



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 26-R-07 A Resolution of the City Council Adopting and Requiring Enforcement of a Policy Prohibiting the Use of Excessive Force by Law Enforcement Agencies Against Individuals Engaged in Non-Violent Civil Rights Demonstrations; Prohibiting the Physical Barring of Entrances to or Exits from Facilities that are the Subject of Such Demonstrations; Declaring the City's Intent to Comply with Missouri Department of Economic Development Requirements for Federal Funding Eligibility.

Submitted By: Justin T. Rogers, City Attorney and Prosecutor

Date: March 17, 2026

Issue Statement

Whether the City should adopt a resolution affirming and enforcing a policy that prohibits excessive force during non-violent civil rights demonstrations and prohibits the physical obstruction of entrances and exits, in order to comply with Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) requirements for certain federal funding programs.

Discussion and/or Analysis

The proposed resolution adopts a City policy addressing conduct during non-violent civil rights demonstrations. The policy prohibits the use of excessive force against individuals participating in such demonstrations and prohibits physically blocking entrances or exits at facilities where demonstrations occur.

Adoption of the resolution supports compliance with guidance issued by the Missouri Department of Economic Development related to eligibility for federal funding programs, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The resolution does not change the City's existing operational standards. Law enforcement operations will continue to be governed by the City's Use of Force Policy and applicable federal and state law, including the constitutional "objective reasonableness" standard for use of force.

The resolution also reaffirms existing expectations that officers attempt de-escalation when feasible and safe and intervene and report objectively unreasonable force. These provisions reflect existing policy and do not create new legal standards or liability.

The resolution clarifies that public safety personnel may still use reasonable force, conduct crowd management, and impose temporary access restrictions when necessary for safety or emergency operations. The prohibition on "physical barring" is intended to address unlawful obstruction by any person, not lawful safety measures taken by authorities.

The resolution does not create a private right of action and does not establish new independent liability standards.

City administration and the Police Department will implement and enforce the policy consistent with existing law and the City's already-adopted Use of Force Policy.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval.