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## MEMORANDUM

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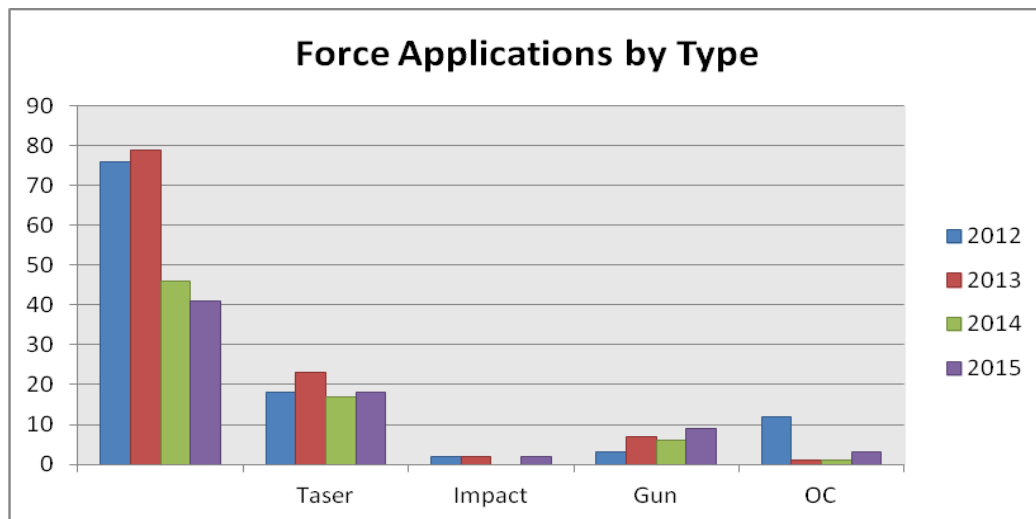


**TO:** Chief Tammy Hooper  
**FROM:** Sgt. Jackie Stepp  
**SUBJECT:** 2015 End of Year Use of Force Report  
**DATE:** January 12, 2016  
**CC:** Lt. Chuck Sams

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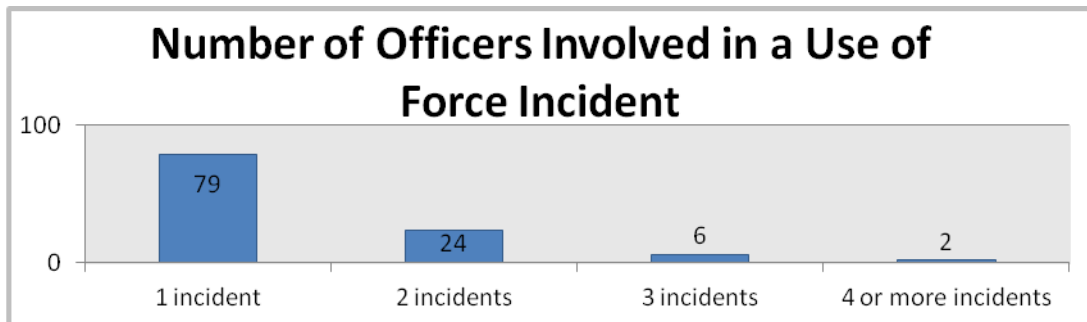
A total of 66 incidents involving the use of force were reported by Asheville Police officers during 2015. Arrests were made in 83% of those incidents involving the use of force. Those incidents that did not result in an arrest were; eight injured animal calls, 2 pepperball deployments to disperse crowd incidents and one involuntary commitment.

There were a total of nine firearm discharge incidents reported in 2015 compared to 6 reported in 2014. There was one incident that involved the use of deadly force against a person; this involved the Drug Suppression Unit. The suspect was not hit and the officer involved was cleared by the SBI. The remaining firearm discharges involved the use of force against animals that were gravely injured. The use of force by type of application for 2015 compared to previous years is illustrated in the chart below.



