**Consent Form**

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This study encompasses research for the Texas State University Master of Public Administration Applied Research Project. The purpose of this study is to research the best practices of use-of-force policy within law enforcement. The Austin Police Department has been chosen to participate in order to assess how closely the organization’s use-of-force policies are to the ideal standard, derived from the literature review.

This study will involve interviews lasting approximately 30 minutes. The researcher will ask questions targeting use of force in three specific areas: Guidelines, Training, and Reporting and Monitoring.

Interview questions will be asked in a format similar to the question below:

*Why does the Austin Police Department not employ a force continuum model?*

This study may be beneficial to the participants by identifying best practices of use-of-force policies. There will be no compensation offered to the participants. Participation is voluntary, and refusal to participate will involve not penalty or loss of benefits to which the participants are otherwise entitled, and the participant may discontinue participation at any time. The participant has the right to refuse to answer questions at any time, for any reason, and participants may withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice or jeopardy to their understanding with the University and any other relevant organization/entity with which the participant is associated.

Pertinent questions about the research, research participants’ rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

The confidentiality of the participants will be maintained as a result of this project.

A summary of the findings will be provided to participants upon completion of the study, if requested. Participants may access the results of the study by contacting the aforementioned researcher.

Participant Researcher

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IRB Approval#

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