

[EXTERNAL]: Re: RE - MuckRock - Use of Forces

Matthew Jerzyk <mjerzyk@gmail.com>

Mon 12/12/2022 1:22 PM

To: 127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com <127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com>; Lisa Dias <ldias@centralfallsri.us>

2 attachments (905 KB)

Summary of use of force anlysis 2021.pdf; 2021 suspect non-compliance analysis.pdf;

Dec. 12, 2022

Mr. Sinyangwe,

At the time of our prior Records Response, the 2021 Use of Force reports were not yet completed. They are now and I am attaching them for your convenience.

Best,  
Matt

~~~~~  
Matthew Jerzyk, Esq.  
Central Falls City Solicitor  
580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863  
E-mail: [mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us](mailto:mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us)  
Phone: 401-556-7412

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On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 1:50 PM Matthew Jerzyk <[mjerzyk@gmail.com](mailto:mjerzyk@gmail.com)> wrote:  
June 1, 2022

Mr. Samuel Sinyangwe  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 127936  
411 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

VIA EMAIL  
[127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com)

RE: ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

**Central Falls Police Department**



# Use of Force Annual Summary Report

**Lt. Joseph Tougas**

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## Introduction

The Central Falls Police Department maintains a commitment to our community by respecting the citizens we serve, acting with integrity and demonstrating accountability to those that we serve.

The fundamental mission of the Central Falls Police Department is to protect life and property; enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner; preserve the peace, order, and safety of the community we serve; safeguard the constitutional guarantees; and provide other police-related services as required by the community in a manner consistent with the values of a free society.

It is the policy of the Central Falls Police Department that our officers may only use the amount of force that is objectively reasonable and necessary in the performance of their legal duties. The Central Falls Police Department use of force policies is consistent with the laws of the United States, the State of Rhode Island and the ordinances of the City of Central Falls, with identified "best practices."

## Section One: Incident Information

**The total number of use of force incidents:** 35 (-2.8% compared to 2020)

According to the department's Computer-Aided Dispatch information from January 1 through December 31 of 2021, the Central Falls Police Department's officers responded to a total of 35,125 calls for service (down 5.9% from 2020).

The ratio of use of force incidents per call for service in 2021 was 0.099%.

### Arrest Data:

- 659 arrests in 2021
- 437 custodial arrests in 2021
- 5.31% ratio of use of force incidents to arrests
- 6.17% ratio of use of force incidents to custodial arrests

### Domestic Violence Incidents:

- 9 incidents of domestic violence resulted in a use of force incident in 2021 based upon investigations after arrival of officers.

**Incident Origin:** (Initial Call Resulting in Use of Force Incident)

- Domestic Violence Call – 7
- During a custodial arrest – 5
- Gun Call – 4
- Disturbance – 2
- Breaking and Entering – 1
- Suspicious Person – 1
- Search Warrant – 3
- Unwanted Person – 3
- Armed Subject – 2
- Vehicle Stop – 3
- Wanted Subject – 2

**Officer's Force Response:**

| Force Response                  | Total Uses | % of Uses |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Firearm Displayed               | 11         | 31%       |
| Weaponless/Empty Hand Technique | 13         | 37%       |
| OC Spray                        | 0          | 0%        |
| TASER Use/Discharge             | 0          | 0%        |
| TASER Display                   | 2          | 6%        |
| Canine Bite                     | 0          | 0%        |
| Restraint Chair                 | 2          | 6%        |
| Multiple Force Options Utilized | 7          | 20%       |

**There was a 26.67% decrease in use of force incidents involving firearms displays from the previous year. In 2021, 27% of the incidents involving a firearm display resulted from the execution of a court authorized search warrant.**

**Multiple Force Options Deployed:**

- Weaponless & TASER Deployed 5
- TASER Display & Weaponless 2

### Use of Force by Quarter:

- January – March: 15
- April – June: 7
- July – September: 4
- October – December: 9

### Use of Force by Day of Week:

- Sunday 3
- Monday 3
- Tuesday 4
- Wednesday 6
- Thursday 10
- Friday 2
- Saturday 7

### Use of Force by Shift:

- Mornings (12am-8am) 5
- Days (8am-4pm) 13
- Nights (4pm-12am) 17

## Section Two: Involved Persons' Information

### Injuries to Citizens due to use of force: 7

6 of the persons injured involved some reported level of impairment.

### Involved Persons' Impairment Resulting in Injury:

- Alcohol 5
- Drugs 0
- Multiple Factors 1

### Force Option Utilized Resulting in Injury:

- Weaponless 3
- TASER Deployed & Weaponless 3
- TASER Displayed & Weaponless 1

### Involved Persons' Gender Identification:

- Male 35
- Female 8

### Involved Persons' Race/Ethnicity Identification:

- White 8
- Black 13
- Hispanic 21
- Unknown 1

52.4% of all custodial arrests in 2021 were persons' identifying as Hispanic. 22.8% were white and 24.7% were black.

### Involved Persons' by Age:

| Age Group | Total Use of Force Subjects | % of use of force subjects |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Under 20  | 6                           | 14.0%                      |
| 20-29     | 15                          | 34.9%                      |
| 30-39     | 13                          | 30.2%                      |
| 40-49     | 7                           | 16.3%                      |
| 50+       | 1                           | 2.3%                       |
| Unknown   | 1                           | 2.3%                       |

### Involved Persons' Impairment Factors:

- Alcohol 9
- Drugs 3
- Mental Health 3
- Combination of Factors 4

In 2021, 54.2% of all use of force incidents involved some form of impairment of the involved person. There was a 80% increase in alcohol related use of force incidents and an 66.67% decrease in use of force incidents involving a person suffering a mental health matter.

### Section Three: Officers Involved

#### Ethnicity of Officers Utilizing Force: (excludes search warrants)

- White 18
- Hispanic 7
- Black 2
- Mixed Race 1

#### Gender Identification of Officers Utilizing Force: (excludes search warrants)

- Male 23
- Female 5

#### Age of Officers Utilizing Force: (excludes search warrants)

| Age Group | Total Use of Force Incidents |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 20-29     | 7                            |
| 30-39     | 12                           |
| 40-49     | 7                            |
| 50+       | 2                            |

#### Officers Injured in Use of Force Incidents:

- 11 officers were injured.



## Section Four: Impact Findings

- There was a 31% decrease in use of force incidents involving black (non-Hispanic) subjects.
- There use of force analysis did not identify any equipment issues that needed correction.
- There were no documented instances of equipment failure.
- All reports were properly submitted according to policy.
- There were issues with timely reviews, workflow notifications, and revisions due to the Benchmark Analytics software and notification abilities.
- There were no civilian complaints relating to excessive use of force in 2021.
- The last Use of Force Policy review and revision took place on June 8, 2021.

This information was provided by the Central Falls Police Department to better inform the community we serve about the use of force incidents. The officers of this agency are empowered by the laws of the United States and the State of Rhode Island to lawfully use force when objectively reasonable and necessary. This authority is viewed as a tremendous responsibility to our community and the officers wish to be transparent so that our community understands that, although a statistical rarity, sometimes the officers of the Central Falls Police Department have to lawfully gain compliance in the performance of their official duties.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Captain Craig Viens, the Captain of the Administrative/Investigative Division, at 401-616-2508 or [cviens@cfpd.centralfallsri.gov](mailto:cviens@cfpd.centralfallsri.gov).



# CENTRAL FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT SUSPECT NON- COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS 2021

This analysis documents use of force incidents involving the Central Falls Police Department in 2021. The purpose of this review and analysis is to determine any patterns or trends that may exist in agency use of force incidents.

*A Central Falls  
Police Department  
Annual Report*

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| Incident #25: September 11, 2021, 1344 hours ..... | 34 |
| Incident #26: September 23, 2021, 2003 hours ..... | 34 |
| Incident #27: October 5, 2021, 1750 hours .....    | 35 |
| Incident #28: October 13, 2021, 1930 hours .....   | 35 |
| Incident #29: October 16, 2021, 1344 hours .....   | 35 |
| Incident #30: November 3, 2021, 1610 hours .....   | 35 |
| Incident #31: November 9, 2021, 1130 hours .....   | 36 |
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# Suspect Non-Compliance Analysis – 2021

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## Executive Summary

The Central Falls Police Department has concluded its annual analysis of suspect non-compliance incidents for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. For purposes of this report, suspect non-compliance and/or use of force may be used interchangeably. The analysis was conducted by Lieutenant Joseph Tougas at the direction of the Chief of Police, Colonel Anthony J. Roberson.

As part of the analysis, all suspect non-compliance reports submitted to the Office of Professional Standards via Benchmark Analytics were reviewed. Procedurally, each time a suspect non-compliance occurred, where force was utilized or a firearm or Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) was displayed, a report must be completed in Benchmark Analytics (post May 2020), documenting the incident, suspect information and the reason for the use of force. A reportable use of force is defined as any incident in which a sworn department member exercises their police powers and uses lethal force or any force option including physical force. By policy, the Central Falls Police Department is prohibited from utilizing warning shots. Furthermore, the agency is prohibited from using choke holds or vascular neck restraints in a use of force situations, unless the incident is a lethal force encounter.

Once the suspect non-compliance report is completed, it is reviewed and approved by a supervisor and submitted to additional agency members for review. Those additional reviews are conducted by a certified Use of Force instructor to determine if there were any training concerns, and a final review is completed by the Office of Professional Standards and Training to determine overall compliance with agency policies and/or rules and regulations. The Office of Professional Standards and Training is overseen by the Major of the Administrative/Investigative Division, Major Christopher Reed, and is also comprised of a Captain of the Administrative/Investigative Division, Captain Craig Viens, and a Lieutenant within the division assigned primarily to Accreditation.

The Use of Force Policy, [General Order #200.03](#), was updated on June 8, 2021, and redistributed to all sworn personnel. In 2020, the RI Interlocal Trust conducted its scheduled “Use of Force model policy review,” which occurs every four (4) years. Also in 2020, following several high profile use of force encounters nationwide, such as the George Floyd incident, Mayor James Diossa formed a Central Falls Policing and Use of Force Commission. The recommendations of the Commission were forwarded to the Mayor for review and selected changes were added to the newly released 2020 model Use of Force Policy from the RI Interlocal Trust and included in subsequent revisions of the policy. In addition to the policy reviews of 2021, the Use of Force Policy is reviewed annually by the agency’s Use of Force instructor(s) and the Office of Professional Standards and Training. Throughout the year, additional conversations, review, or examination of the policy may take place in Command Staff meetings to determine if an immediate revision is warranted depending on current national trends, liability matters, accreditation revisions, or other concerns.

During the review process of each suspect non-compliance report, if a reviewing supervisor, Use of Force Instructor, or the Office of Professional Standards and Training believes a violation of policy, rules and regulations, or best practices has occurred, the matter is presented to the Chief of Police and an Internal Affairs investigation may commence at the Chief's direction.

All use of force encounters resulting in the use of deadly force follow the protocols of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island. Attorney General Peter F. Neronha updated the state's deadly force protocols on June 17, 2020, and this was distributed to all sworn agency personnel. The updated protocols require law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island to implement the Attorney General protocols anytime a police officer uses deadly force, a person dies while in police custody or during apprehension and/or attempted apprehension, a police officer uses less than lethal force that results in serious bodily injury to a person, and if the department receives a complaint alleging that a police officer used "excessive force" during his/her interaction with a person, and there is evidence, to warrant additional investigation. In 2021, there were no allegations or complaints filed with the Central Falls Police Department or any other agency alleging the use of excessive force.

### Response Data 2021

In 2021, the Central Falls Police Department responded to a total of 35,125 calls for service, which was a 5.87% decrease in calls for service from 2020, which logged 37,314 calls for service. In 2021, there was a 2.77% decrease in documented use of force encounters from the prior year. The agency also observed a further reduction in custodial arrests in 2021, where of the 659 arrests conducted by the agency (a 19.04% reduction from 2020); only 437 were custodial arrests, a (6.62% decrease from 2020). In 2021, there was an 11.29% decrease in felony arrests from 2020, a 7.14% decrease in warrant arrest from 2020, and a 1.82% increase in summons arrest (non-custodial) from 2020.

Table 1 - Use of Force Response Data

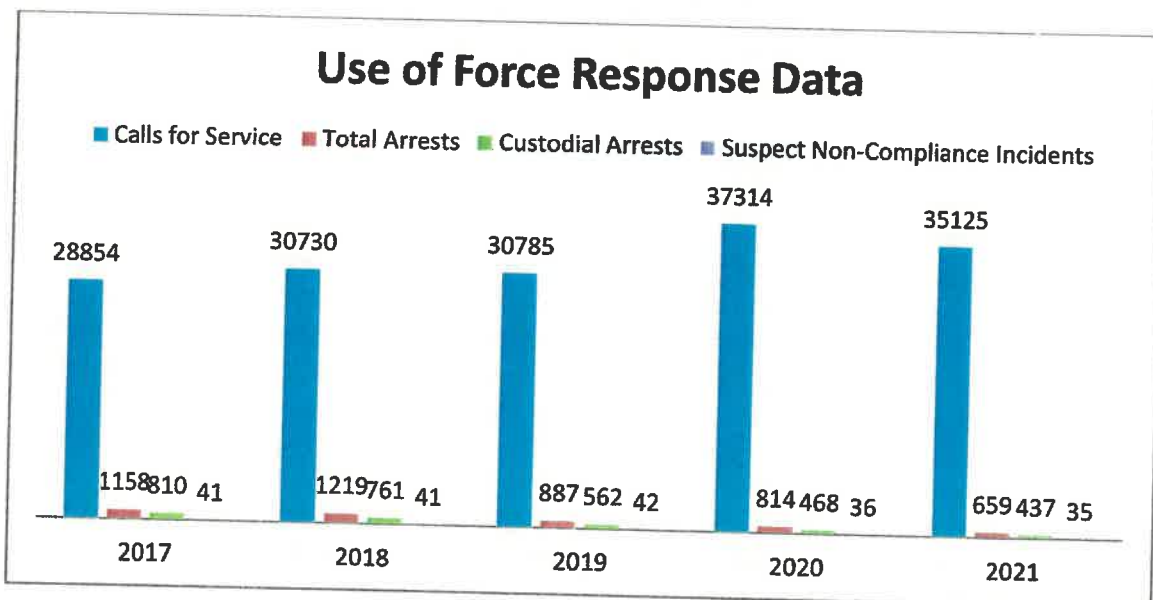
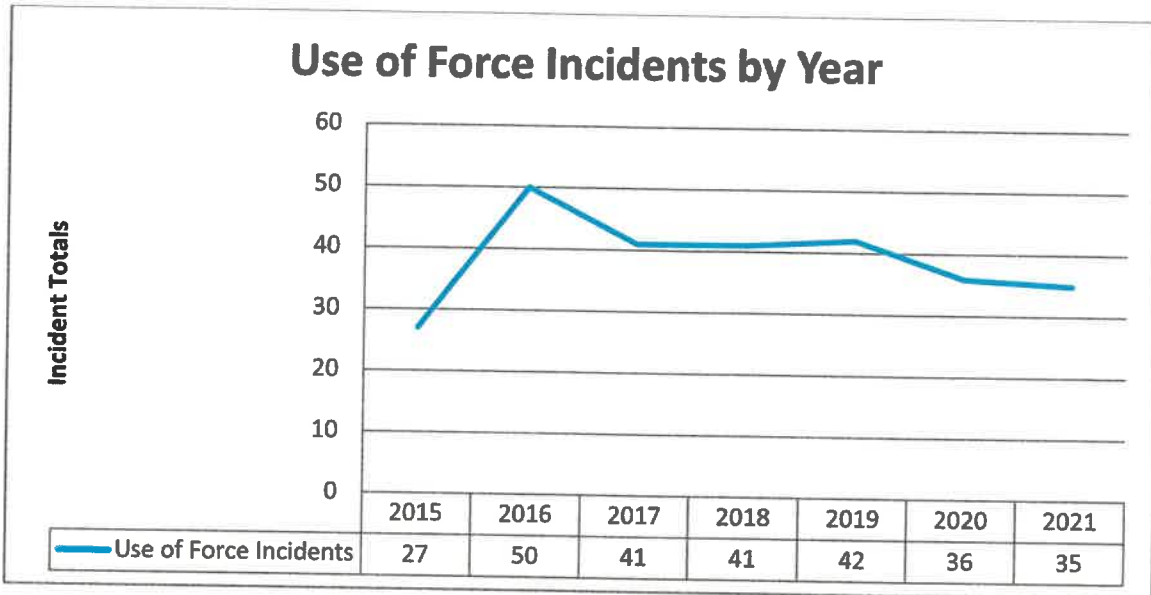


Table 2 - Use of Force Incidents by Year



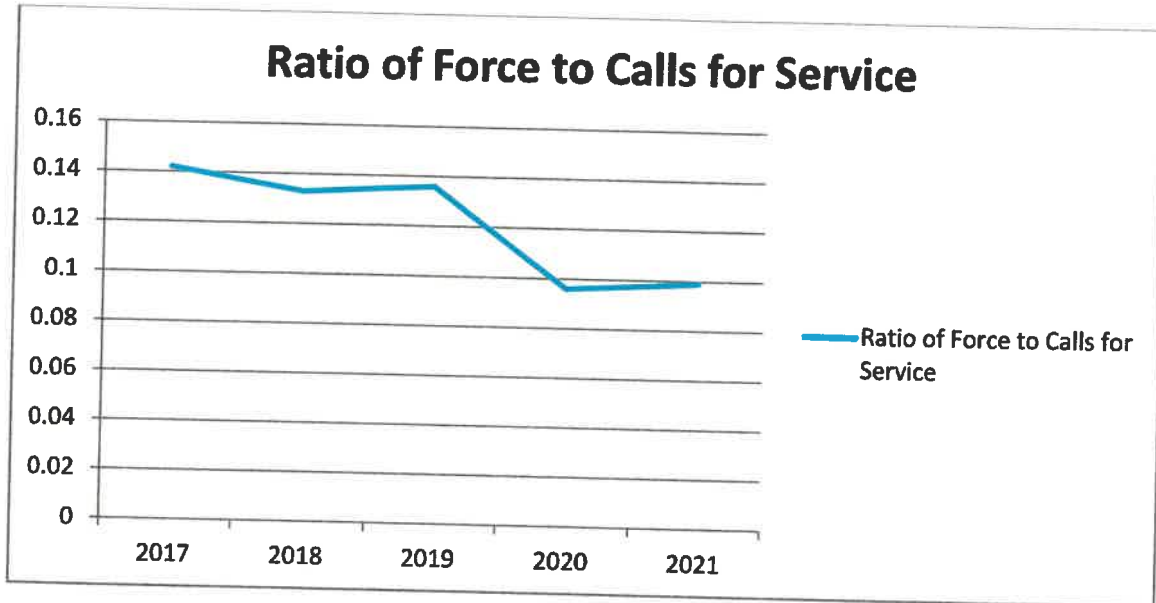
Based on the historical data of use of force incidents involving the Central Falls Police Department over the past seven (7) years, the average amount of use of force incidents based on the historical data is 38.9 incidents per year (a decrease of 1.5 incidents from the prior year). In 2021, the agency had the lowest reported use of force incidents in a single year since 2015. Based on the data from the years preceding 2021, the agency will continue to monitor the statistical data to observe if the decrease in use of force incidents the past two (2) years is a trend correlated to training and de-escalation techniques.

Table 3 - Use of Force Incidents to Calls for Service Ratio

|                                           | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Use of Force Incident                     | 41     | 41     | 42     | 36     | 35     |
| Calls for Service                         | 28854  | 30730  | 30785  | 37314  | 35125  |
| Ratio (Use of Force to Calls for Service) | 0.142% | 0.133% | 0.136% | 0.096% | 0.099% |



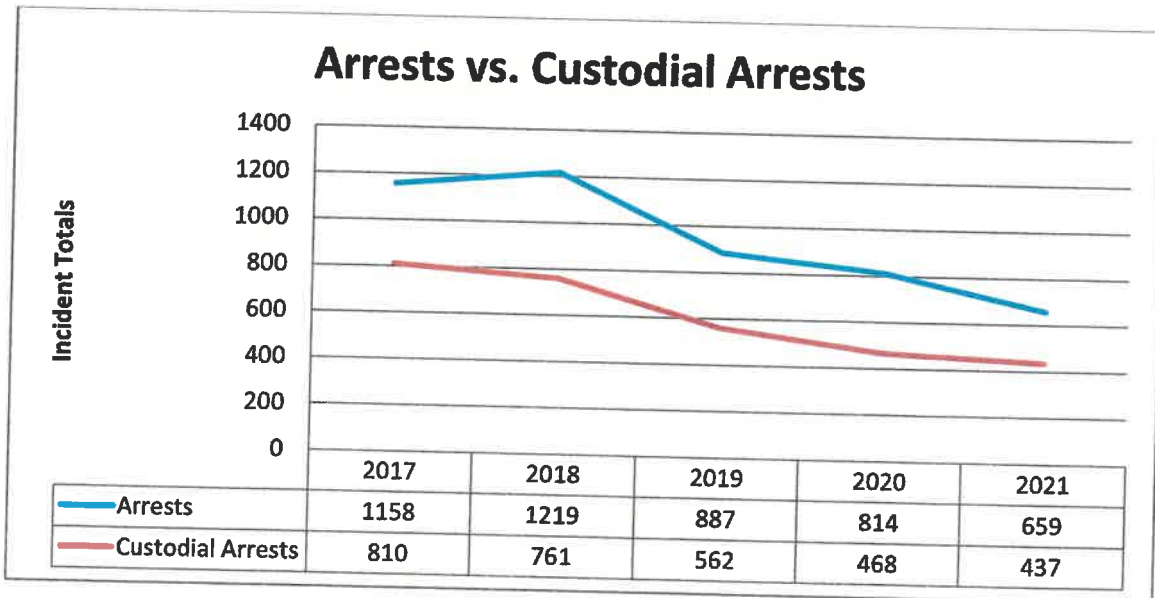
Table 4 - Ratio of Force Incident to Calls for Service



In 2021, the agency had a similar ratio for use of force incidents to calls for service when compared to 2020. In the past five (5) years, since this data began being tracked by the agency. The historical average ratio prior to 2021 over the prior four (4) years is 0.126%. Based on this statistical average, the use of force incident ratio to calls for service was below the historical average ratio.

