Standards Every Law Enforcement Agency Should Have

As a rule, in order to meet some minimum standards of policing, every police department should have a policy on the following:

1) Use of Force – stating when and how force may be used by police officers

2) Racial Profiling – a ban on racial profiling and data collection measures to ensure it is not happening within the agency

3) Citizen Complaint Procedure – a method for members of the community to file a complaint regarding an officer or an incident involving the law enforcement agency

4) Drawing and Displaying Firearms – stating when and how firearms can be used and displayed by officers

5) Vehicular Pursuits – stating when and how officers should engage in vehicular pursuits

6) Fleeing Felons – stating how officer will engage with felons who are fleeing

7) Foot Pursuits – stating when and how officers may engage in foot pursuits

8) Internal Review – stating the procedures of the agency’s internal review mechanisms

9) Shooting at/from a Motor Vehicle – stating when and how officers may shoot from a motor vehicle

10) Use of Impact, Edged, and Other Similar Weapons – stating when and how these weapons may be used
11) Crisis Intervention Training and Response – stating how officers should handle crisis situations (e.g. involving the mentally disturbed, hostage situations, etc.)

12) Investigation Procedures – detailing procedures for investigating incidents

13) Canine Use – stating when and how police canine should be used

14) Evidence Preservation and Presentation – detailing how evidence if preserved and presented to investigators (internal and external)

15) Use of Tasers – stating when and how a taser devised may be used

**NOTE:** Although the NAACP has a resolution calling for a ban on taser devices, many departments still use them and, absence a ban, it is important to have a concise policy and training on when and how these devices should be used.