

## Policy Update Regarding Electronic Control Devices

The protection of our students, faculty and staff, as well as our officers, is the top priority for the New York State University Police Department. Use of force incidents by the (NYSUPD) are extremely low as officers who work in this community utilize verbal de-escalation tactics to gain compliance. However, there are occasions when Police may deal with a person in crisis who may be a danger to themselves or others, or is in possession of a weapon.

Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) have been utilized by the State University Police for two decades. Officers assigned to Purchase College have been trained in using ECDs for many years through the Westchester County Police Academy. This policy update will allow officers to carry the devices on their belts while on patrol, thus providing officers with one additional less lethal option to resolve a potentially volatile situation. Prior to the update, officers had a gap between options when responding to volatile situations: chemical spray or a baton, and a firearm. The ECD would give officers an intermediate option prior to employing a firearm in the event that they would have to use force to protect themselves or someone else. The devices also have been shown to reduce the odds of injury for both officers and suspects who might otherwise be hurt in a physical confrontation.

This decision falls on the heels of the tragic death of a student at Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to the change in Policy all officers received updated training regarding the de-escalation of force. If an ECD use is necessary it will require a thorough evaluation of its use by supervising officer.

Officers are prohibited from using the devices against compliant or passively resisting individuals. Emergency medical personnel will respond to the scene whenever ECD probes are deployed to offer a medical evaluation of the subject.