

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE**

Officers Robert Mahoney (#6269), Sjon
Stevens (#6180), Cliff Borjeson (#7597),
Officer Christopher Myers (#5452), and 98
other Officers of the Seattle Police
Department named below.

Plaintiffs,
vs.

Civil Action No.: No. C14-0794

Eric H Holder, Jr., individually,
Attorney General of the United States,

CIVIL ACTION

Jenny Durkan, individually, Assistant
United States Attorney for the Western
District of Washington,

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT UNDER
42 U.S.C. § 1983 AND
28 U.S.C. § 1331

The City of Seattle, including the Seattle
Police Department,

Merrick Bobb, individually and in his
official capacity, Seattle Police Monitor,

Ed Murray, individually and in his official
capacity, Mayor, City of Seattle,

Peter Holmes, individually and in his
official capacity, Seattle's City Attorney,

Defendants

I. JURISDICTION and PARTIES

1. Plaintiffs are sworn officers of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and are listed below. Plaintiffs bring to the court's attention that some officers have been added to the list below who were not Plaintiffs in the original complaint. Some Plaintiffs have been removed who were part of the original complaint, and these officers are no longer Plaintiffs.

2. Plaintiff officers bring this action against the City of Seattle (City), including the SPD, under 42 USC § 1983, alleging that Defendants have intentionally and recklessly deprived Plaintiffs of the rights and protections secured for them by the Constitution under color of policies and

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

practices of the City related to Plaintiffs' use of force. The City promulgated a new use of force policy ("UF Policy") that unreasonably restricts and burdens Plaintiffs' right to use force necessarily required to protect and defend the public and officers from apparent danger in violation of Plaintiffs' right of self-defense. This is a fundamental individual right embedded in the **Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth** Amendments. The intended effect of the new UF Policy is to delay and greatly limit officers' resort to a full range of force tools and techniques and to eliminate their discretion. The real world effect is to induce a reluctance by patrol officers to use appropriate and sufficient levels of force to control dangerous suspects, thus putting officers, suspects, and the general public at unnecessary and unreasonable risk of injury or death.

3. Plaintiffs also bring this action against the Mayor of Seattle (Mayor), Ed Murray, individually and in his official capacity, under 42 USC § 1983, based on his involvement in the implementation of the UF Policy.
4. Plaintiffs also bring this action against the Seattle Police Monitor (Monitor), Merrick Bobb, individually and in his official capacity, under 42 USC § 1983, based on his control over the promulgation and implementation of the unconstitutional UF Policy.
5. Plaintiffs also bring this action against Seattle's City Attorney (City Attorney), Peter Holmes, under 42 USC § 1983, based on his involvement in the promulgation and implementation of the unconstitutional UF Policy.
6. Plaintiffs bring this action, under 28 USC §1331, against the United States Attorney General (AG), Eric Holder, individually. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) improperly required the new UF Policy as a remedy for a fundamentally flawed finding, and it demanded that the new UF Policy contain the unconstitutional provisions complained of below.
7. Plaintiffs also bring this action against the United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, Jenny Durkan, individually, under 28 USC § 1331, on the above basis and for her role in implementation of the unconstitutional UF Policy.

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

II. BACKGROUND AND FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE NEW UF POLICY THAT BURDEN PLAINTIFFS' RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE

8. On December 17, 2013, Judge Robart, United States District Court Judge for the Western District of Washington at Seattle, issued an order approving an alleged "Consensus Use of Force Policy" (UF Policy) to govern SPD. Judge Robart approved the policy as appropriate "for the present circumstances." It went into effect on January 1, 2014. Officers were required to have read the new policy by that date, and officers' conduct has been evaluated under the policy since that date.
9. The "circumstances" referred to by Judge Robart include an investigation opened in March, 2011 by DOJ regarding whether or not SPD officers deprived individuals of their constitutional rights by patterns and practices of discriminatory policing or excessive use of force. After its investigation, **DOJ was unable to make any findings of discriminatory policing.** However, DOJ did issue 'findings' including that SPD patrol officers use force "in an unconstitutional manner nearly 20% of the time." The City **"dispute[d] the alleged patterns or practices of excessive force alleged in DOJ's report,"** and the findings were discredited by an independent analysis by a former DOJ statistician and current professor at Seattle University.
10. Nevertheless, Judge Robart approved the UF Policy as "the most appropriate remedy," noting DOJ's conclusion that SPD's former policy was too "vague" and left "too much room for officer discretion." Judge Robart held that "comprehensive, clear and specific policies" were thus needed. This contradicts long-standing Supreme Court holdings that consistently **acknowledge but reject** concerns about 'vagueness' and 'troubling uncertainty,' holding that simplicity, flexibility, and deference to the officer, instead, are essential for standards governing lawful police action, especially regarding search and seizure, including force.
11. Judge Robart indicated that his role was to "insure" that the UF Policy was constitutional. However, his cursory, one-and-one-half-page order contains no substantive analysis of the UF Policy's constitutionality, particularly as it relates to Plaintiffs' constitutional right to protect and defend the public and themselves from threatening and dangerous behavior by suspects.
12. In July 2012, a Settlement Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (Consent Agreement) was entered into between the United States and the City. The City

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 agreed to develop a new UF policy consistent with the constitutional requirements
2 of *Graham v. Connor*. The stated goal of the parties was to create policies that
3 are constitutional and that "ensure public and officer safety." The City was
4 supposed to retain appropriate "flexibility" and have the "ability to develop local
and cost effective solutions."

5 13. The Consent Agreement also provided that the parties would select a federal monitor
6 to oversee implementation of the Consent Agreement. Defendant Merrick Bobb
7 (Monitor) is that monitor. To date, based on bills reported publicly, the City has
8 paid Mr. Bobb and his staff well over \$1,300,000.00. The Monitor publicizes his
9 work regarding the Consent Decree on a website called the "Website of the Seattle
10 Police Monitor" (seattlemonitor.com). The Monitor maintains another website,
11 "Police Assessment Resource Center" (www.parc.info), that promotes the full range
12 of services Mr. Bobb will provide for a fee to promote and induce civilian
13 oversight and accountability. It is clear from the PARC website that his
14 organization has a zealous agenda to spread the message of police reform and to
15 steer police departments into adopting similarly written, highly proscriptive UF
16 policies. Mr. Bobb, who has no law enforcement training or experience as a police
17 officer, has made clear that his mission is to change fundamentally the nature of
18 police encounters, i.e. to severely restrict police officers' authority to exercise
discretion and use force.

19 14. On November 27, 2013, the Monitor submitted the UF Policy approved by Judge Robart,
20 with an accompanying Memorandum to the Court (UF Memorandum). The Monitor concedes
21 that it is **not** his role to write the new UF Policy and states unconvincingly that
22 in his role as Monitor he merely evaluated and gave deference to the alleged
23 recommendations of, and policy written by, the parties themselves (the City and
SPD).

24 15. Plaintiffs are primarily SPD patrol officers, or officers responsible for training
25 patrol officers. They are the individuals most significantly and immediately
26 affected by the new UF Policy and with the most knowledge, training and experience
27 regarding the UF situations facing patrol officers in Seattle. Moreover, many SPD
28 patrol officers are established and recognized experts in UF techniques, practices

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

and standards. However, no SPD officers concurrently engaged in street policing duties or related training were involved in the development of the UF Policy.

16. Plaintiffs' supposed representative, the Seattle Police Officers' Guild (SPOG), though allegedly "consulted" by the Monitor, was not a party to, or at the table for, significant decisions regarding the new UF Policy. DOJ and the Monitor choose instead, inexplicably, to consult the "rank-and-file in Los Angeles" to determine if the new policies "compromise[d] the safety of Seattle police officers and the public they serve." The Monitor also relied on so-called police experts on the Monitoring Team, but it is clear from their background that it has been years since they, if ever, made actual UF decisions in the line of duty.

17. Plaintiffs also allege that the new UF Policy is **not** the policy written by SPD personnel who were tasked with developing it. Those personnel will testify that the UF Policy they wrote was altered almost in its entirety and replaced with specific language provided, and required, by the Monitor. This supports Plaintiffs' contention that DOJ, in partnership with Mr. Bobb, intend to use consent decrees in Seattle, as well as other jurisdictions, to re-write longstanding constitutional law and principles intended to protect officer safety, and eliminate reasonable police practices, with which they - from the comfort and safety of their desks and with no experience facing dangerous threats - disagree or find distasteful.

18. In the very last days of the process, select Plaintiffs were invited to submit comments through SPOG and a departmental website called, Idea Scale. However, it soon became clear that they were token invitations after the fact. Still, Plaintiffs provided a thorough review of the draft and identified how and where the draft policy conflicted with the realities facing patrol officers on the streets of Seattle, and the protections afforded officers under the Constitution. These concerns were ignored. Plaintiffs again attempted to communicate their concerns to those involved in the process, before the draft became a final policy. Plaintiffs were told, in effect: "This is what DOJ and the Monitor are telling SPD to do regardless of whether or not it makes good sense or is good law. A federal judge has approved it. There's nothing SPD can do about it. It's a 'done deal'." The Monitor has continued to make clear that he will not find the City in compliance

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

under the Consent Decree until it establishes and implements the specific policy demanded by the Monitor and DOJ.

19. To say, as the Monitor does repeatedly, that the Policy represents the "consensus" and "unified" voice of the parties is inaccurate to the point of falsification. As almost every other statement in the UF Memorandum acknowledges, there has been, and Plaintiffs allege continues to be, a severe lack of consensus around the UF Policy. Despite Plaintiffs' predominant role in the implementation of and impact from the UF Policy, neither Plaintiffs nor SPOG, were even a party to the supposed 'contentious' and 'exhausting' negotiations the Monitor claims led to the final 'consensus.'

20. Any appearance of 'consensus' is merely due to the fact that the Monitor ran roughshod over any criticisms and that the various parties involved simply gave up. This is reflected in the tone of the Monitor's semiannual reports, which are self-serving, bullying, and dismissive. In a recent *Seattle Times* article, Mr. Bobb was questioned about this lawsuit and officers' fears for their safety under the new policy. He responded that "the changes have led to understandable anxiety over the new policies," but he "likened the situation to going to an unfamiliar supermarket and not knowing where to find the Cheerios." Plaintiffs allege this is indicative of Mr. Bobb's complete disregard for officers' rights, officers' competence, and officer and public safety as he pushes forward his agenda for a greatly diminished Seattle police force. That Mr. Bobb would equate policing the city streets and confronting the possibility everyday of having to use force to protect oneself or others with grocery shopping for breakfast cereal is unconscionable, although it does explain why he regards his lack of police experience as irrelevant in performing his function.

21. The falsity as to the City's and SPD's alleged agreement with the new UF Policy has only become more evident since Plaintiffs filed the original complaint. A number of high-level City, SPD and Guild personnel have informed Plaintiffs in private that they agree with the allegations in the original complaint. Nevertheless, Plaintiffs have been told that the "politics" of the situation, and the City's perceived inability to successfully fight DOJ, have left them unable to make significant changes to the policy, even during the current "review" of the policy

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 built into the Consent Decree. This means that the City is now knowingly and
2 willingly playing politics with Plaintiffs' lives and the lives of the law-abiding
3 citizens of Seattle.

4 22. There is increasing evidence of significant problems wrought by the new UF Policy.
5 Plaintiffs allege that since they filed their original complaint, assaults against
6 SPD officers have increased significantly. Evidence of police injuries is
7 mounting. Officers are turning in their TASERS in large numbers - even though such
8 devices provide reasonable and effective tools when facing threatening behavior and
9 activity. Patrols officers will testify to an insidious new hesitation to respond
10 to calls for backup. First-responding officers, required by the UF Policy to delay
11 and avoid resorting to force, are left unreasonably vulnerable when backup fails to
12 come, or comes late, and these delay and avoidance tactics fail to bring the threat
13 under control in a timely and decisive manner.

14 23. Even as Plaintiffs were filing the original complaint asserting the significant
15 risks to public safety created by the new UF Policy, SPD itself was issuing a
16 report regarding the sharp decrease in proactive police work to investigate and
17 stop crime. Citizens are feeling vulnerable as the City's streets seem ever more
18 at the mercy of hostile and unstable persons. Patrol officers have retreated from
19 and avoided acting in response to clear threats to their own safety and that of the
20 public for fear of accusations of violating some provision of the UF Policy or new
21 expectations and practices regarding force. Not surprisingly, innocent bystanders
22 have expressed anger and concern at what they see as officers' failure to protect
23 innocent people. Citizens groups are demanding more enforcement resources to deal
24 with increasingly violent incidents throughout the City. This increased lawlessness
25 and disregard of police authority are the logical and inevitable consequences of a
26 policy that puts the interests of criminal suspects above the rights and interests
27 of citizens, officers, and the City itself.

28 24. Patrol officers are currently being subject to discipline under the new UF
Policy both for using too much force and for using too little force, thus
supporting Plaintiffs' allegation that the new policy demands 'perfection',
not reasonableness. This trend towards a misguided and impossible standard
of policing began with former Mayor McGinn's politically motivated promise,

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 to appease DOJ, that police officers using force "will get it right every
2 time." This trend has now become enshrined in the Department's new policies
3 and practices, as well as the attitudes of those sitting in judgment of
4 officers after the fact. Plaintiffs have taken the opportunity to observe
5 meetings of the Use of Force Review Board (UFRB), which, under the new
6 policy, is required for every so-called Type II and III UF incident. In
7 specific cases, patrol officers and detectives have been criticized and/or
8 recommended for disciplinary investigation, despite having had practical
9 safety reasons for their conduct due to the dynamic and dangerous nature of
10 the situation and the threat created by the suspect. The Monitor, who was
11 in attendance at a meeting attended by Plaintiffs, emphatically stated in
12 response to one of these cases: "Practical considerations never trump this
13 policy." This is a 180-degree contortion of officers' right to self-
14 defense and the Court's holdings that prioritize officer and public safety
15 over the mechanical application of legal standards and policies.

16 25. Plaintiffs will testify to being significantly less sure of how to police
17 under the new UF Policy than even when they first became police officers.
18 Officers will testify that the training received under the new UF Policy has
19 done nothing to make sense of the UF Policy's confusion and complications.
20 This is not surprising as officers cannot be trained to meet an impossible
21 standard. None of the training addresses the crucial situation that has
22 officers scratching their heads and fearing for their lives and the lives of
23 others, including suspects: what, if any, actions can officers realistically
24 take when confronted with threatening behavior by one of the protected
25 classes of people for whom the policy prohibits any reasonable force tools
26 short of deadly force? Moreover, the training materials recommended for
27 approval by the Monitor regarding suspects in behavioral crisis simply
28 entrench the existing problems with the UF Policy itself, demanding police
officers, in effect, become mental health professionals at the expense of
their duty and safety. Plaintiffs' role is, and should be, to assess the
threat and take reasonable actions to protect the public and themselves from
the risk of harm. It cannot be stated too strongly that a threat of danger

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 is a threat of danger, regardless of the suspect's mental health or other
2 impairments that may be contributing factors to the suspect's criminal
3 behavior!

4 26. All parties agree that SPD's UF incidents often involve people with mental
5 illness and/or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. DOJ and the Monitor
6 seem to believe this makes all of SPD's uses of force automatically suspect.
7 At the same time, however, DOJ concedes in its findings letters that police
8 officers have become the first responders in a shameful national crisis.
9 DOJ recognizes there is neither the will nor the resources to provide
10 appropriate treatment to the mentally ill. DOJ acknowledges the rotating
11 door through hospitals and jails that quickly and inevitably puts the
12 mentally ill worse off, and often on the street where there is ready access
13 to drugs, alcohol, and dangerous weapons, and where victims can quickly
14 become suspects engaged in activity that threatens the public's safety. The
15 dangerous, unpredictable, often violent, behavior that results is well
16 documented. Indeed, police officers, like the public they serve, are
17 regularly reminded of the deadly outcomes by a steady stream of horrifying
18 news stories of mentally ill people murdering people, often in large
19 numbers, here and across the country. The difference is that officers are
20 on the front line of a ticking time bomb. Policy and training that require
21 delay and hesitation are not preparing officers to act decisively when, as
22 will be inevitable, they find themselves quickly and unexpectedly with their
23 lives on the line.