### Use of Force Incidents to Arrests

Table 5 - Arrests vs. Custodial Arrests



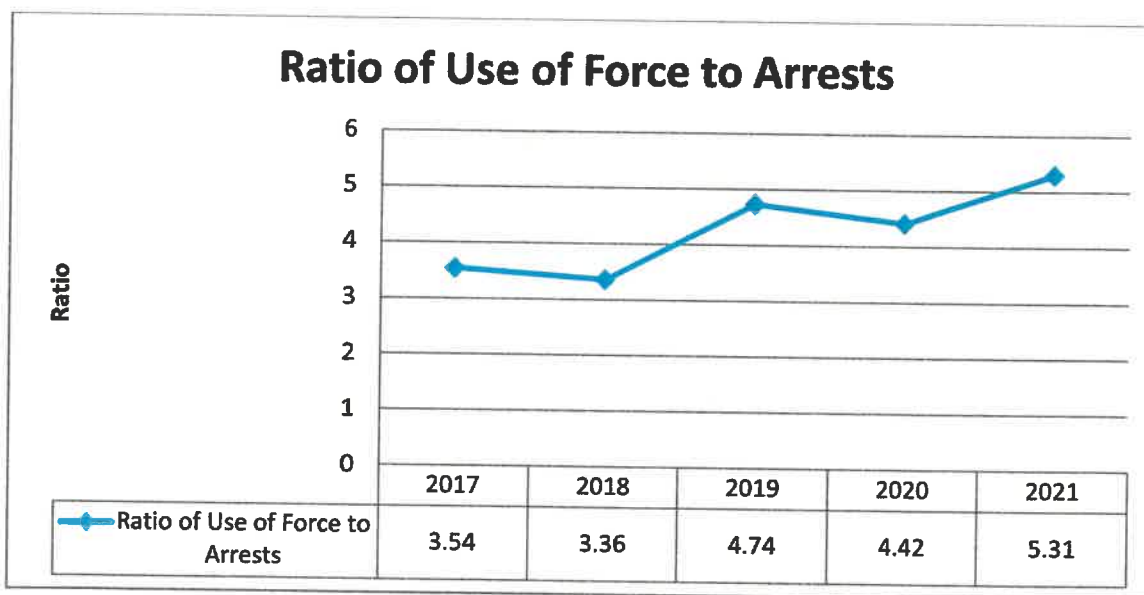
Since, 2017, the agency has had fewer custodial arrests each year, and a drop in arrests (both custodial and summons) in both 2019 and 2020. In 2021, the agency had a 1.82% increase in

summons arrest from the prior year. Based on the four (4) year span prior to 2021, the historical data shows an average of 1020 arrests per year and 650 custodial arrests per year. In 2021, the agency data is below the annual average for arrests and custodial arrests. The reductions may be attributed to COVID-19, newly revised laws decriminalizing drug and license offense, and this data will need further analysis overtime going forward to determine if it is an actual trend or a result of diversion programs and decriminalization of certain offenses

Table 6 - Use of Force Incidents to Arrests Ratio

|                                        | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  |
|----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Use of Force Incident</b>           | 41    | 41    | 42    | 36    | 35    |
| <b>Arrests</b>                         | 1158  | 1219  | 887   | 814   | 659   |
| <b>Ratio (Use of Force to Arrests)</b> | 3.54% | 3.36% | 4.74% | 4.42% | 5.31% |

Table 7 - Ratio of Use of Force to Arrests Chart

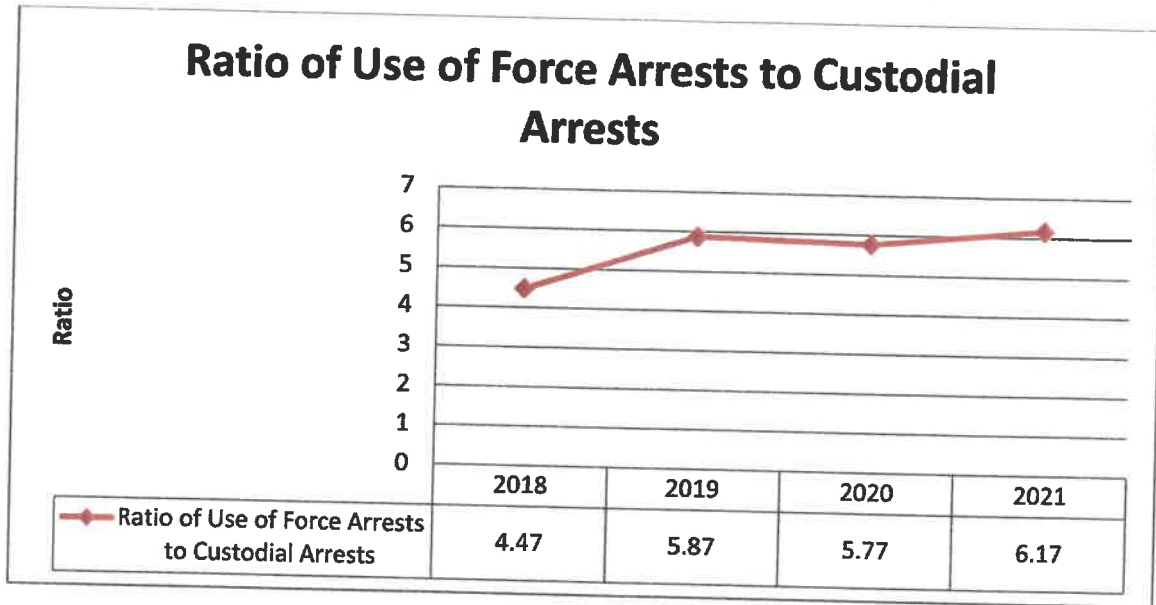


The agency began tracking use of force incidents in comparison to actual arrests and established a ratio for analytical purposes starting in 2017. The average ratio over that span is 4.02% (2017-2020). In 2021, there was 32.1% increase in the 2021 ratio of use of force to arrests when compared to the historical average ratio over the prior four (4) year span. There was also an 88.9% increase in the ratio of use of force to arrests in 2021 when compared to the prior year.

Table 8 - Custodial Use of Force Incidents to Custodial Arrests Ratio

|                                        | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  |
|----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Custodial Use of Force Incident</b> | 34    | 33    | 27    | 27    |
| <b>Custodial Arrests</b>               | 761   | 562   | 468   | 437   |
| <b>Ratio</b>                           | 4.47% | 5.87% | 5.77% | 6.17% |

Table 9 - Ratio of Custodial Use of Force Incidents to Custodial Arrests



In 2021, the agency used force in twenty-seven (27) custodial arrests, the same as 2020; however this amount of use of force incidents involving arrest was an 18% reduction in force from 2019, in which the agency used force in thirty-three (33) custodial arrest incidents. Based on the 2021 use of force statistics, the agency utilized force in 6.17% of all custodial arrests, and increase of 6.9% from 2020.

Table 10 - 2021 Suspect Non-Compliance per Calls for Service Chart

### 2021 Suspect Non-Compliance per Call for Service

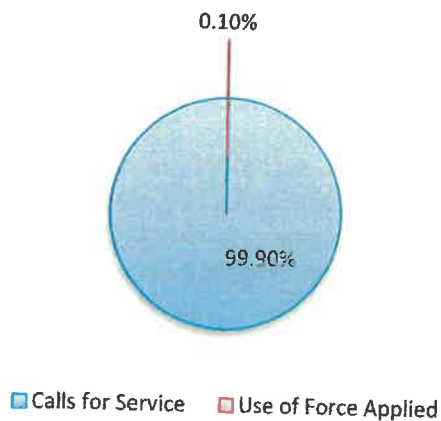


Table 11 - 2020 Suspect Non-Compliance per Calls for Service Chart

### 2020 Suspect Non-Compliance per Call for Service

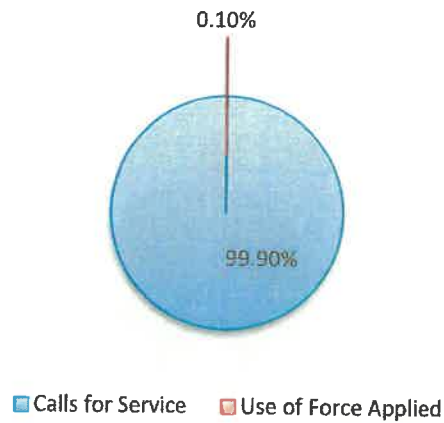


Table 12 - 2021 Suspect Non-Compliance per Custodial Arrest Chart

