



## Threats of Force

OPA recently evaluated whether threats of force—specifically force that would not have been consistent with policy under the circumstances—constituted de-escalation. In [one case](#), an officer threatened he would tase a subject of a *Terry* stop if he did not walk over to him. In [another case](#), an officer threatened to shoot a non-violent subject during a foot pursuit if the subject did not stop running.

While OPA recognized that such threats can be an acceptable and effective tactic, it disagreed that they constituted de-escalation. Instead, OPA believed the threats were a strategic escalation of the incident and a last resort to compel compliance. Moreover, OPA found that allowing such threats to constitute de-escalation was inconsistent with the policy requiring officers to utilize LEED. Accordingly, OPA issued a Management Action Recommendation requesting that the Department amend SPD Policy 8.100 to remove a threat of force as a form of de-escalation.

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## Illegal Eviction

OPA investigated an allegation that an officer assisted in evicting an individual from his apartment during a landlord/tenant dispute, despite knowing it was an “illegal eviction.” Moreover, the officer continued to compel the individual to leave the residence even after being reminded that only the King County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) is authorized to effectuate evictions.

OPA found that the officer violated [Training Digest TR14-00013](#), which deals with this specific scenario, and issued a [Training Referral](#). Because SPD Policy 5.001-POL-2 does not explicitly reference Training Digests, the officer’s conduct was not considered a policy violation. Nonetheless, OPA encouraged the Department to recirculate the Training Digest and remind personnel that KCSO, not SPD, is tasked with effectuating evictions.

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