24 27. Since Plaintiffs have filed this lawsuit, they have been accused of being
25 "fringe" or "rouge" cops and dismissed as reflexively 'anti-reform.'
26 Plaintiffs, however, represent a significant percentage of patrol officers,
27 whose job is to patrol the street, as well as a large number of training
28 personnel who take seriously their duty to help patrol officers come home
safely from each shift. Plaintiffs have consistently supported appropriate
reform, e.g. civilian oversight of the department by the Office of
Professional Accountability. Plaintiffs do not oppose reform related to UF,

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 but are asking that reform be consistent with officers' constitutional
2 rights as well as those of suspects.

3 28. There are many extremely troubling aspects of DOJ's investigation that
4 Plaintiffs do not challenge, because it is not their role or their rights
5 are not immediately at stake. These problems include DOJ's complete
6 overriding of local decision-making, the Monitor's use of the Consent Decree
7 to infiltrate and control almost every aspect of SPD, and the debilitating
8 strain on enforcement resources wrought by the new prioritization of UF
9 reporting and investigation paperwork requirements over the need to respond
10 to actual crime. Plaintiffs challenge the latter only to the extent that
11 the strain puts officers' and citizens' lives in danger by pulling an
12 inordinate number of officers off the street for long periods of time even
13 for relatively minor UF incidents.

14 29. This is the crux and basis of all Plaintiffs' allegations. Policy cannot
15 stand that restricts and burdens officers' right to defend themselves and
16 others from threats of serious harm. So-called, best practices that violate
17 the fundamental, individual rights of police officers have no place in the
18 law enforcement profession. Mr. Bobb and his organization PARC have long
19 been attempting to sell the notion that police departments are completely
20 free to adopt policies and practices that are more restrictive than the law.
21 Plaintiffs, however, contend that this freedom is not absolute. Rather, it
22 is limited to the point at which it begins to tread upon the fundamental,
23 individual constitutional rights of the officers subject to such a policy.
24 Plaintiffs assert that, although police officers are public servants, they
25 are not enslaved to the government or public. Therefore, despite being
26 representatives of the government and subject to reasonable policy
27 requirements and expectations, police officers also possess the same
28 constitutional right to self-defense as every other citizen. That any
'reasonable' governmental official or representative would attempt to argue
otherwise not only shocks the conscience, it is anathema to the Constitution
and the common law principles upon which it is founded.

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

30. The new UF Policy is found in Title 8 of the Seattle Police Manual, a copy of which can be found on the Monitor's web site: www.seattlemonitor.com. Throughout, the policy establishes rigid preconditions for the use of force notwithstanding that the Court has specifically rejected such, holding that all that matters is whether the officer's actions were reasonable.

31. For example, the UF Policy imposes special preconditions for the use of deadly force (defined as use of firearms or any other means likely to cause death or serious physical injury, §8.050). Under § 8.100.5: "Deadly force may only be used in circumstances where threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others is imminent. A danger is imminent when an objectively reasonable officer would conclude that:

- A suspect is acting or threatening to cause death or serious physical injury to the officer or others, and
- The suspect has the means or instrumentalities to do so, and
- The suspect has the opportunity and ability to use the means or instrumentalities to cause death or serious physical injury."

32. Thus, while citizens are clearly allowed to act in self-defense based on mistaken perceptions as long they had a reasonable belief in the 'apparent danger' confronting them at the time of the incident, SPD officers now can only use deadly force, without exception, if the threat IS (not "reasonably appears") imminent, "AND" (not "or") the suspect IS (not "reasonably appears") to be acting or threatening to cause death or serious physical injury; "AND" (not "or") the suspect HAS (not "appears to have") the means or instrumentalities to do so; AND (not "or") the subject HAS (not "appears to have") the opportunity and ability to cause the harm. Under the UF Policy, an officer must put his or her own life at risk if not absolutely sure of the suspect's ability to kill or harm, or the officer can risk losing his or her job by using reasonable, though mistaken, force in self-defense. Such a draconian choice clearly burdens the constitutional right of self-defense to the point of destruction.

33. As another example, the policy requires that force cannot be used against handcuffed suspects without "exceptional circumstances," and then such use of force will be "closely and critically reviewed." (§8.100.2) Specific preconditions for particular categories or situations involving force limit

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 an officer's options for reasonably responding to threatening and dangerous
2 behavior by suspects. All that matters is whether the officer's actions
3 were reasonable.

4 34. The right of self-defense means that the appearance of an immediate threat
5 justifies an immediate response with reasonable force. This means officers
6 must be permitted to avail themselves of the full range of reasonable force
7 options in the face of threatening behavior.

8 35. Yet core provisions authorizing force consistently restrict this. For
9 example, sections 8.000.4 and 8.100.1 categorically prohibit an officer from
10 using physical force unless, in addition to being reasonable, the force also
11 is necessary - which means the officer has first considered and eliminated
12 all apparent "reasonably effective alternatives." Such a requirement has
13 been specifically rejected as an impossible standard by the Ninth Circuit.

14 36. The policy also announces a wholly new requirement that, in addition to
15 being reasonable and necessary, the force used be "proportional" and
16 "proportionate" (§§ 8.000.4, 8.100.1). These extra-constitutional
17 requirements add precision and complexity to a standard that the Court
18 demands be simple, flexible, and reasonable, for the safety of officers and
19 the public.

20 37. Sec. 8.100.1 states that: "proportional force does not require officers to
21 use the same type or amount of force as the subject." While this appears to
22 allow an officer to retain discretion regarding the amount of force he or
23 she judges appropriate to the circumstances, any such deference is
24 consistently and overwhelmingly contradicted by operation of other parts of
25 the policy. For example, officer discretion is overridden by the policy's
26 requirement that use of force "shall" in all cases be "only...to the degree"
27 necessary (§§ 8.000.4, 8.100.1) Moreover, officers are required
28 unrealistically to "continually assess the situation" and then continually
"modulate the use of force" in response (§ 8.000.3), during incidents in
which the Court acknowledges objective reflection is an impractical and
unrealistic expectation.

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 38. The policy explicitly overrides officer discretion by limiting officers'
2 right to use certain levels and types of force - even in immediately
3 threatening situations - unless a variety of other factors, conditions,
4 qualifiers are, or are not, present. (§§ 8.100.2, 8.100.5, 8.200.5) The real
5 effect of the policy is to keep patrol officers *constantly* second-guessing
6 their actions, meanwhile remaining at a dangerous force deficit throughout
7 encounters with threatening suspects.

8 39. Sec.8.200.5, categorically and without exception, prohibits officers from
9 using less-lethal tools against five (5) vaguely defined, newly protected
10 classes of suspects (visibly pregnant, elderly, pre-adolescent, visibly
11 frail, or known or suspected to be disabled) absent active aggression,
12 unless deadly force is the only other available option. These five
13 categories are sufficiently broad, subjective and vague so as to encompass a
14 broad swath of individuals and to invite significant error in application
15 and improper second-guessing. Moreover, by operation of this rule, an
16 officer cannot use reasonable and effective force tools or techniques (i.e.
17 tools and techniques specifically intended to "disrupt subject's threatening
18 behavior" without the probability of death or serious physical injury) until
19 deadly force is justified. This makes no sense as a matter of public
20 policy. It also unreasonably burdens officers' right to defense of self and
21 others because it prohibits officers from responding with reasonable force
22 from the moment they arrive on the scene.