### 2021 Suspect Non-Compliance per Custodial Arrest

■ Custodial Arrests ■ Use of Force Incidents during arrests

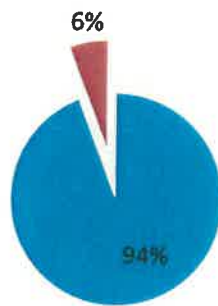
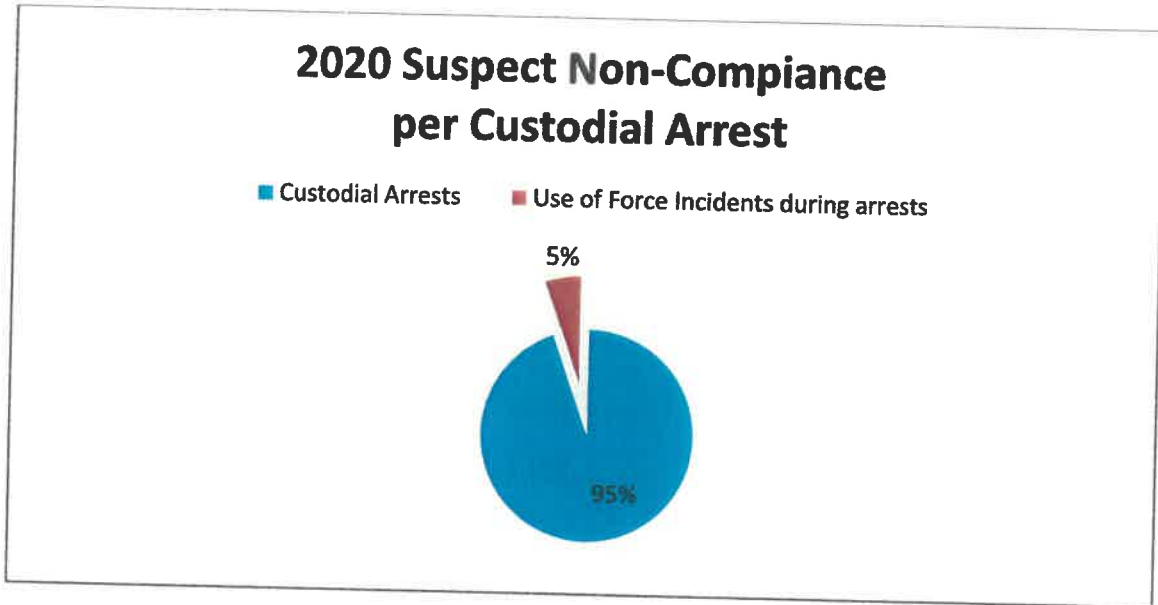
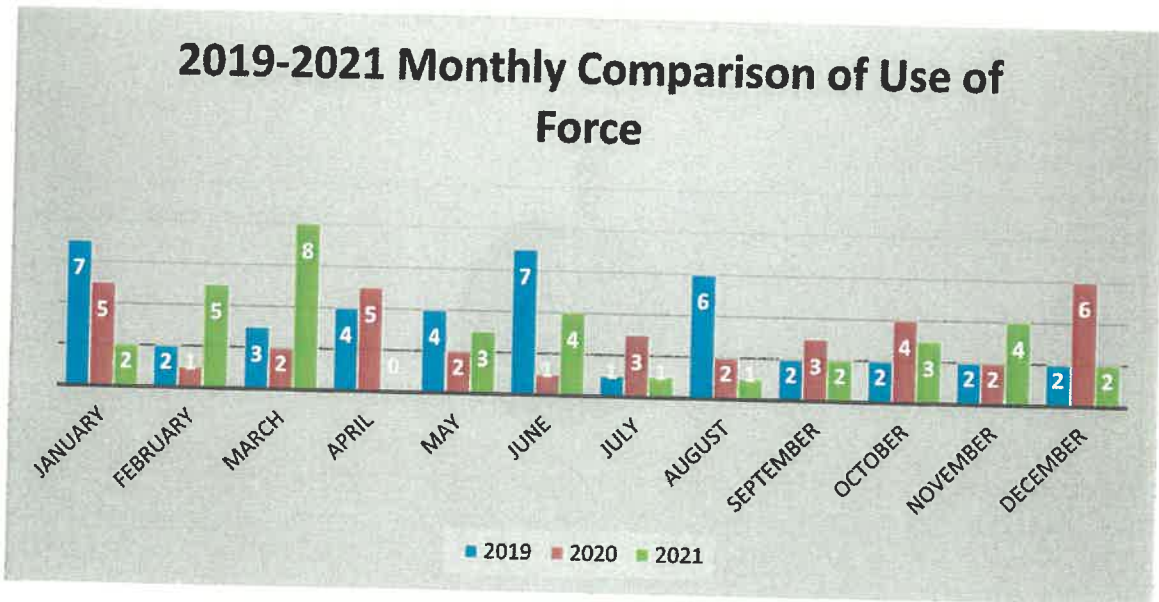


Table 13 - 2020 Suspect Non-Compliance per Custodial Arrest Chart



## Suspect Non-Compliance Incidents by Month

Table 14 - Monthly Comparison Chart for Use of Force



This chart represents a review of suspect non-compliance incidents for the past three (3) years by month. In 2021, there were large spikes in use of force incidents from prior years in the months of February and March. In 2021, 42.8% of all use of force incidents for the year occurred in the first three (3) months of the year. The following nine (9) months, there were only twenty (20) use of force incident, with four (4) being the highest in any month. The spike in the winter months may have been attributed to prior COVID-19 lockdowns being lifted and a return to more normal day-to-day activities.

Table 15 - Use of Force by Quarter

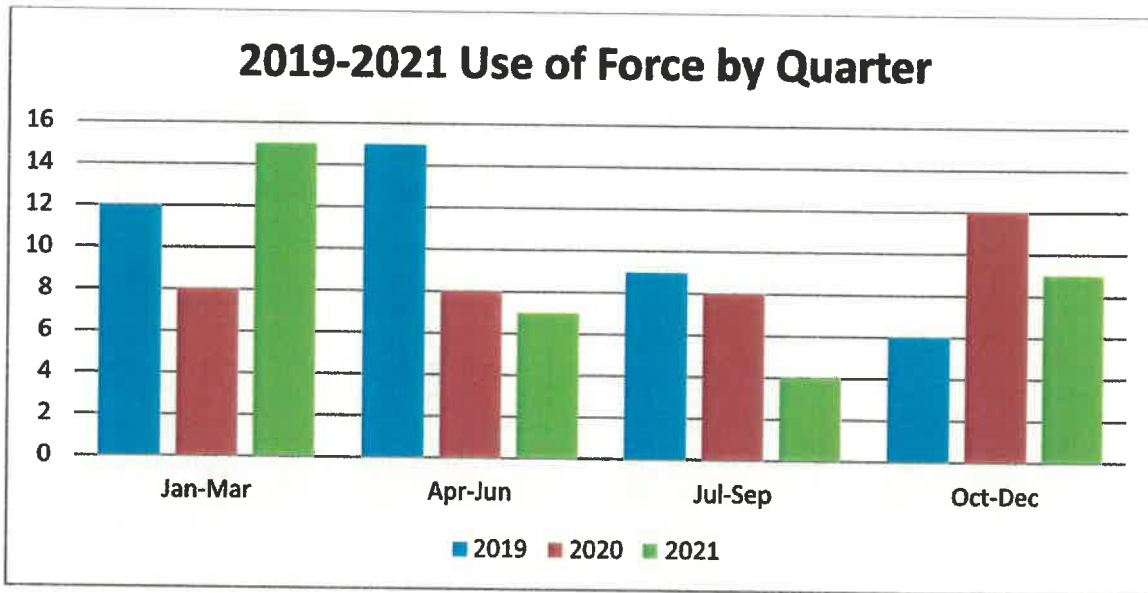


Table 16 - Average Use of Force Incidents by Quarter

|         | Avg. 2018-2020 | Avg. 2019-2021 | Variance Pct. |
|---------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Jan-Mar | 9.67           | 11.67          | +20.7%        |
| Apr-Jun | 10.67          | 10.00          | -6.3%         |
| Jul-Sep | 9.67           | 7.00           | -27.6%        |
| Oct-Dec | 9.67           | 9.00           | -6.9%         |

In 2020, the agency began looking at use of force incidents by quarter to gain a better perspective of use of force trends and patterns. A view of use of force incidents over the three (3) previous years based on the quarter shows the average amount of use of force incidents in the first, third and fourth quarter to be 9.67. In the second quarter, the average amount of incidents is 10.67 uses of force. In 2021, there was a decrease in use of force incidents in the second, third and fourth quarters, with there being a 27.6% reduction in use of force incidents from the previous average. There was also a noted 20.7% increase in the average number incidents in the first quarter of 2021. These averages will be monitored going forward for more accurate trend analysis.

## Suspect Non-Compliance Incidents by Day & Time

Table 17 - Suspect Non-Compliance Incident by Day Graph

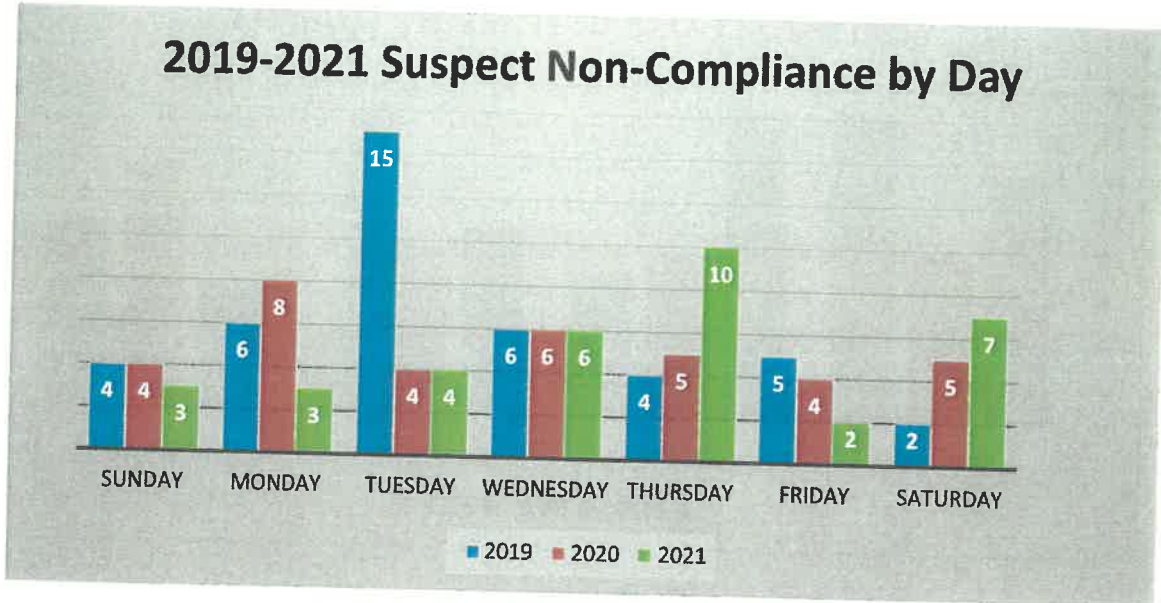


Table 18- Average Suspect Non-Compliance by Day (2019-2021)

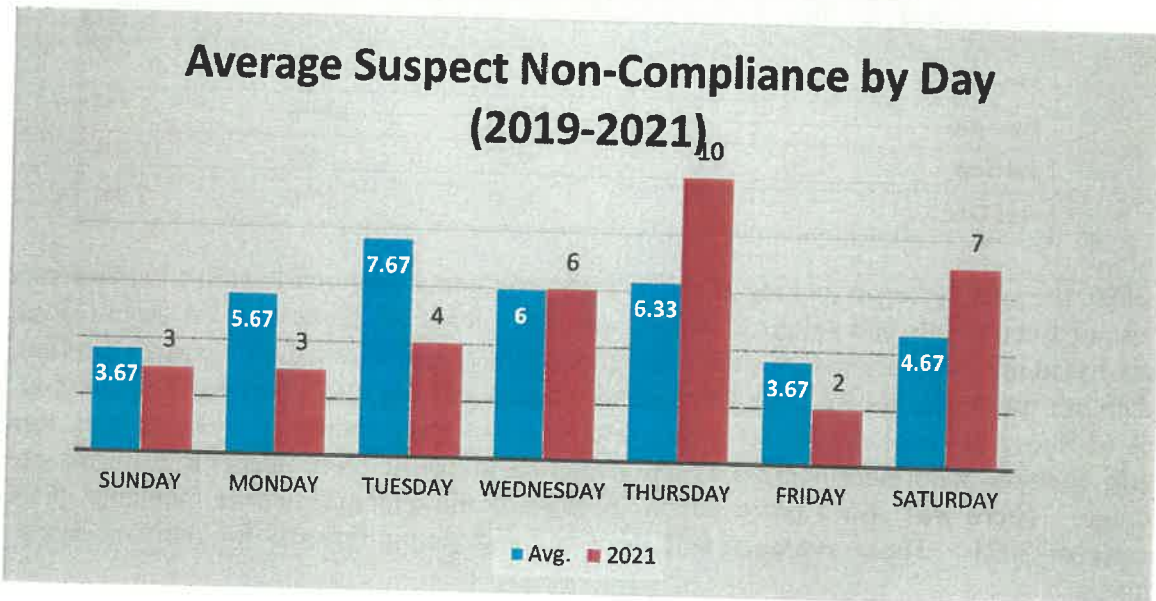


Table 17 illustrates overall the majority of suspect non-compliance incidents are comparable; however, in 2019 a greater likelihood existed of a suspect non-compliance incident occurring between Monday to Wednesday. In 2020, there was a spike in use of force incidents on Mondays. There was no identifiable trend to explain the increase in use of force incidents on Mondays in 2020. In 2021, there were noticeable spikes in use of force incidents on both Thursdays and Saturdays when compared to the prior two (2) years. In Table 18, every day in 2021, was at or below the historical average over three (3) years with the exception of Thursday and Saturday which saw spikes post COVID lockdowns and business re-openings in 2021.

