

 <b>Cambridge Police Department</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES</b>		<b>No. 408</b>
	<b>Subject/Title:</b> <b>Tear Gas and Chemical Weapons</b>		
	<b>Issuing Authority:</b>  <b>Dr. Branville G. Bard, Jr.</b> <b>Police Commissioner</b>	<b>Review Date:</b> <b>March 10, 2021</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b> <b>March 29, 2021</b>
		<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>March 29, 2021</b>	<b>Rescinds:</b>
<b>References/ Attachments:</b>		<b>Accreditation Standards:</b>	

## I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a bright line rule prohibiting the acquisition, possession, discharge, and/or authorization to discharge tear gas or any other related chemical weapon for all members of the Department.

## II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Cambridge Police Department that all members of the Department shall be **PROHIBITED** from acquiring, possessing, discharging, and/or authorizing the discharge of tear gas or any other related chemical weapon in their official capacity with the Department. All members of the Department are also prohibited from authorizing the discharge of tear gas or any other related chemical weapon by any other law enforcement officer that falls under departmental command (i.e., through statutorily authorized mutual aid).

## III. DEFINITIONS:

- a. **Tear Gas:** Any chemical agent used to subdue combative persons in a non-lethal manner, which contains an active synthetic compound such as o-chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS), chloroacetophenone (CN), bromoacetone, benzyl bromide, ethyl bromoacetate, xylyl bromide, and  $\alpha$ -bromobenzyl cyanide.
  - i. For purposes of this policy, the definition of Tear Gas shall not include Oleoresin Capsicum (OC). Oleoresin Capsicum Spray is a Department approved less-than-lethal weapon, pursuant to *Cambridge Police Department Policy & Procedures No.400.1*.
- b. **Oleoresin Capsicum (OC):** Commonly referred to as Pepper Spray, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) is not a man-made chemical, but rather an oily, concentrated extract from plants of the genus *Capsicum* (more commonly referred to as the chili pepper), combined with an aerosol propellant.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION:**

Members of the Department must adhere to all legal standards, training protocols and Departmental policies and procedures when utilizing force, including deployment of less-than-lethal weapons. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in criminal prosecution, civil liability, Departmental discipline and/or judicial sanctions. In the event the reader needs clarification on any subject matter contained herein or the related Departmental Use of Force policies and procedures, they shall request said clarification from a superior officer, forthwith.