23 40. Sec. 8.200.5 categorically restricts an officer from using these less-lethal
24 tools and techniques against suspects in another nine (9) sets of
25 circumstances absent active aggression. This means the suspect can be
26 actually resisting, or actively noncompliant with an officer's commands - an
27 important potential indication of an intent to do harm to the officer - yet
28 the officer cannot, without exception, respond with less-lethal techniques
before considering and rejecting "any other fashion" of reasonable response,
e.g. the impossible "all other alternatives" standard.

41. The UF Policy consistently requires officers first to consider alternatives
to force. These are strict mandates: Sec 8.100.3 uses "shall" four separate

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 times (e.g. § 8.100.3 "officers shall use de-escalation tactics in order to
2 reduce the need for force;" see also § 8.000.2 "officers will de-escalate
3 conflict without using physical force.") The policy attempts to qualify
4 these rigid preconditions in order to make them *seem* reasonable, e.g.
5 stating that de-escalation is required "when safe and feasible." Such
6 qualifiers, however, work only to add complexity and precision to a policy
7 that is already dangerously unwieldy and virtually impossible to follow.
8 In § 8.100.3 alone, officers, at the same time as deciding if it is "safe,"
9 are required ("shall") to "slow down or stabilize the situation" (§ 2), even
10 as they are conducting the required assessment ("shall consider") of the
11 suspect's mental health (§ 3). Such information "shall then be balanced"
12 against "the facts of the incident" before deciding on the "most
13 appropriate," i.e. the one, 'best' tactical option (§4). This requires
14 superhuman skills in any situation, but clearly is impossible under the
15 potentially dangerous, rapidly unfolding circumstances facing officers.

16 42. The qualifiers also disguise how the policy, *taken together as a whole*, is
17 out-and-out wrong. Specifically, officers are told to delay only "when time
18 and circumstances permit." In the very same provision, however, officers
19 are required to do the exact opposite and take unreasonable risks. This is
20 because officers are required to delay and not use force even though (1)
21 safety has already been compromised by the subject's lack of compliance
22 (i.e. under § 8.100.3 officers consider not if the subject is non-compliant,
23 but the reasons for the suspect's "lack of compliance"); and (2) there is an
24 immediate threat ("mitigating the existing immediacy of a threat" is the
25 assumed situation when these rules apply).

26 43. The UF Policy operates under a mistaken and dangerous assumption that
27 threatening situations always move in a linear, predictable direction. It
28 assumes that de-escalation will inevitably result in a reduction of the use
of force, because additional "time available" will "promote more rational
decision-making" by suspects, and allow "more officers or specialty units"
to respond to the scene (§ 8.100.3 para 5). This policy direction comes
directly from DOJ's findings letter where it criticizes SPD's training of

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 its officers to quickly "command and control" situations, proposing instead
2 that SPD require its officers to engage in a 'fair fight' with suspects.
3 Officers' right to self-defense, however, certainly does not depend on ill-
4 conceived assumptions that suspected criminals will fight fair, or behave
rationally, or that it's always better to wait for the "specialists."

5 44. The de-escalation provisions improperly mandate that an officer's UF
6 decisions take into account the suspect's mental and physical state, even
7 where the suspect is actively non-compliant (§ 8.100.3). Furthermore, the
8 Tool Specific provisions categorically tie an officer's hands in cases
9 involving five categories of actively threatening suspects based on physical
10 and/or mental conditions (§ 8.200.5). In essence, the policy categorically
11 defines as "excessive" force used against such persons even when they
12 present a serious threat. This is, of course, DOJ's and Mr. Bobb's real
13 goal. As DOJ states in its findings letters, "Assessing the appropriate
14 force in light of a subject's mental state is not just smart policing, it is
15 required." This position, however, is fundamentally in conflict with the
16 law of self-defense. The crucial factor in deciding whether or not
17 excessive force was used is the nature and immediacy of the threat. The
18 Constitution does not allow second-guessing of an officer's reasonable
19 decisions, even if the officer failed to diagnose mental illness, because
20 requiring otherwise is impractical and dangerous.

21 45. Consider just one of the factors officers must "consider" and then "balance"
22 in order to make "the most appropriate," i.e. 'best', tactical decision:
23 whether or not the suspect is experiencing a "drug interaction." Police
24 officers are not medical or mental health professionals. It can take
25 doctors and mental health professionals months or years to figure out a
26 patient's diagnosis, drug interactions, and appropriate means of
27 communication, therapy, and treatment. Yet the UF Policy requires police
28 officers to make on-the-spot mental health evaluations and diagnoses under
circumstances that will, by definition (because this section of the policy
assumes the suspect's "lack of compliance"), be threatening, volatile, and
potentially dangerous or deadly. Such requirements are unreasonable and

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

interfere with an officers' ability to promptly take reasonable actions in self-defense.

46. Throughout its findings letter, DOJ substitutes its judgments about erratic and non-compliant behavior by suspects for the judgments of SPD patrol officers on the scene and facing the threat. Behavior that DOJ categorically defines - well after the fact and from the safety of its offices - as the benign effects of mental illness (yelling expletives at oneself, staring into space, bulging eyes, sweating, balled fists, disregarding or refusing officer commands, taking off pieces of clothing), can be understood, based on an officer's specialized training and real world experience, as evidence of Excited Delirium, "boiling point," and/or pre-attack indicators, i.e. evidence that a suspect's behavior is likely to become violent and rapidly escalate his or her attack on officers or the public. Officers' training and experience demonstrate a strong correlation between mental illness and the use and abuse of drugs. Drug abuse, in turn, is strongly correlated with violent behavior, and experience has shown that such suspects do not respond to usual norms of behavior as suggested by DOJ's de-escalation requirements. The right of self-defense does not permit judges, DOJ, or the Monitor, looking back in perfect hindsight to second-guess what patrol officers know from experience, and confront in the moment.

47. The Constitution and principles of self-defense demand that standards for UF decision-making, like those for all seizures, be fluid, flexible, practical, simple, clear, non-technical, and based on *common sense*, i.e. useful to the officer in his or her work on the street, even if not necessarily the type of neat, categorical rules preferred by legal professionals in the safety of their chambers and offices. Overly proscriptive rules can never substitute for flexibility and deference to experience, as there is nothing predictable about what a patrol officer faces when he or she responds to a volatile call, and every 911 call has the potential to turn harmful or deadly. Yet, DOJ and the Monitor have forced the City into a policy that is complicated, rigid, technical, impractical and allows for no mistakes. It is a policy comprised of mandatory "shall"s and "shall not"s despite the fact that in

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 the Settlement Agreement, the parties agreed to UF policy and practices
2 "consistent with *Graham v Connor*," and "guided by" principles carefully
3 written with "should"s and "may"s so that any resulting policy would
4 maintain officer flexibility and discretion, as well as prioritize officer
5 safety and the need for "staying in control." (Settlement Agreement, Sec.
6 III. A. ¶. 70, pp.16 and 17; see also Sec. II, ¶. 58, p 14: Defining
7 "'shall' or 'will' to mean that the provision imposes a mandatory duty;
'should' does not indicate a mandatory duty.").

8 48. A policy cannot be useful to patrol officers facing dangers and making
9 split-second decisions when the required reading is 50 pages long! (23
10 pages of core principles, definitions, prohibitions, and specific rules for
11 each force tool; 17 pages of more specific definitions, and rules regarding
12 when and how officers should respond with and report use of force, and an
13 additional 10 pages regarding UF reports and review). There is also a new
14 (as yet incomplete) 50-page procedural manual that is required reading for
those who investigate use of force.

15 49. A Policy cannot be useful when it is blatantly contradictory from its
16 opening paragraph. Seattle police officers must accomplish their mission
17 with 'minimal reliance' on force, but at the same time, if they 'fail to use
18 timely and adequate force' they fail at their job. (§ 8.000.1). The only way
19 to reconcile these opposing goals is to assume the impossible: that police
20 officers can act in a precise and perfect fashion despite dangerous,
uncertain, and rapidly unfolding circumstances.