Table 19 - Suspect Non-Compliance Incidents by Shift Graph

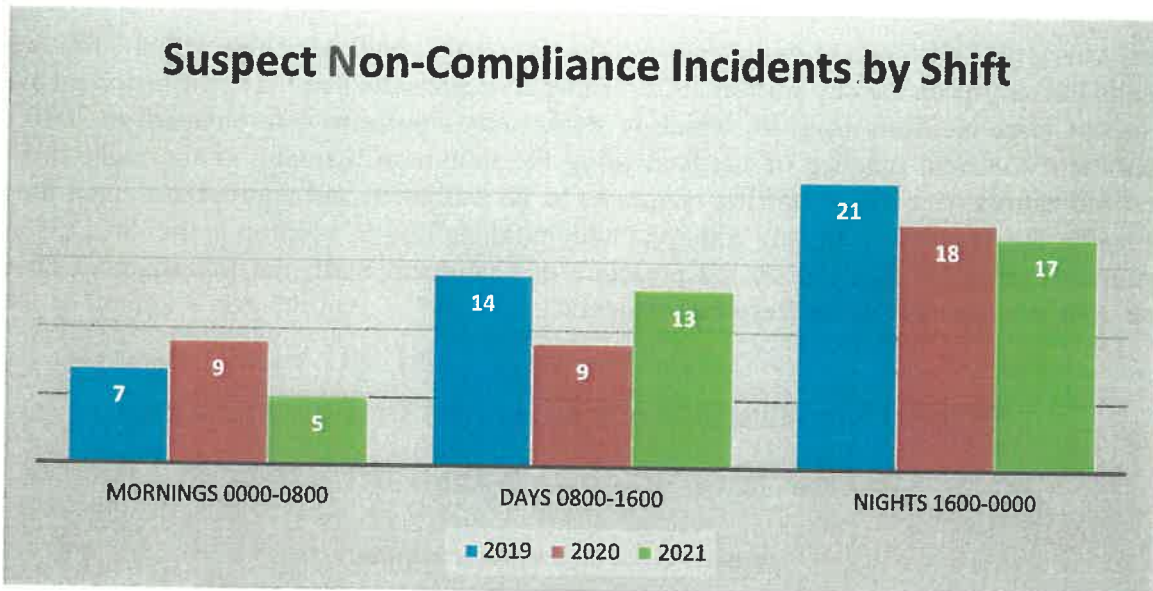
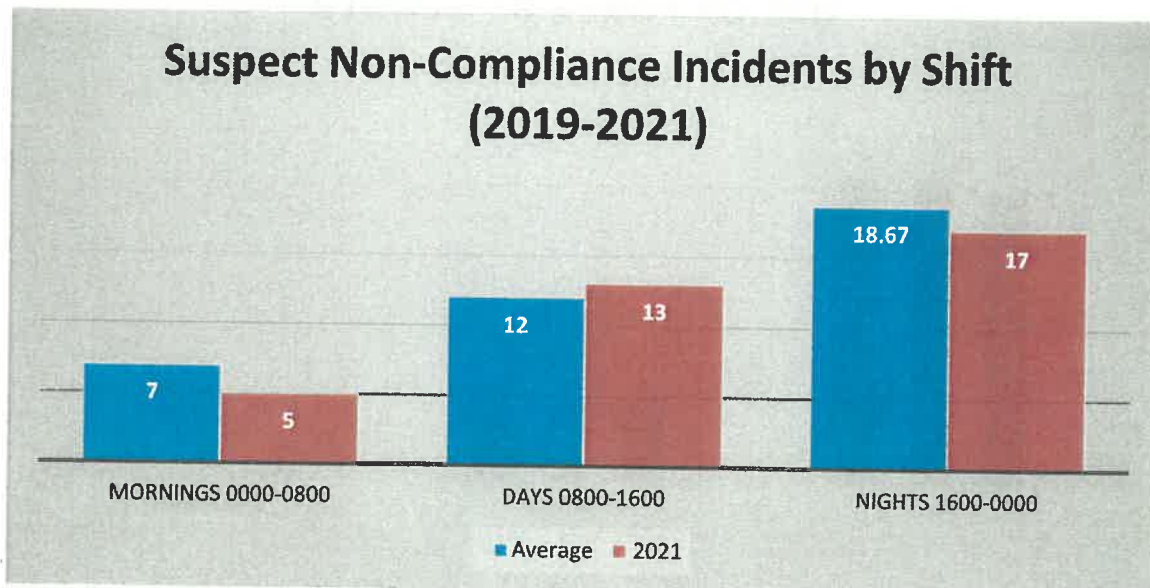


Table 20 - Historical Average Comparison of Suspect Non-Compliance by Shift



Analyzing suspect non-compliance data by shift (hours) illustrates the timeframe with the greatest likelihood of encountering non-compliance is the night shift (1600-0000 hours). In 2019, there was an 8.7% decrease in suspect non-compliance incidents on the night shift, which was previously the shift most likely to have a suspect non-compliance incident in 2018. In 2020, there was another reduction on the night shift, which was down 14.3% from 2019, followed by a 5.55% reduction in 2021 from the previous year. The night shift remains the shift most likely to have a use of force incident, mostly due to the frequency of interactions with public. The night shift, historically the shift with the most annual calls for service, fielded 12,341 calls for service in 2021, a 14% decrease from the previous year. Despite a reduction in use of force incidents on

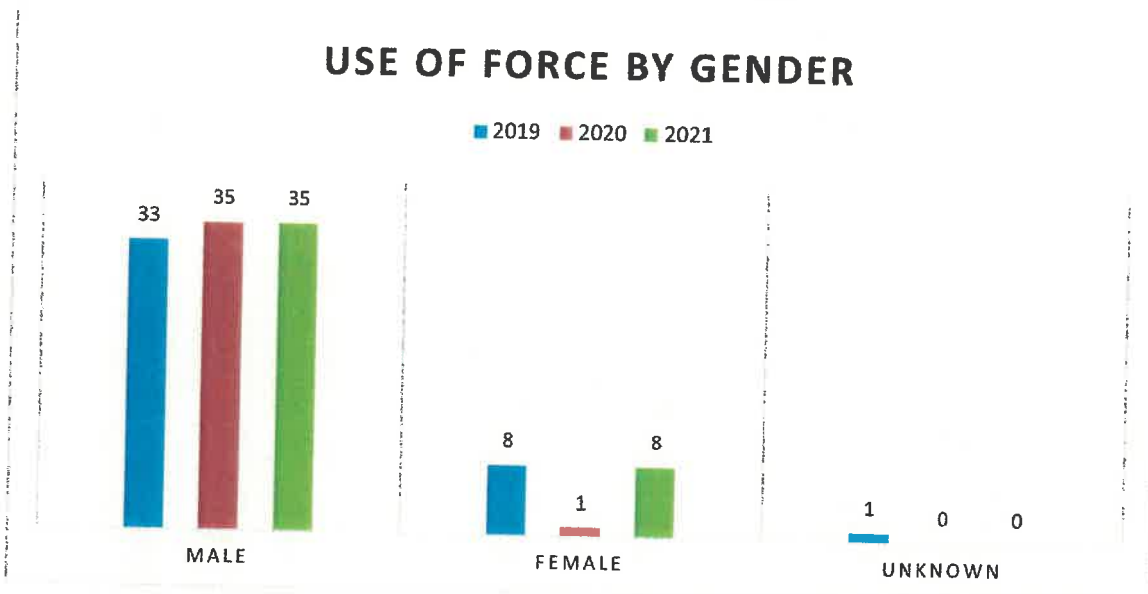


the night shift over the past three (3) years, the number of use of force incidents in 2020 was comparable to the historical average depicted in Table 20.

There was an 8.33% increase in incidents on the day shift, which coincides with a 7.8% increase in calls for service on the day shift in 2021. Table 20 depicts the three (3) year historical average of use of force incidents by shift, which is statistically similar to data obtained in 2020. The department's current practice of supplementing the minimum manning of the night shift with overtime patrols to increase staffing continues to be warranted and appropriate given the data. Typically, the day shift is already equipped with extra staffing in addition to the three (3) officer minimum during the week given the presence of Command Staff, the Investigative Division, detail officers, and the School Resource Officers.

### Suspect Non-Compliance Incidents Demographics by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age - 2019-2021

Table 21 - Use of Force Incidents by Gender



In 2021, number of use of force incidents involving male subjects was identical to 2020. In 2021, the agency was able to better track incidents involving multiple subjects that were part of a use of force incident involving weapons display. As a result, there were eight (8) use of force incidents involving females in 2021, a 700% increase from 2020; however, this is identical to the number of incidents involving females in 2019. Historically it remains a male is more likely to have a use of force encounter with an officer of the Central Falls Police Department.

