

4—Times-Journal, December 16, 2020

Opinions

Thoughts on deadly force

Dear Editor, Members of our group have been attending county meetings regarding compliance with Executive Order 203, the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. We have been impressed by the County Supervisors' Law Committee and the members of the Sheriff's' Office; their approach has been thoughtful and thorough, as they undertake a sincere and in-depth review. However, we were disconcerted to see that in a recent article in the Times-Journal, our position on deadly force was mischaracterized. We have not and would not, ask that the use of deadly force be excluded from the Sheriff's Office policies. We recommend the use of reasonable, proportional and necessary force, with the goal of preserving human lives of all involved (officers, suspects, bystanders). We do recommend that both choke holds and carotid holds be banned. These are both dangerous uses of force that have been misused nationally and have led to the death of unarmed persons. We understand that deadly force is sometimes necessary to protect the lives of both officers and civilians. Our aim is not to outlaw deadly force but make sure that it is only used in the appropriate context.

Rural Awakenings