12-74, Public Acts 15-2 and 15-4 of the June Special Session, Public Act 19-59, and Public Act 19-90, but much more work remains to be done; and

WHEREAS, immediately adopting evidence-based strategies for producing quick and visible progress will promote public safety in the short term and provide the space for more significant conversations about much-needed further efforts to address police accountability and structural racism; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is Connecticut's primary executive branch agency for law enforcement and public safety, and its Division of State Police is Connecticut's largest law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Police have stated they too are appalled by the recent killing in Minneapolis and welcome difficult conversations resulting in positive and meaningful changes; and

WHEREAS, implementing and codifying more restrictive use of force policies, in combination with other measures, can reduce police use of deadly force and the likelihood that police officers will be injured or killed in the line of duty; and

WHERAS, demilitarizing police departments has been shown to reduce violent behavior by and against police officers, thereby promoting overall community safety; and

WHEREAS, body and dashboard cameras, in combination with policies governing their use and public access to the footage they capture, can be important tools for holding police accountable; and

WHEREAS, the measures ordered herein are immediately available and therefore should not be delayed, and I look forward to working cooperatively with the General Assembly to enact further systemic reforms; and

WHEREAS, Black lives matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Chokeholds Prohibited**. The Connecticut State Police shall not use chokeholds, strangleholds, arm-bar control holds, lateral vascular neck restraints, carotid restraints, chest compressions, or any other tactics that restrict oxygen or blood flow to the head or neck.

2. **Use-of-Force Policy.** The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall review the Connecticut State Police Administrative and Operations Manual (the "Manual") and, not later than October 1, 2020, update the Manual where necessary to include the following requirements and prohibitions. If the Department is unable to adopt any such policies, it shall provide the Governor a written report outlining the reasons such policies are not feasible and any recommendations for how to implement or adopt substantially similar policies.

    a. Require troopers to de-escalate situations, when possible, before using force;
    b. Require troopers to provide a verbal warning, when possible, before using deadly force;
    c. Require troopers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before resorting to deadly force;
    d. Require troopers to intervene to stop another law enforcement officer from using excessive force, and to report any such use to a supervisor in writing;
    e. Prohibit troopers from shooting at or into moving vehicles unless the occupants of the vehicle pose a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle;
    f. Include a use-of-force matrix; and
    g. Require troopers to report all uses of force, including drawing a firearm on another civilian.

3. **Community Engagement.** The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, in addition to the Resident State Trooper program, appoint and train one or more troopers in each Connecticut State Police Troop as community trust liaisons and instruct said liaisons to assist those Troops in building relationships with residents and community-based organizations, learning from those residents and organizations about how to better serve their communities, and making it easier for those residents and organizations to communicate with the State Police.

4. **De-militarization.** The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall not purchase or otherwise acquire military and military-style equipment from the federal government until further notice.

5. **Video Evidence**. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by January 1, 2021, equip every Connecticut State Police uniformed trooper with a body camera and every Connecticut State Police marked vehicle with a dashboard camera.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 15th day of June, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State