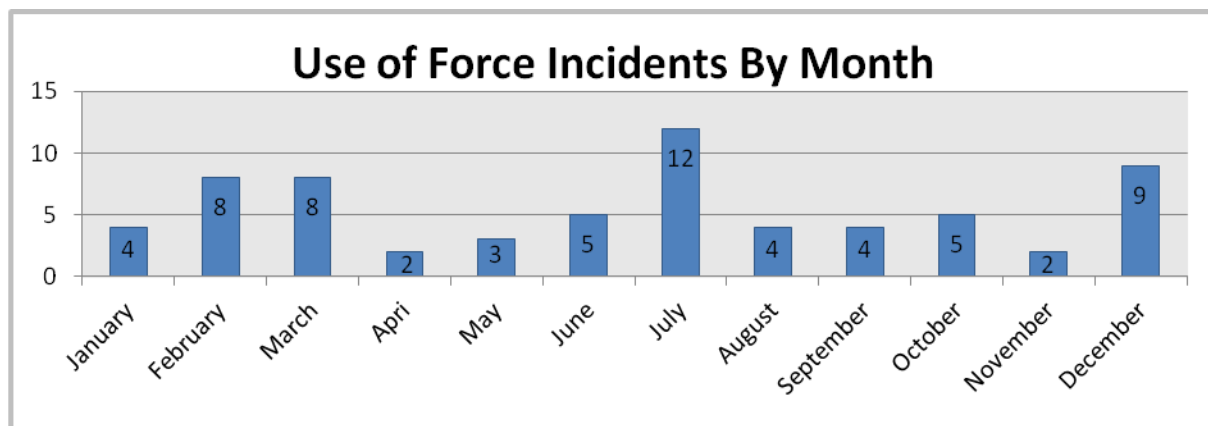
**Figure 1**

The total number of force applications shown is greater than the total of reported incidents due to some incidents requiring varied or multiple applications of force. There were three applications of OC chemical spray this year compared to 1 OC application in 2014. Officers deployed a taser 18 times in 2015 compared to 17 deployments in 2014. Two impact weapon incidents occurred in 2015, which involved officers utilizing a pepperball gun to disperse a crowd compared to 0 reported in 2014. The use of "physical force" dropped to 41 in 2015 compared to 46 in 2014.



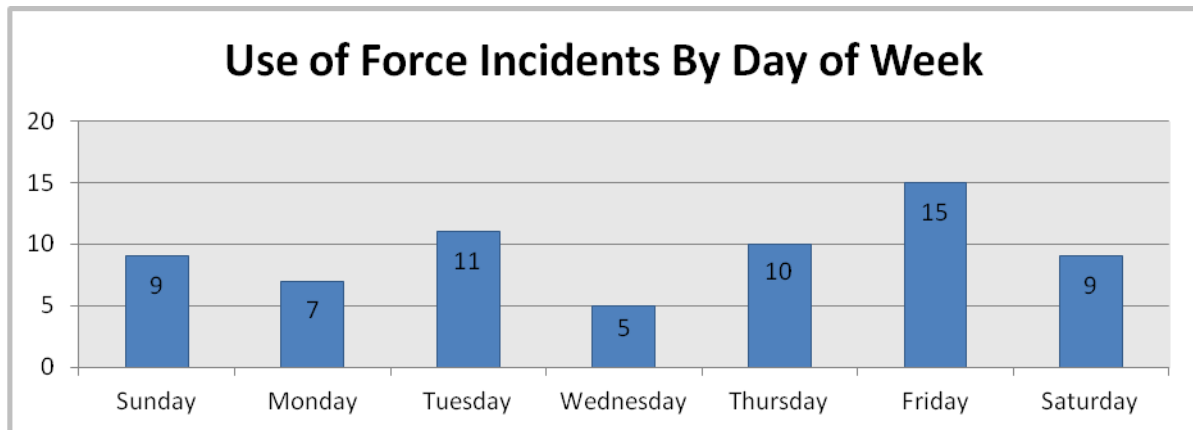
**Figure 2**

79 Officers were involved in at least one incident in which force was used. The number of officers involved in four or more use of force incidents decreased from 3 officers in 2014 to 2 officers in 2015. Professional Standards is notified by an alert if an officer is involved in 6 or more use of force incidents in a 12 month period. A review of those use of force incidents is conducted and sent to the officer's immediate supervisor for review and consideration.



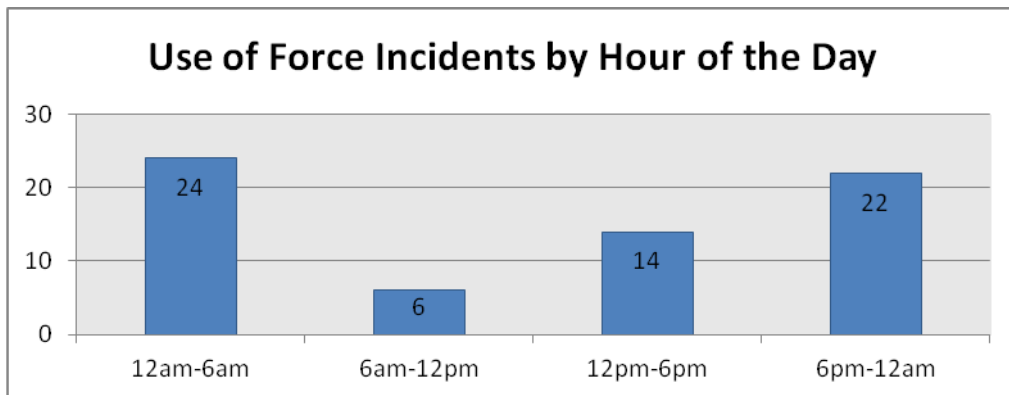
**Figure 3**

Figure 3 (above) illustrates the number of incidents involving use of force by month. Use of force incidents occurred most often in July.



**Figure 4**

Figure 4 (above) illustrates the frequency of use of force incidents by the day of the week. Use of force incidents occurred most often on Fridays.



**Figure 5**

Figure 5 (above) illustrates the frequency of use of force incidents by the time of the day. Use of force incidents occurred most often between 12am-6am.

<b>Race/Gender</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
White Male	35
White Female	6
Black Male	12
Black Female	3
Hispanic Male	1
Unknown	1

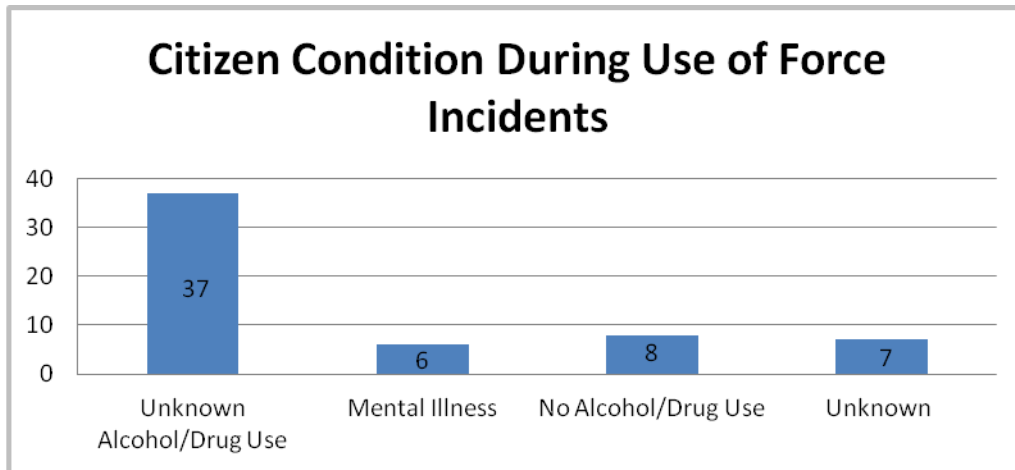
**Figure 6**

Figure 6 (above) illustrates the race and gender of the citizen force was used against. The table does not include incidents of force involving crowd situations or force used on dangerous animals. The average age of citizens involved in a use of force encounter with police officers is 35 years of age.

<b>Reported Injuries</b>	
Officer Injury	12
Citizen Injury	16

**Figure 7**

Figure seven (above) illustrates both citizen and officer injuries that occurred during use of force incidents in 2015.



**Figure 8**

Figure eight (above) illustrates the reported condition of the citizen when a use of force incident occurred. The table does not include incidents of force involving crowd situations or force used on dangerous animals.

### Summary

In 2015 the Asheville Police Department received 106,779 calls for service and reported 66 incidents involving the use or display of force. Using this data, incidents involving force or display of force occur once per 1,618 calls for service or 0.062%, which is a decrease from the .065% in 2014. While it is recognized that each call for service does not involve face-to-face contact with citizens, there are also a significant number of direct contacts which are not documented. Such contacts include citizens approaching officers for advice, giving directions to motorists and other informal activities which are not documented in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

2015 has shown a 10.8% decrease (74 in 2014 to 66 in 2015) in the number of incidents resulting in use of force compared to the previous calendar year. The department has continued to place emphasis on force-related training and enhanced communications skills during the course of the year. In addition to mandated training for recruits during the department's police academy, in-service training related to force issues has included:

- Review of Deadly Force Law/Policy (Annual Firearms Qualification)
- Annual Legal Update Training
- OC Spray Review
- Taser Certification/Recertification

All use of force reports submitted in 2015 received a chain-of-command review to ensure compliance with applicable policy, procedure and law. Additionally, use force reports are reviewed by the Force/Pursuit Review Committee at the discretion of the Chief of Police to ensure compliance with standards, and identify applicable training needs or policy modifications.