## Use of Force by Race/Ethnicity of Subjects

Table 22 - Use of Force Incidents on Subjects by Race/Ethnicity

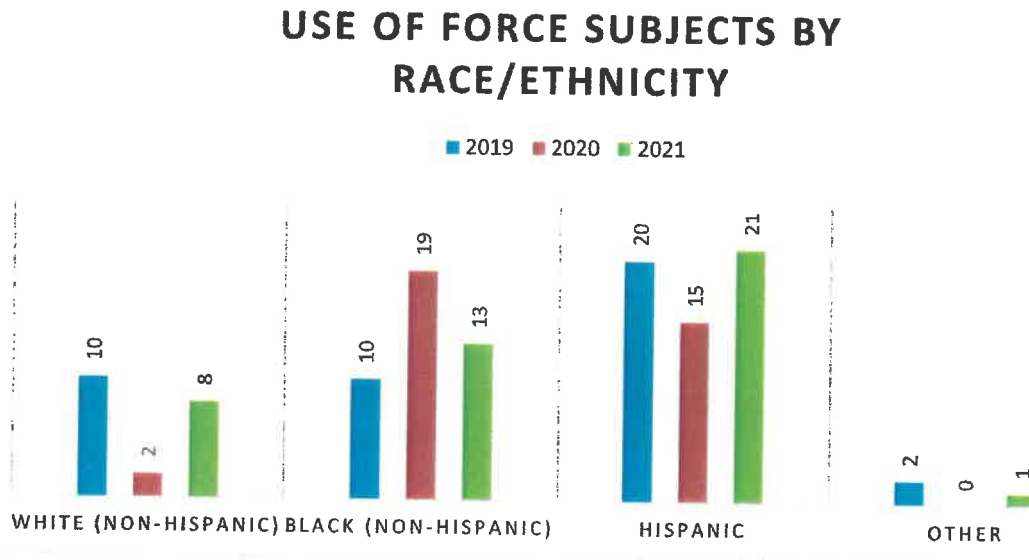


Table 23 - Average Use of Force by Race/Ethnicity (2019-2021)

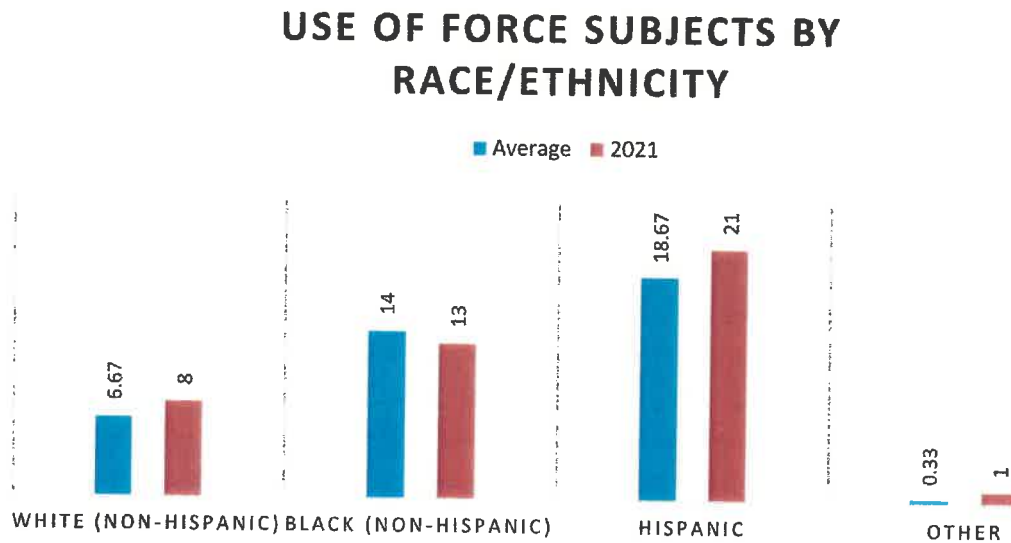


Table 24 - Use of Force by Ethnicity & Gender for 2019-2020

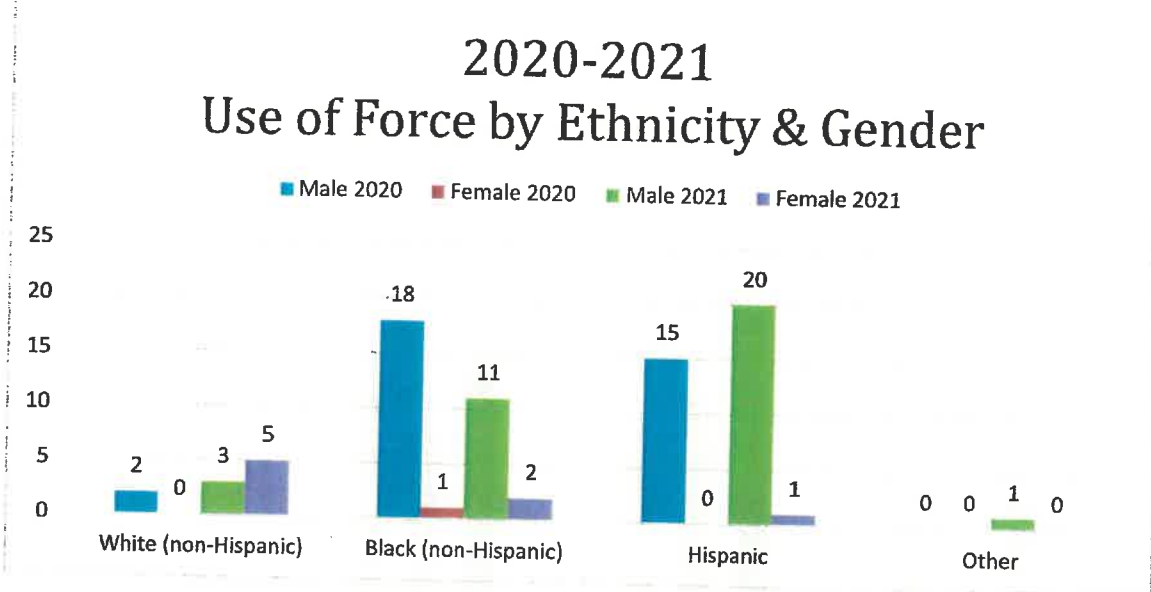


Table 22 depicts use of force on subjects by race or ethnicity. In 2020, there was an 80% decrease in use of force incidents involving white non-Hispanic subjects, while use of force incidents involving black non-Hispanic individuals increased by 90% in the same year. Also in 2020, there was a 25% reduction in use of force incidents from the prior year for Hispanic subjects. In 2021, the agency had a 300% increase in use of force incidents involving white non-Hispanic subjects, a 31.58% reduction in use of force incidents involving black non-Hispanic subjects, and a 40% increase in use of force incidents involving Hispanic subjects.

Table 23 depicts 2021 use of force incidents by race or ethnicity compared to a three (3) year historical average. Based on a review of use of force incidents in 2021, there was no commonality or trends that lead to a definitive explanation for the increase or decrease in use of force incidents by race or ethnicity. Data on use of force incidents by race or ethnicity will be closely monitored going forward to determine if there are any trends or patterns. There was not enough statistical data for females based on race/ethnicity. The additional tracking of multiple subjects involved in a use of force incident involving weapons display did attribute to some increases based on gender or race. The analysis of suspect non-compliance reports and citizen complaints with respect to use of force applications has not demonstrated any evidence of bias in the application of force when necessary, as in 2020 there were no complaints of excessive use of force by the agency.

Table 25 - Race and Hispanic Origin Data according to US Census

| Race and Hispanic Origin                                     |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Population estimated, July 1, 2019 (V2019)                   | 22,464 |
| White alone, percent                                         | 48.8%  |
| Black or African American alone, percent(a)                  | 10.0%  |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)          | 0.5%   |
| Asian alone, percent(a)                                      | 0.4%   |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a) | 0.3%   |
| Two or More Races, percent                                   | 9.7%   |
| Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)                               | 69.3%  |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent                 | 20.9%  |

Table 26 - Use of Force Incident Percentage by Race 2020

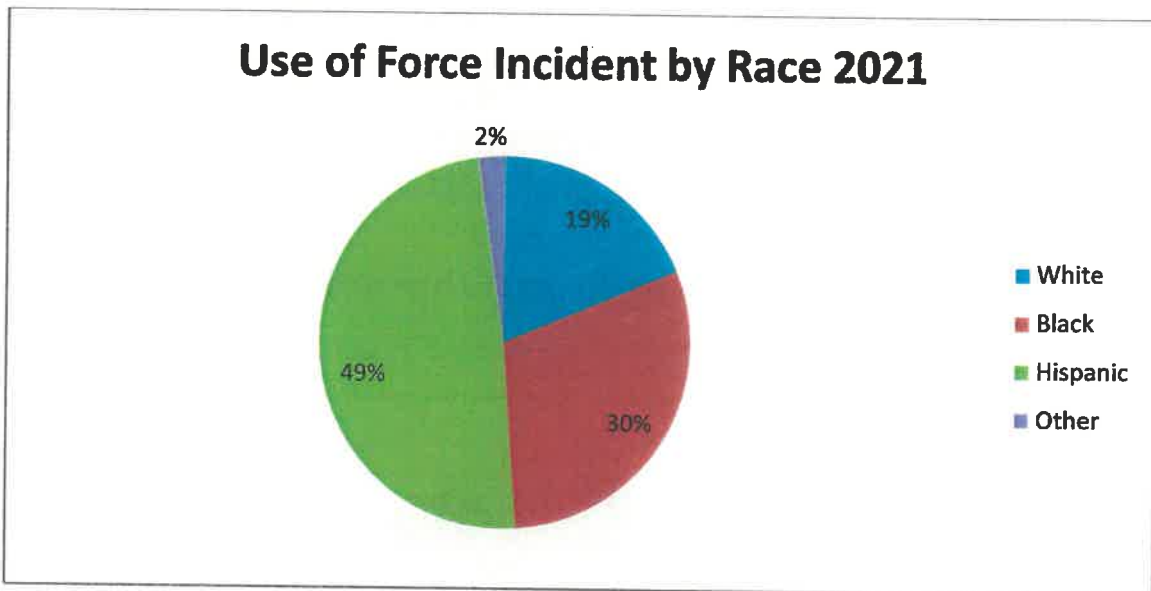


Table 27 - Historical Average Use of Force Incident Percentage by Race (2018-2020)

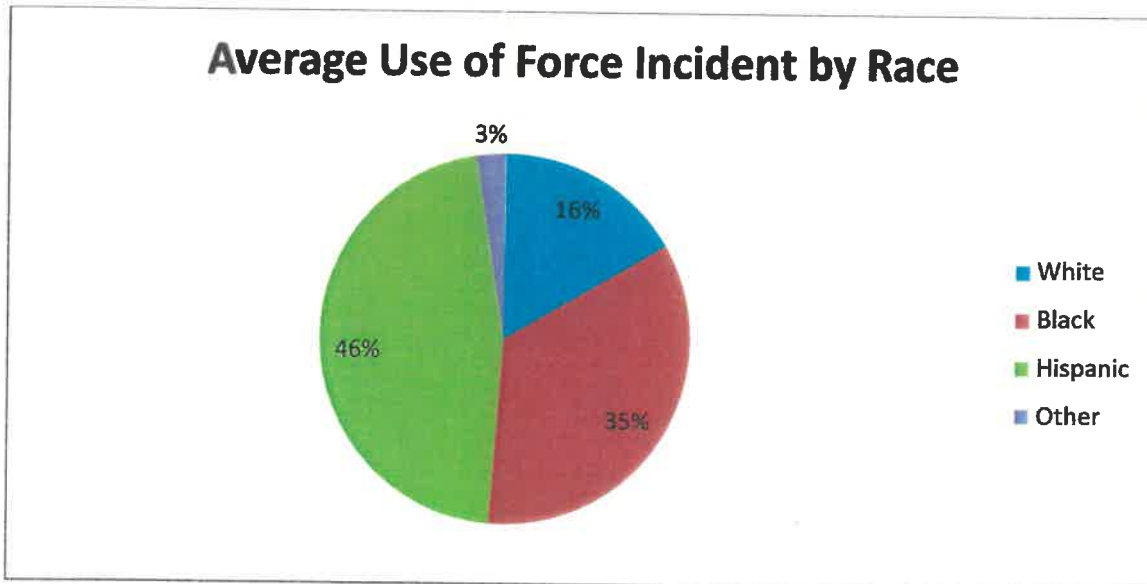


Table 25 depicts the US Census estimates for the population of the City of Central Falls as of July 1, 2019. Table 26 shows the percentage use of force incidents involving the Central Falls Police Department by subject race/ethnicity. In 2019, the US Census estimated the population of the City of Central Falls had grown to 19,568. The City was comprised of a Hispanic population of 66.4%, a black non-Hispanic population of 12.7% and a white non-Hispanic population of 19.8%. In 2021, following the new US Census data, the population of the city rose to 22,464 people, with a white along population of 48.8%, a 9.7% mixed race, and a 10% black alone race. There was an increase in the Hispanic population in the city from 2019 to 69.3% and white alone (not Hispanic) was 20.9%. The use of force data for 2021 was not consistent with the population data in all categories. Hispanic subjects accounted for 46% of all use of force incidents, while making up more than 69% of the population of the city. Use of force incidents in 2021 involving white non-Hispanic subjects was close to the population totals, making up 19% of use of force encounters with a population of 20.9%. There was a variance in black non-Hispanics who made up 35% of all use of force encounters while making up between 10 and 19.7% of the population according the Census data. There was a decrease in black non-Hispanic use of force encounters when compared to the agency average over the past three (3) years.

