I. PURPOSE
The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers of Piedmont Virginia Community College Department of Public Safety and Campus Police with guidelines for the use of deadly and non-deadly force.

II. POLICY
It is the policy of this law enforcement agency that officers use only the force that reasonably appears necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. It must be stressed that the use of force is not left to the discretion of the involved officer. This is not a subjective determination. The use of force must be objectively reasonable. The officer must only use that force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS
Deadly Force: Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily harm.

Non-deadly Force: Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force. This includes any physical effort used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another.

Objectively Reasonable: This term means that, in determining the necessity for force and the appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the known circumstances, including, but not limited to, the seriousness of the crime, the level of threat or resistance presented by the subject, and the danger to the community.

IV. PROCEDURES
A. Use of Deadly Force
   1. Law enforcement officers are authorized to use deadly force when one or both of the following apply:
      a. To protect the officer or others from what is reasonably believed to be a threat of death or serious bodily harm.
      b. To prevent the escape of a fleeing violent felon who the officer has probable cause to believe will pose a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. Where practicable prior to discharge of the firearm, officers shall identify themselves as law enforcement officers and state their intent to shoot.

B. Deadly Force Restrictions
   1. Officers may use deadly force to destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety, or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured, when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force can be used without harm to the officer or others.
2. Generally, warning shots should not be fired.
3. Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle. The moving vehicle itself shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer’s use of deadly force. An officer threatened by an oncoming vehicle shall move out of its path instead of discharging a firearm at it or any of its occupants.

C. Use of Non-deadly Force
   1. Where deadly force is not authorized, officers may use only the minimum amount of force that is objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control.
   2. Officers are authorized to use department-approved, non-deadly force techniques and issued equipment when one or more of the following apply:
      a. To protect the officer or others from physical harm.
      b. To restrain or subdue a violent individual when physical force is the only alternative remaining.
      c. To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

3. In the event of use of force, the chief of police and president of the college must be immediately notified. The officer must complete a use of force report. The chief and president of the college will review the report for legal sufficiency and determine if further action is needed. The chief or president of the college can order a full investigation if warranted. If allegations of misconduct are found, the office of human resources must be immediately notified. In the event of a serious violation of the Use of Force policy by an officer of the PVCC campus police, the Virginia state police, and/or commonwealth attorney will conduct an independent internal review of the incident at the request of the chief of police or president of the college.

D. Training
   In addition to training required for firearms qualification, officers shall receive agency-authorized training designed to simulate actual shooting situations and conditions and, as otherwise necessary, to enhance officers’ discretion and judgment in using deadly and non-deadly force in accordance with this policy.