21 50. The policy deceptively states the totality of the circumstances standard
22 correctly (§ 8.100.1 ¶ 4), but then operates to entirely undermine that
23 standard. It promulgates a set of 12 separate, multi-layered, non-exclusive
24 factors that must be considered by the officer to determine reasonableness.
25 (*Graham* lists three.) It then requires officers to also apply two extra-
26 constitutional requirements (necessity and proportionality). It establishes
27 five situations in which force is categorically prohibited (Sec. 8.100.2).
28 In addition, the officer must consider another seven, non-exclusive factors

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

related to a suspect's mental and physical behavior that must be "balanced" in an officer's decision-making process regarding force (§ 8.100.3 4).

51. If the policy is not to be an exercise in second-guessing, as it purports not to be, these 26 factors, requirements and situations all must be considered and evaluated, and the officer's response must be calibrated accordingly, in the "split second" the officer has to make the decision whether or not to use force in the face of threatening behavior. This is an *impossible* task. Thus, these 26 factors, requirements, and situations are in reality meant only to provide the means for unconstitutional, after-the-fact, second-guessing of officer decision-making.

52. Moreover, this scheme replaces the longstanding reasonableness standard -- one that grants officer's latitude and discretion based upon training, experience, knowledge of the area and suspects, the uncertainty and fast-pace of police encounters, and recognition that the officer's own life is often on the line -- with a 'categorical,' pre-set, 'neat set' of rules that officers should apply precisely, mechanically, and without need or room for mistakes.

53. The clear, though incorrect, implication of the UF Policy is that any use of force requires heightened justification beyond what would be a reasonable response to the situation. Officers historically have been carefully trained to evaluate grounds for reasonable suspicion and probable cause, but under the new UF Policy now hesitate and delay in order to find some special, policy-specific grounds to justify force - and run through all the categories of suspects granted special protection under the policy to make sure force is not used against them - even as they face a threat of serious harm. All this defies reason, common sense, and officers' right of self-defense.

54. This multi-layered and multi-factored analysis addresses only the initial question of whether or not force can be used. The officer must then consider his or her prior conduct to determine the level of force he or she is permitted to use (§ 8.000.3), and assess whether or not a suspect falls into any of five categories before being permitted to use a certain level of force (§ 8.200.5). After engaging in that fraught-with-potential-for-error

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 assessment, the officer must also know and factor in another 13 pages of
2 detailed rules regarding ten specific force tools and techniques (§§ 8.200-
3 POL-1-10).

4 55. The policy contains yet another complicated, mechanical scheme related to
5 the reporting and investigation of UF incidents. It defines four separate
6 categories of types of force (§ 8.050). In addition, it creates a four-part
7 classification of types of injuries (§ 8.050). Finally, it has the detailed
8 rules for ten specific force tools (§8.200-POL-1-10). Under § 8.300-POL-1,
9 the policy then establishes a complex system combining type of force, type
10 of injury, and type of force tool to create different categories of
11 reporting requirements for officers and screening requirements for
12 supervisors. The policy also requires that officers justify each and every
13 separate force application, see e.g., §§ 8.200-POL-1.11; 8.200-POL-3.9;
14 8.200-POL-5.6; 8.200-POL-6.5. Accordingly, officers are unreasonably
15 required to understand this complex system of definitions and reporting even
16 as they need to make UF decisions in the face of suspects' immediately
17 threatening behavior.

18 56. The factors that the officer uses to justify, and that supervisors,
19 commanders, and citizens use to review, use of force must be the same
20 factors the officer uses to actually make his force decisions on the scene.
21 If factors are too complicated and contradictory to facilitate reasonable
22 decisions in the heat of the moment, they cannot be used, after-the-fact, to
23 invalidate the officer's judgment and conduct as he or she faced an
24 immediate threat. Yet clearly this is what is mandated by the reporting and
25 review provisions of the policy.

26 57. The UF Policy requires a moment-by-moment analysis both of the officer's
27 conduct leading up to the UF, and a point-by-point, *post-hoc* critique of the
28 incident. These work together to invalidate the totality standard's focus
on the circumstances confronting the officer at the moment force was used.

58. Patrol officers are warned that "their conduct prior to the use of force"
can be a factor in determining whether or not the subsequent use of force
was necessary (ignoring that the constitutional test is "reasonableness")

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 (\$ 8.000.3). They must also "continually" assess and modulate their use of
2 force. This means SPD officer's conduct will be measured as to whether at
3 each and every point he or she made the "most appropriate," i.e. 'best',
4 most correct, decision. If not, the officers' subsequent, reasonable use of
5 force is called into question. This conflicts with the reasonableness
6 standard because reconsideration will nearly always reveal that something
7 different could have been done. Even evidence of bad tactical decisions
8 leading up to a use of force does not deprive officers of the subsequent
9 right to use reasonable defensive force.

10 59. Under the UF Policy an officer's "display of a weapon" can be used against
11 the officer in evaluating any subsequent use of force. This unreasonably
12 burdens the right of self-defense and makes no sense to the reality of the
13 officer's experience. Officers routinely have their firearms out and at the
14 ready when, for example, they search and clear a building or approach
15 suspects during high-risk vehicle stops. In such cases, the threat is the
16 uncertainty, and officers need, and have the right, to be armed and ready
17 because they are always behind the reactionary curve of a potential suspect
18 who has decided to shoot, stab, slash, or smash as a means of resistance or
19 escape.

20 60. The UF Policy's requirement of moment-by-moment justification of precisely
21 the correct amount of force means that officers will feel compelled to de-
22 escalate "immediately" after using reasonable force without adequately
23 assessing whether or not the threat has in fact been eliminated. Evidence
24 from UF reports under the new UF Policy confirms officers are rushing to
25 immediate de-escalation without any assessment of whether the threat of
26 danger has been realistically eliminated.

27 61. Officers are required to "justify" and "report" each separate use of a less
28 lethal device during a single incident, including that "each subsequent
application of force is a separate application of force that must be
individually justified." (§§ 8.200-POL-1-10). Officers are also required
to document, and supervisors are required to review, in all but *de minimis*
force, each and every blow or application of force. (Sec. 8.300-POL-1,

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 8.300-POL-1.1) This creates an impermissible "divide and conquer" or
2 "segmented approach" to UF decision-making. Plaintiffs know from DOJ's
3 findings in its similar review of use of force by the Portland Police Bureau
4 that DOJ explicitly advocates a constitutionally flawed "segmented approach"
5 to use of force claims. DOJ and the Monitor demand that supervisors
6 consider, after-the-fact, "each point when an officer made a decision that
7 may have an effect on subsequent events," to allow "intensive," post-hoc
8 reviews in order to identify "flawed tactical decisions." Thus, in DOJ's
9 own words, it is admitting that it intends to promote UF reviews expressly
10 designed to lead to unconstitutional second-guessing. To properly analyze
11 conduct taken in self-defense, an officer's use of force must be reviewed as
12 a continuous event until the threat is decisively stopped, and an officer's
13 judgment and actions must be assessed cumulatively, i.e. as a whole picture
14 taken together, without imposing a sequencing of distinct events in order to
15 poke holes and find flaws or to invalidate specific elements of an officer's
16 cumulative judgment. The analysis must conform to the reality that officers
need to make split-second decisions under dangerous, rapidly unfolding
circumstances.

17 62. The policy divides force into qualitatively separate and distinct types
18 (e.g. § 8.050). The categorical force type is then applied mechanically for
19 purposes of both an officer's decision, and SPD's and the City's after-the-
20 fact analysis and review, to determine whether or not the officer should be
21 disciplined and/or criminally charged for the UF. Such a mechanical scheme
22 defining and categorizing levels of force is an attempt to impose a "force
23 continuum" on SPD officers. Requiring officers to pigeon-hole force types
24 before, during, and after their decision to use force, complicates and
25 hampers their ability to respond to the particular circumstances they face.
26 It also implies that mechanical decisions can always be made regarding when
27 and what force is reasonably required to meet a suspect's threatening
28 behavior and/or resistance. Plaintiffs know from experience this is never
discredited by law enforcement experts, even those in other departments of

1 the DOJ itself, as unconstitutional and promoting dangerous, ineffective
2 policing.