Table 28 - Arrests by Race/Ethnicity

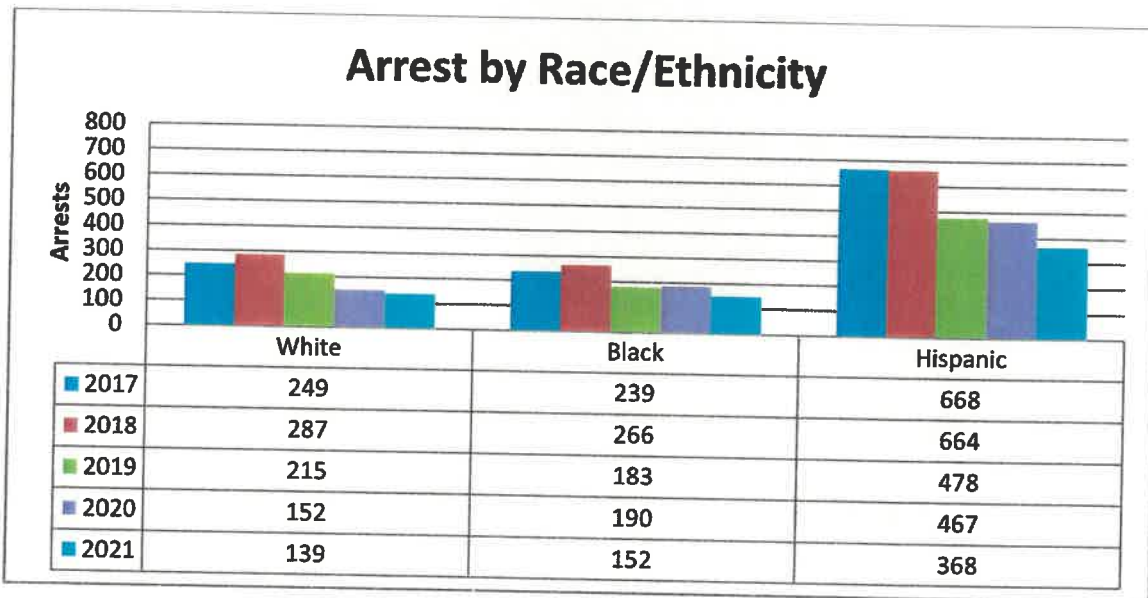


Table 29 - Historical Average Percentage of Arrests by Race

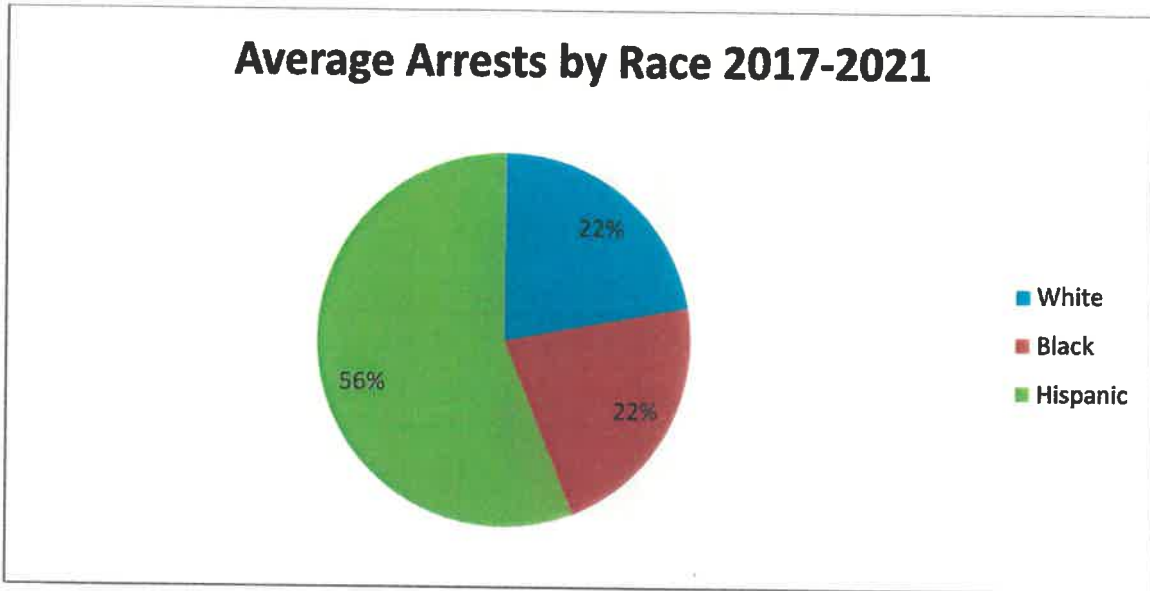


Table 28 shows the total numbers of arrests (summons and custodial) for each year from 2017 to 2021. Each year, the total number of Hispanic subjects arrested is the highest amongst race/ethnicity, consistent with race/ethnicity data for the population. Table 29 depicts the five (5) year average of arrests based on race/ethnicity, with Hispanics making up 56% of all arrests.

Table 30 - Use of Force by Age 2021

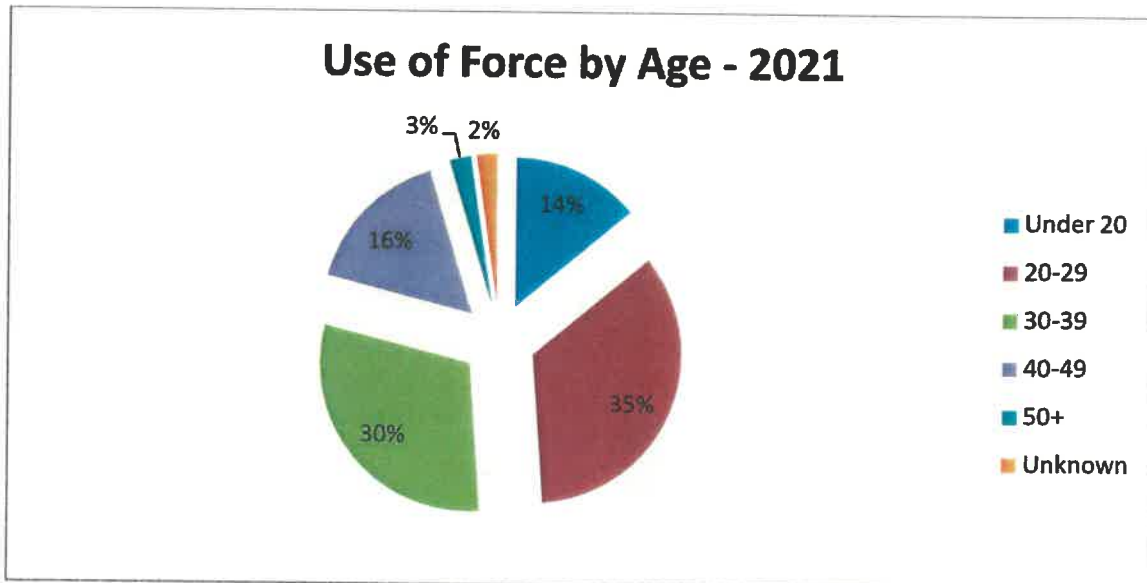
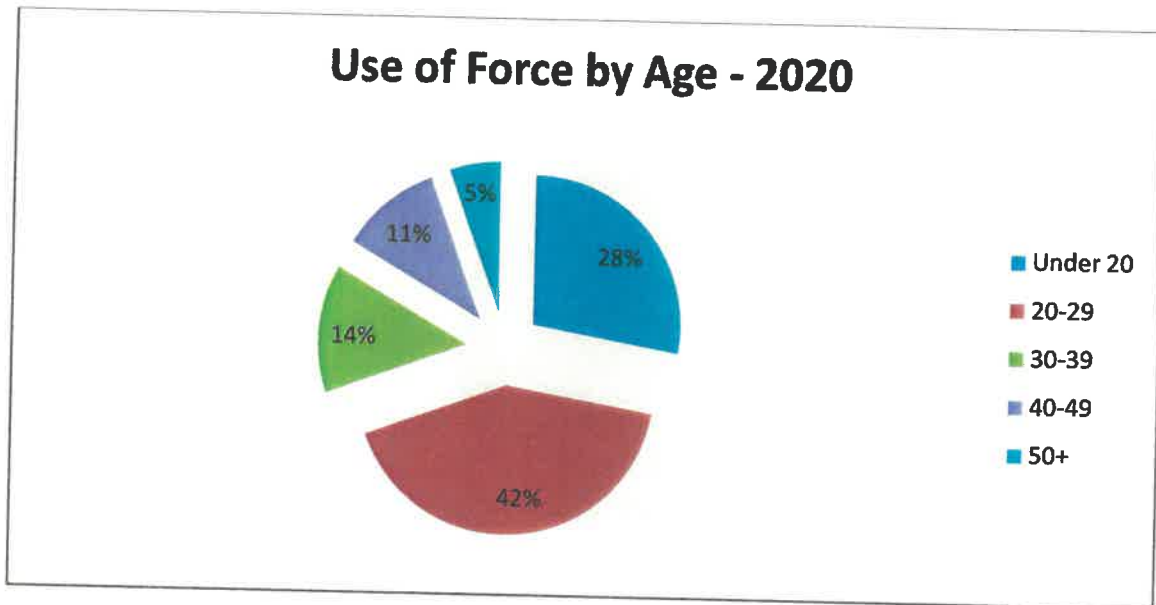
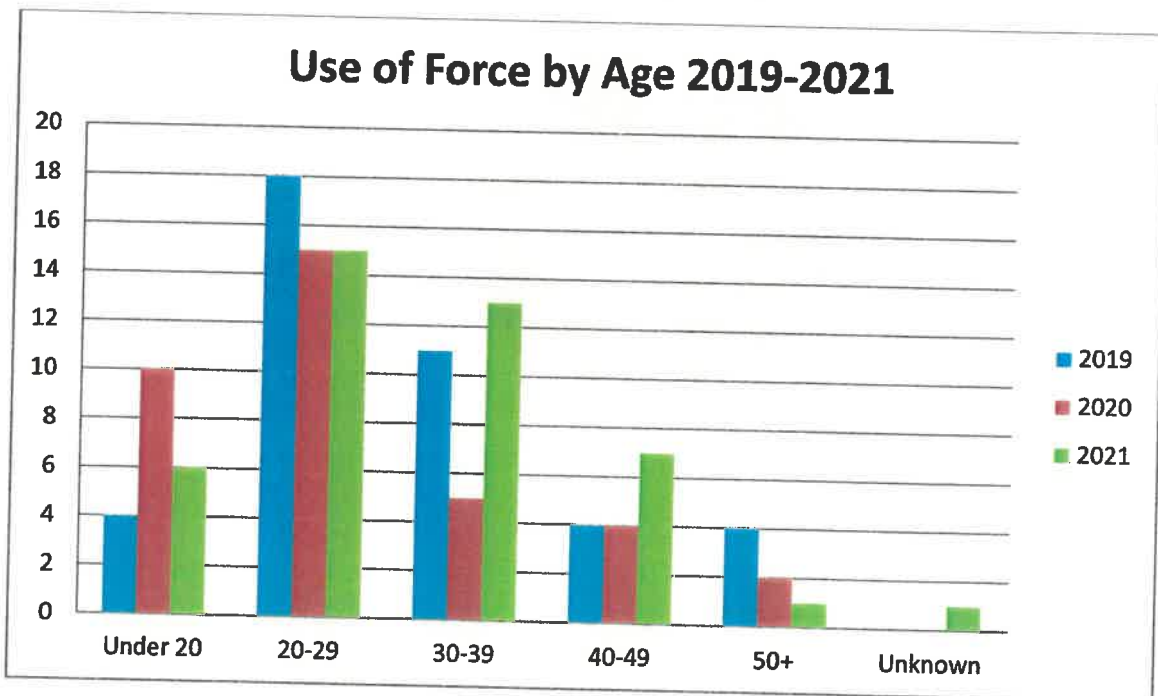


Table 31 - Use of Force by Age 2020



In analyzing the age data from 2021, the greatest likelihood for force to be utilized occurs with someone between the age of 20 and 29 years old, comprising of 35% of all incidents involving suspect non-compliance, a 7% decrease from 2020. Persons under the age of 40 made up 79% of all use of force incidents in 2021. The statistical information depicted in Tables 30 and 31 is for comparison data tracked starting in 2020. Based on the data over the past three (3) years, there were observable spikes in use of force incidents for individuals between the ages of 30-49 years old.

