

ORDINANCE NO. 056 -2021

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 23-51 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, BANNING THE USE OF NO-KNOCK WARRANTS BY THE DIVISION OF POLICE; REQUIRING LEXINGTON POLICE OFFICERS TO KNOCK AND ANNOUNCE THEMSELVES BEFORE ENTERING A PREMISES TO EXECUTE A WARRANT; AND REQUIRING ANY LEXINGTON POLICE OFFICER PRESENT IN THE INITIAL ENTRY AND SECURING OF THE SCENE OF A WARRANT TO BE EQUIPPED WITH AND ACTIVATE A BODY WORN CAMERA.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That Section 23-51 of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

Sec. 23-51. No-Knock Warrants.

(a) For purposes of this section, “no-knock warrant” means any arrest or search warrant issued by a judge and executed upon a premises that does not require those executing the warrant to knock and announce themselves and their purpose prior to executing the warrant.

(b) No police officer of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Police shall seek or execute no-knock warrant at any location within Lexington-Fayette County.

(c) Any Lexington police officer charged with execution of a warrant upon any premises in order to gain entry shall:

(1) physically knock on an entry door to the premises in a manner and duration reasonably expected to be heard by the occupants;

(2) clearly and verbally announce, in a manner reasonably expected to be heard by the occupants, as law enforcement having a warrant; and

(3) absent exigent circumstances, wait a reasonable amount of time after knocking and announcing before entering the premises.

(d) All Lexington Police Officers present in the initial entry and securing of the scene of a warrant shall be equipped with and activate a body worn camera.

Section 2 – That this Ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL: June 24, 2021


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF THE URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL