



POLICY RECOMMENDATION

TO: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department
FROM: Director Gail McCant, Office of Police Oversight
DATE: March 28, 2025
SUBJECT: OPO Policy Recommendation: General Order 321.2.1 Restraint Guidelines

Dear Chief Davis:

This memorandum provides feedback and recommendations for improving the Austin Police Department's (APD) General Order (GO) 321.2.1 RESTRAINT GUIDELINES.

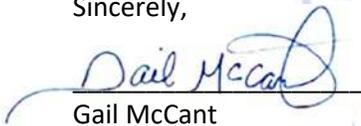
The specific policy reviewed in this memorandum is as follows:

- 321.2.1(a)(3): Restraint Guidelines

This policy analysis and recommendation address the need to improve APD's current policy on restraint guidelines for arrestees. This policy recommendation addresses nationwide best practices for the proper restraint of Deaf/deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) individuals. APD has an opportunity to enhance its policy to better align with these best practices.

We look forward to addressing the identified issues and improving policies that will benefit both the community and APD sworn personnel.

Sincerely,


Gail McCant



POLICY RECOMMENDATION

321 RESTRAINT GUIDELINES

Recommendation #1:

OPO recommends that APD remove the language that places the burden of having to request to be handcuffed in the front of the arrested person who is Deaf/deaf or hard-of-hearing.

The OPO analysis indicates that the best practice is for officers to place handcuffs on a deaf or hard-of-hearing arrestee in front of their body, not behind. Since these individuals use their hands for communication, the APD should remove the burden on the arrestee to specifically request that their handcuffs be placed in front.

321.2.1(a)(3) RESTRAINT GUIDELINES

3. Unless it would pose a safety risk to officers, the arrested person, or the public, officers should apply handcuffs to the front for arrested persons who are deaf or hard of hearing ~~and who request to use their hands to communicate.~~ Such communication may occur through sign language or written communication.