3 III. CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIMS

4 A. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have 5 violated Plaintiffs' Constitutional Right of Self-Defense.

6 63. When a police officer is confronted with threatening behavior, he or she
7 has the right to take reasonable actions in defense of self and others.
8 Plaintiffs' right of self-defense is 'fundamental,' 'basic,' 'natural,'
9 'central,' and 'inherent.' For well over a century, the Court has held that
10 the right of self-defense existed prior to, and did not depend upon being
11 granted by, the Constitution. It is an individual right of "universal
12 application" that is in no way diminished because Plaintiffs have chosen to
13 be police officers. The right to use force in self-defense is an immediate
14 right based on the immediacy of the threat or danger. The right recognizes
15 a continuity of action such that officers can employ any and all reasonable
16 means until the perceived threat has been fully extinguished. An essential
17 attribute of this right is that it does not turn on the facts and
18 circumstances determined afterwards, but instead on whether or not there
19 were reasonable grounds for a person's belief that he or she was in imminent
20 or immediate danger at the moment of the incident. Detached reflection
21 cannot be demanded in the presence of an immediate threat of serious
22 physical harm. The above allegations provide multiple examples of the
23 specific ways the UF Policy violates these long-standing standards that
24 ensure the individual's right of self-defense. The UF Policy then not only
25 invites but demands unconstitutional second-guessing of UF decisions.

26 B. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have 27 violated the Second Amendment.

28 64. The fundamental right to self-defense "pre-exists" and is broader than the
specific Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, although it is
embodied in and is the central component of this right. Therefore,
Defendants actions in unreasonably restricting and burdening Plaintiffs
right of self-defense violate the Second Amendment. Moreover, the contours
of Plaintiffs' Second Amendment rights shape an appropriate understanding of

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 their broader constitutional right to self-defense. The right to keep and
2 bear arms is a right that is exercised individually and belongs to each and
3 every American citizen, regardless of profession, and is not limited to use
4 of an officer's firearm. The right has been understood not merely as the
5 right to use force after a confrontation has occurred but includes the right
6 to be prepared or ready in case of the possibility of a conflict or
7 confrontation with an assailant. Plaintiffs recognize that these rights are
8 not unlimited and can be subject to legitimate and appropriate regulation.
9 Nevertheless, the specific right to keep and bear arms is an 'enshrinement'
10 of a fundamental right to self-defense, which means that regulations cannot
11 burden such rights to the point of destruction, or render them practically
12 meaningless. As the above allegations make clear, decision-making under the
13 UF Policy is sufficiently proscribed so that police officers cannot act
14 decisively in the moment, based on an assessment of the threat, to bring
15 situations under control in order to protect themselves and others from
16 harm.

17 65. Plaintiffs know their job puts them in danger. They accept these risks in
18 large part because their job also allows them the privilege to serve and
19 protect the innocent. Plaintiffs are not arguing that the Constitution
20 grants them the right to dictate all the terms of a UF Policy or requires
21 the City to keep them safe at all times. The Constitution, however,
22 provides Plaintiffs the fundamental right of self-defense. The City cannot
23 make policy decisions and impose policy requirements that consistently and
24 inevitably place them at unnecessary and, therefore, unreasonable risk when
25 confronting dangerous suspects. Such policy choices have been taken off the
26 table by the law.

27 **C. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have**
28 **violated the Fourth Amendment.**

66. The Supreme Court's Fourth Amendment jurisprudence is the core guide
regarding police interactions with persons engaged, or suspected of
engagement, in criminal activity. It contains clear and long-standing
standards and principles regarding seizures. Plaintiffs argue that when

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 they are unnecessarily required to face death or serious injury in such
2 encounters, because of the policies of their employer, they have been
3 intentionally and unreasonably seized in violation of their Fourth Amendment
4 rights. A policy with these identified dangers does not simply create the
5 random chance of harm to the officer, it makes it a virtual certainty due to
6 the nature of the job itself and the fact that the government requires them
to perform it under the flawed UF Policy each and every day.

7 **D. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have**
8 **violated the Plaintiffs' Right of Self-Defense as Embedded in the Fourth**
9 **Amendment.**

10 67. Without finding a specific Fourth Amendment seizure of officers harmed because of
11 the UF Policy, long-standing Fourth Amendment case law still embeds and recognizes
12 a police officer's fundamental right of self-defense. Even as it balances
13 governments' versus citizens' interests, the Court finds a separate, more
14 fundamental and pre-existing right at play, viz. officers' right to take necessary
15 and reasonable steps to secure their own safety and that of bystanders when
16 conducting a seizure: in short, defense of self and others. For "certainly it
17 would be unreasonable to require that police officers take unnecessary risks in the
18 performance of their duties." The Court has made clear that officers do not have to
19 first take a chance on arguably less intrusive measures and 'hope for the best.'
20 As the Fourth Circuit put it succinctly, "The Constitution simply does not require
21 police to gamble with their lives in the face of a serious threat of harm." This is
22 not a hollow right to recover damages (or for officers' widows and children to
23 recover such) after they have been seriously or fatally injured. The
24 constitutional injury occurs regardless of whether or not a police officer happens
25 to be lucky enough to avoid, or to protect himself or herself from, actual harm in
26 the face of danger. Instead, the right of self-defense by necessity means that the
27 City cannot unreasonably restrict or burden the timing and/or range of reasonable
28 options officers may employ in protecting themselves and others. **"It would be
clearly unreasonable to deny the officer the power to take necessary measures in
order to neutralize the threat of physical harm."**

68. In determining whether or not there was unnecessary and therefore unreasonable risk
to the officer's safety, the Court examines whether or not the officer was

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 'justified,' in other words, reasonable, in his or her belief regarding the present
2 threat of danger. This is also the single most important factor in the objective
3 reasonableness standard under the Fourth Amendment. Thus, the totality of the
4 circumstances standard teaches us about officers' right of self-defense. The Court
5 has been careful not to permit Fourth Amendment standards that invite recklessness
6 or create perverse incentives for criminal suspects to disregard public safety any
7 further than they already do. The Court requires that every police encounter, from
8 social contact through the use of deadly force, be judged by one, consistent, long-
9 standing standard: reasonableness. There is no 'magic on/off switch' or 'rigid
10 preconditions' for when, or what type of, force is appropriate in a particular
11 case. **"All that matters is whether the officer's actions were reasonable."** For
12 the same reason, the Court rejects application of separate tracks or categorical
13 rules when evaluating an officer's conduct in relation to a mentally ill suspect,
14 or one of any other category. Even as courts, including the Ninth Circuit,
15 complain of its "troubling degree of uncertainty," the Court consistently rejects
16 attempts at producing a neat set of rules. Instead, the actual, cumulative
17 information available to the officer on the scene, combined with his own experience
18 and specialized training, always trumps pre-set rules, categorical schemes, or use
19 of post-hoc 'divide and conquer' analysis of the officer's decision. As the above
20 allegations demonstrate, the UF Policy, throughout, contradicts these standards of
21 reasonableness, flexibility and deference, instead restricting and burdening
22 Plaintiffs' right of self-defense.

**E. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have violated
the Equal Protection Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.**

23 69. The UF Policy rewards suspects' recklessness and disregard for the safety of others
24 as it consistently disadvantages officers in the face of volatile, unpredictable,
25 threatening behavior by suspects. The UF Policy thus places Plaintiffs at
26 considerable disadvantage compared to suspects and the general public as regards
27 their fundamental right to defend themselves from threats of deadly harm and
28 serious bodily injury. This denies Plaintiffs the equal protection of the law as
prohibited by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Moreover, Plaintiffs have
asserted a fundamental constitutional right of self-defense and Defendants have not

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

asserted a justification sufficient to satisfy the heightened scrutiny required by equal protection law.

