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Policy Subject/Title: COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER BATON POLICY

Signature of Approval by Authorized Personnel: 
Ed Chow, CAO

Supersedes: December 18, 2007
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Policy #2007-05 Motion #2007-454
Title & No. of Previous Policy if Applicable

POLICY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the use of a Baton by a Community Peace Officer in the execution of his/her duties.

PROCEDURES:

1. A Community Peace Officer shall only carry and use a baton that is issued by the Town or RCMP.
2. Community Peace Officers may carry a baton only when on duty and while acting in the performance of their job function and duties. The baton must be carried in the issued scabbard.
3. A Community Peace Officer, carrying an authorized baton, must check the baton on a weekly basis for wear and tear on the foam grip, bent shaft and stress fractures, abrasions on the tip or a loose tip and to ensure there is a secure butt cap. Minor adjustments can be made to the retainer clip and o-ring to ensure proper opening and closing of the baton. A defective baton requiring repair or replacement should be reported to the Director of Protective Services.
4. Any use of a baton must be in accordance with the Community Peace Officer appointment, training and policies of the Public Security Division of the Alberta Solicitor General.

5. A baton must only be used as a defensive tool and shall only be deployed as a last resort after all communication and resources have been exhausted and the Community Peace Officer fears for grievous body harm to themselves or for the safety of the public.
6. Before deploying a baton, a Community Peace Officer shall take all necessary precautions to prevent any bystanders from being placed in danger.
7. A Community Peace Officer must not allow, lend or provide to any person not duly authorized by law to handle, possess or use a baton.
8. When a baton is in the office and not in the possession of a Community Peace Officer, it must be placed in a locked cabinet.
9. When a baton is in the possession of a Community Peace Officer at his/he residence, when it is not reasonable to have it locked at the office, the Community Peace Officer must ensure proper storage of the baton, through the use of a locked cabinet.
10. At no time shall a Community Peace Officer leave a baton unattended where any other person other than another Community Peace Officer may access it.

POST-INCIDENT GUIDELINES

1. A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where a baton was deployed on a person, either by himself or another Community Peace Officer shall:
 - a) Conduct post-deployment procedures in accordance with their policies and procedures, training and best practices.
 - b) Advise the RCMP detachment forthwith of the deployment of the baton and request their attendance/assistance.
 - c) Provide immediate medical attention if required.
2. A Community Peace Officer who, during the course of their duties, deploys a baton shall complete a standard incident report outlining the circumstances surrounding the use of the baton. Copies of this report must be provided to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Public Security Division of the Solicitor General.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF A BATON

1. Community Peace Officers must recognize and abide by policy currently in place by the Alberta Solicitor General Department regarding the use of a baton.

2. A Community Peace Officer shall only deploy or use a baton as a last resource, only after all resources available have failed. A Community Peace Officer must fear grievous bodily harm for themselves or the public before the actual deployment and use of a baton.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR USE OF A BATON

1. Prior to carrying or deploying a baton, a Community Peace Officer must receive training in the use of a baton from a qualified instructor.
2. A Community Peace Officer must re-qualify in the use a baton every three (3) years, or as required by the Public Security Division of the Solicitor General.