

# **Use of Force in a Community Policing Environment**

## **Potential Topics for Group Discussion**

1. What are your beliefs and assumptions about “use of force” by a law enforcement officer?
2. What influence or impact does the way the media reports a “use of force” incident have on your understanding of the circumstances?
3. Do you believe the public debate over use of force takes a toll on the officers?
4. Is the use of force discussion about tactics or philosophy?
5. What is the role of law enforcement leadership in the use of force discussion?
6. What are the roles of community leaders in the use of force discussion?
7. How do you maintain the balance between keeping officers safe and maintaining public safety?
8. What is the best way to hold officers accountable for their use of force in their day to day interactions?
9. Who determines what is appropriate and inappropriate use of force?
10. What is the best way to address different segments of the community’s perceptions about an officer’s use of force?
11. What are the most difficult internal issues a department wrestles with regarding use of force training?
12. Are any police training changes indicated? Are any statutory changes needed?