F. By Promulgating and Implementing the UF Policy, Defendants have violated Plaintiffs' Substantive and Procedural Due Process under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

70. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment prohibits a federal agency, such as DOJ, from depriving individuals of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law. Similarly, the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits state actors from doing the same. Clearly such rights are at stake here. Plaintiffs allege that the UF Policy subjects them to unnecessary risk of death and serious bodily injury. Plaintiffs believe we will face unreasonable disciplinary actions, lawsuits, loss of employment, and the inability to obtain police employment in other jurisdictions if and when we are accused of violating the new UF Policy, even though our actions were reasonable under the law.

71. Substantive due process claims have been brought by suspects alleging excessive use of force by the government in cases where the suspect cannot establish that there has been an intentional seizure by the government. These cases, though brought by suspects, reflect the underlying, embedded right of self-defense of the police officer involved and, thus, shed light on the contours of Plaintiffs' right of self-defense. Thus, for example, rules of due process, like the reasonableness standard, cannot be subject to mechanical application and must take into account that officers often will not have the luxury to make unhurried judgments. Moreover, evaluation of officer conduct must consider that officers often need to act quickly even as decision-making is complicated by pulls of competing obligations, i.e. the need to act decisively and to show restraint at the same moment. All of these realities are relevant to evaluating an officer's conduct when his or her actions are taken in response to suspect's threatening behavior. None of these realities are reflected in the UF Policy.

72. Due process however is not only for the benefit of suspects. Plaintiffs assert a substantive due process violation of our own liberty and property interests. Regardless of whether or not Plaintiffs can establish that the policy's restrictions and burdens are a seizure under the Fourth Amendment, DOJ's and the City's deliberate indifference to long-standing rights of self-defense, as they

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 force Plaintiffs to conform to a policy that blatantly violates those rights, is an
2 abuse of power that shocks the conscience. Defendants know that the policy is
3 fundamentally flawed and puts public safety and officers' lives in jeopardy, yet
4 they still refuse to change it because it would be 'too hard' politically. Other
5 Defendants show callous and aggressive disregard when confronted with evidence of
6 the threat to public and officer safety created by the UF Policy. It is
7 unconscionable and an abuse of authority when, in light of such evidence, those in
8 power are permitted to equate public safety concerns with buying "Cheerios" in a
"grocery store."

9 73. DOJ has imposed, and the City and SPD have acquiesced in, a fundamental rewriting
10 of nearly universal, long-standing, constitutionally-grounded rules of reasonable
11 police conduct based on a secretive and fundamentally flawed factual analysis.
12 This violates both substantive and procedural due process. DOJ repeatedly refused
13 to provide the City, SPD or the public with the data, methods, or analysis it used
14 to reach its conclusions. The little information DOJ did provide indicates that
15 its key finding comes from an extrapolation from a random sample of UF reports. It
16 is therefore nothing more than speculation. An independent and complete analysis
17 by researchers under the supervision of Matthew Hickman, a Professor at Seattle
18 University, and a former statistician for DOJ itself found that only 3.5% of cases
19 could be characterized as even "potentially" excessive. In addition, DOJ's finding
20 regarding the prevalence of excessive force directly conflicts with other key
21 findings by DOJ, such as, the "great majority" of Seattle's police officers do not
22 use excessive force; the pattern of excessive force exists only for a very small
"subset" of officers; and that supervisory oversight should focus only on the "very
small number" of officers who use force frequently.

23 74. Defendants have imposed the new UF Policy without providing Plaintiffs any
24 meaningful opportunity to be heard, even though it is their safety and livelihood
25 that is most significantly and immediately affected by the policy changes. They
26 did so without meaningful consultation with or involvement from SPOG. They did so
27 notwithstanding that many SPD patrol officers are recognized experts in the field
28 of use of force standards and techniques. They ignored Plaintiffs' experience and
expertise, even as the constitutional standard at issue - whether the police

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 officers' conduct was objectively reasonable - depends on an examination of the
2 specific knowledge, experience, training and circumstances facing those officers.
3 Most significantly, Defendants continued even more aggressively to cut Plaintiffs
4 out of the process as they raised the most serious of concerns: that the new policy
5 puts their lives and the lives of citizens in danger.

6 IV. HARM CAUSED AND RELIEF SOUGHT

7 75. The dangers and harm cited by Plaintiffs are real, not conjectural. The
8 constitutional right of self-defense includes the right not to be required to take
9 unnecessary and therefore unreasonable risks with Plaintiffs' safety and the safety
10 of the public. **The unnecessary and unreasonable risk required by the UF Policy is
11 itself the injury.** It is unconstitutional to require Plaintiffs to "gamble with
12 their lives."

13 76. While the actual UF Policy has only been in place since January 2014, the standards
14 reflected in it have been imposed by DOJ since it issued its findings letter on
15 December 16, 2011, and quickly became the pattern and practice of what has been
16 required of patrol officers since that time.

17 77. Plaintiffs seek an immediate injunction against the implementation of SPD's UF
18 Policy that went into effect on January 1, 2014, and all related training. The
19 immediacy of this injunction is crucial in light of Plaintiffs' serious and
20 significant allegations regarding the unconstitutionality of the UF Policy, and the
21 dangers it creates to the safety of SPD patrol officers and the public. Moreover,
22 since the intrusion of DOJ in 2011, SPD patrol officers, including new officers at
23 the Academy (CJTC), have been improperly trained and conditioned to pause,
24 hesitate, overthink and under-react in the face of threats of danger. The longer
25 this training/conditioning is ingrained, the harder it will be to undo, and the
26 safety of officers and the public is further endangered for years, if not decades,
27 to come.

28 78. Plaintiffs further seek a declaratory judgment that the UF Policy is
unconstitutional and beyond repair. Plaintiffs seek a declaration requiring that
an entirely new UF policy be drafted as soon as possible, but only after obtaining
substantial input from Plaintiffs and other patrol officers with direct experience
in appropriate use of force decision-making and tactics in Seattle.

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

79. Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages for lost time and wages, improper disciplinary action, or any other personnel actions taken against Plaintiffs for violations of the UF Policy where Plaintiffs acted based on their constitutional rights of self-defense. Plaintiffs seek punitive damages from Defendants based on Defendants' callous disregard and belittling of the genuine safety needs of SPD's patrol officers, as well as Defendants disregard for and rewriting of clearly established standards regarding use of force and concomitant disregard for the public's and Plaintiffs' safety. Plaintiffs also seek punitive damages for the resources and funds redirected away from the safety of patrol officers and the public and wasted instead on the production of an unreasonable, unconstitutional UF Policy.

80. Plaintiffs seek any other relief the court deems appropriate.

81. Plaintiffs currently represent themselves *pro se* because of the overwhelming costs related to representation in a complex civil rights matter. Plaintiffs seek to obtain attorneys' fees under 42 USC § 1988, and hope that due to the availability of attorneys fees they will be able to obtain in-state counsel to represent them in this court moving forward.

82. Plaintiffs declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated this August 27, 2014

By: s/ Sjon Stevens
Sjon Stevens (#6180)
PO Box 25274
Seattle, WA 98165
ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
tel: (206) 684-0850

By: s/ Robert Mahoney
By: s/ Cliff Borjeson
By: s/ Bridget Hillan
By: s/ Lance Basney
By: s/ Salvatore DiTusa
By: s/ Clarke D. Chase
By: s/ Joseph Stankovitch
By: s/ Weldon C. Boyland
By: s/ John L. Farrar
By: s/ Dale W. Umpleby
By: s/ Richard A. McAuliffe

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

By: s/ George Baseley
 1 By: s/ Leon J. Towne
 By: s/ David M. Harrington
 2 By: s/ Henry Feldman
 By: s/ Terry Whalen
 3 By: s/ Gilles Montaron
 By: s/ Robert Stevenson
 4 By: s/ Joshua Goodwin
 By: s/ Ryan Kennard
 5 By: s/ Nathan Lemberg
 By: s/ Jeff Mitchell
 By: s/ Robert B. Brown
 6 By: s/ Ernest T. Hall
 By: s/ Robert Burk
 7 By: s/ Adam Beatty
 By: s/ Tomas Trykar
 8 By: s/ Brien Escalante
 By: s/ Karen G. Pio
 9 By: s/ Michael Gonzalez
 By: s/ Steve Kim
 10 By: s/ Ennis Roberson
 By: s/ Leroy Outlaw
 By: s/ Kieran Barton
 11 By: s/ Jonathan Reese
 By: s/ Eugene Schubeck
 12 By: s/ Sean Hamlin
 By: s/ Shannon Waldorf
 13 By: s/ Jeffrey Swenson
 By: s/ Michael Spaulding
 By: s/ Tabitha Sexton
 14 By: s/ Steven Stone
 By: s/ Liliya A. Nesteruk
 15 By: s/ Todd M. Nelson
 By: s/ Timothy Jones
 16 By: s/ Timothy J. Wear
 By: s/ Theresa Emerick
 17 By: s/ Ariel Vela
 By: s/ Michael A. Larned
 18 By: s/ Jeffery Johnson
 By: s/ Derek B. Norton
 19 By: s/ Jason Dewey
 By: s/ Brett Willet
 By: s/ David White
 20 By: s/ Gretchen Hughes
 By: s/ Trent Schroeder
 21 By: s/ Audi A. Acuesta
 By: s/ Steve Clark
 22 By: s/ Steven L. Berg
 By: s/ Erik Johnson
 By: s/ Vernon Kelley
 23 By: s/ Shelley San Miguel
 By: s/ Christopher J. Anderson
 24 By: s/ Suzanne M. Parton
 By: s/ Eric F. Whitehead
 25 By: s/ Alan Richards
 By: s/ Ron Willis
 26 By: s/ A. Sheheen
 By: s/ Randall Higa
 27 By: s/ Tim Owens
 By: s/ Tyler Getts
 28 By: s/ Adam Elias
 By: s/ Jon Emerick
 By: s/ Louis Chan

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

By: s/ Paul PendergrassBy: s/ AJ MarksBy: s/ Ron MartinBy: s/ Rusty L. LeslieBy: s/ TJ San MiguelBy: s/ Jeffrey C. PageBy: s/ Ryan EllisBy: s/ Austin DavisBy: s/ Nina M. JonesBy: s/ David Fitzgerald

Sjon Stevens (#6180)

Robert Mahoney (#6296)

Cliff Borjeson (#7597)

Christopher Myers (#5452)

Bridget Hillan (#5938)

Lance Basney (#5947)

Salvatore DiTusa (#5668)

Clarke D. Chase (#5709)

Joseph Stankovitch (#6878)

Weldon C. Boyland (#6635)

John L. Farrar (#5922)

Dale W. Umpleby (#4052)

Richard A. McAuliffe (#6403)

George Baseley (#5571)

Leon J. Towne (#6697)

David M. Harrington (#6875)

Henry Feldman (#7548)

Terry Whalen (#6879)

Gilles Montaron (#6382)

Robert Stevenson (#5859)

Joshua Goodwin (#7564)

Ryan Kennard (#7555)

Nathan Lemberg (#7456)

Jeff Mitchell (#6181)

Robert B. Brown (#6194)

Ernest T. Hall (#4792)

Robert Burk (#5516)

Adam Beatty (#7453)

Thomas Trykar (#7616)

Brien Escalante (#7580)

Karen G. Pio (#6088)

Michael Gonzalez (#6412)

Steve Kim (#5955)

Ennis Roberson (#6759)

Leroy Outlaw (#6854)

Kieran Barton (#7568)

Jonathan Reese (#7533)

Eugene Schubeck (#6696)

Sean Hamlin (#5833)

Shannon Waldorf (#6950)

Jeffrey Swenson (#7507)

Michael Spaulding (#7491)

Tabitha Sexton (#7430)

Steven Stone (#7540)

Liliya A. Nesteruk (#7489)

Todd M. Nelson (#7358)

Timothy Jones (#6935)

Timothy J. Wear (#4900)

Theresa Emerick (#5002)

Ariel Vela (#4727)

Michael A. Larned (#6955)

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

1 Jeffery Johnson (#5845)
Derek B. Norton (#6917)
Jason Dewey (#7426)
2 Brett Willet (#7615)
David White (#6404)
3 Gretchen Hughes (#6237)
Trent Schroeder (#6900)
Audi A. Acuesta (#7417)
4 Steve Clark (#5987)
Steven L. Berg (#5834)
5 Erik Johnson (#5116)
Vernon Kelley (#6662)
6 Shelley San Miguel (#6910)
Christopher J. Anderson (#6609)
7 Suzanne M. Parton (#5830)
Eric F. Whitehead (#7493)
8 Alan Richards (#7497)
Ron Willis (#6081)
A. Sheheen (#4916)
9 Randall Higa (#5740)
Tim Owens (#6748)
10 Tyler Getts (#7537)
Adam Elias (#6726)
11 Jon Emerick (#4326)
Louis Chan (#7424)
12 Paul Pendergrass (#4942)
AJ Marks (#6179)
Ron Martin (#5041)
13 Rusty L. Leslie (#5209)
TJ San Miguel (#7506)
14 Jeffrey C. Page (#6845)
Ryan Ellis (#7612)
15 Austin Davis (#7617)
David Fitzgerald (#6152)

16 Seattle Police Department
North Precinct
17 10049 College Way N.
Seattle, WA 98133
18 Telephone: (206) 684-0850
Email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
19 Pro se Plaintiffs

20
21 By: s/ Christopher Myers
By: s/ Joseph A. Maccarron

22 Christopher Myers (##5452)
23 Sgt. Joseph A. Maccarron

24 Seattle Police Department
West Precinct
810 Virginia St.
Seattle, WA 98101
25 Telephone: (206) 684-8917
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
26 Pro se Plaintiffs

27
28 By: s/ Jack C. Bailey
By: s/ Alfred R. Warner

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

By: s/ Michael R. Washington

By: s/ Aaron Stoltz

By: s/ Theodore G. Visaya

Jack C. Bailey (#5230)
Alfred R. I. Warner (#6162)
Michael R. Washington (#5143)
Aaron Stoltz (#6073)
Theodore G. Visaya (#5237)

Seattle Police Department
East Precinct
1519 12th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122
Telephone: (206) 684-4800
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
Pro se Plaintiffs

By: s/ Anthony James Reynolds

Anthony James Reynolds (#7585)

Seattle Police Department
South Precinct
3001 S. Nyrrtle St.
Seattle, WA 98108
Telephone: (206) 386-1850
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
Pro se Plaintiff

By: s/ Richard Heintz

Richard Heintz (#4219)

Seattle Police Department
South West Precinct
2300 SW Webster St.
Seattle, WA 98106
Telephone: (206) 733-9800
Pro se Plaintiff

By: s/ Donald L. Waters

Donald L. Waters (#6287)

Seattle Police Department Gang Unit
610 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124-4986
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com

By: s/ Curtis Gerry

By: s/ Adolph Torrescano

By: s/ Curt E. Wilson

By: s/ James G. Thomsen

By: s/ Richard W. Pruitt

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

By: s/ Jonard A. Legaspi

Curtis Gerry (#5823)
Adolph Torrescano (#4743)
Curt E. Wilson (#4505)
James G. Thomsen (#6738)
Richard W. Pruitt (#5346)
Jonard A. Legaspi (#6231)

Seattle Police Department Range
11030 E. Marginal Way S.
Tukwila, WA 98168
Telephone: (206) 684-7470
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com
Pro se Plaintiffs

By: s/ Rich Peterson

Rich Peterson (#6239)

Seattle Police Department
Education and Training Unit
Park 90/5
2203 Airport Way S.
Seattle, WA
email: ufcomplaint@hotmail.com

Pro se Plaintiff