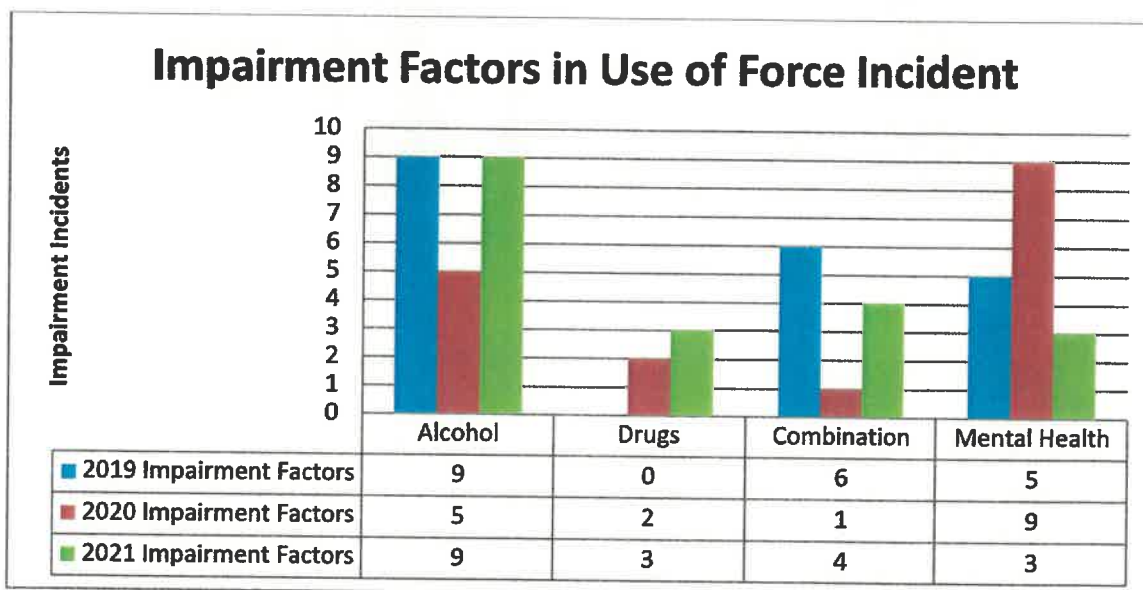
Table 32 - Use of Force by Age 2019-2021



## Impairment by Alcohol/Drugs or other Factor

In 2021, of the 35 suspect non-compliance incidents, 20 incidents or 57.1% of all use of force incidents involved some form of impairment of the subject. Post Covid-19 lockdowns; there were noticeable increases in impairment due to alcohol, which returned to pre-pandemic numbers, drugs, and a combination of factors. In 2021, there was a dramatic decrease of 66.67% in mental health use of force incidents following the pandemic.

Table 33 - Impairment Factors in Use of Force Incidents (2019-2021)

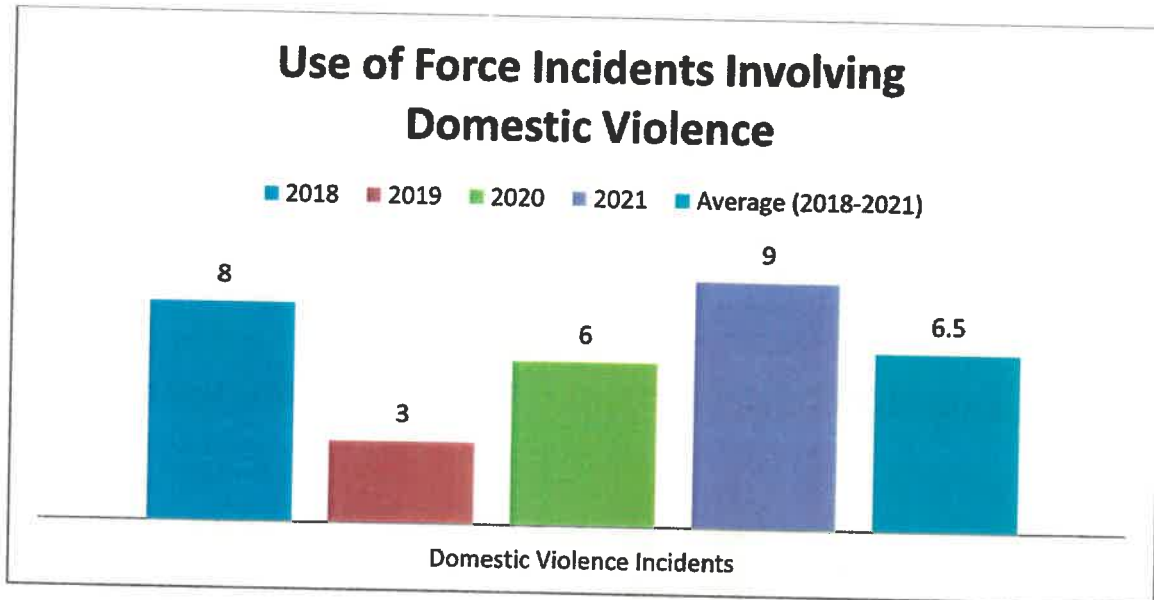


## Domestic Violence & Suspect Non-Compliance

In 2020, there were six (6) reported incidents of calls for service involving domestic violence resulting in a use of force incident. Domestic violence related use of force incidents accounted for 16.67% of all use of force incidents in 2020. In 2020, domestic violence related use of force incidents increased by 100% from the previous year. In 2021, domestic violence use of force encounters rose again by 50% from 2020, and represented the highest total since this data was statistically tracked by the agency. This data will be monitored going forward to examine a longer period of statistical information.



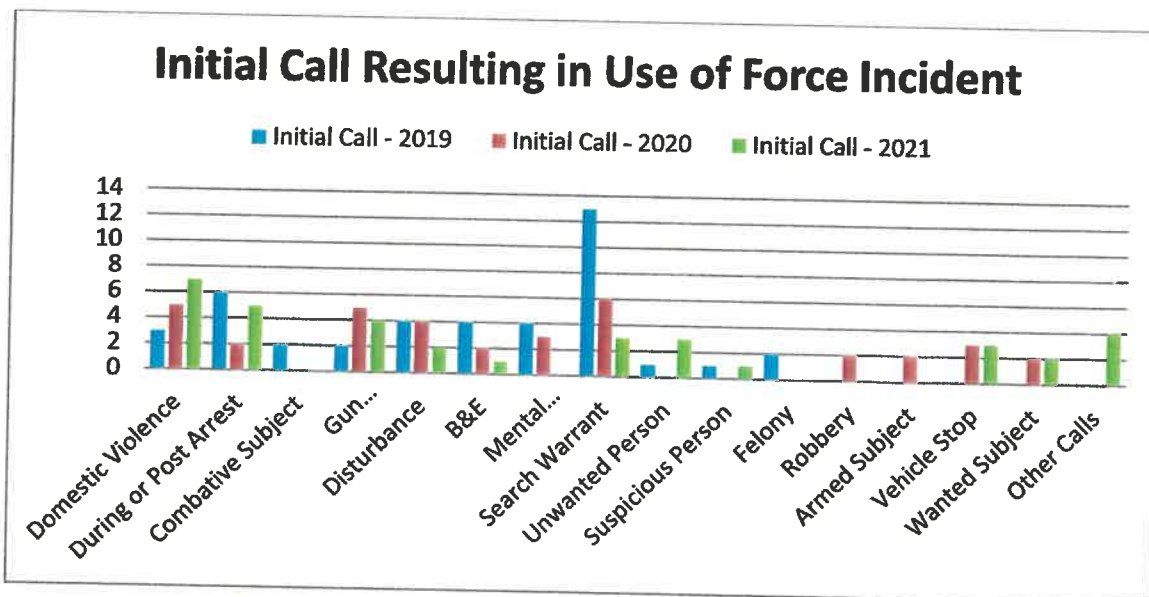
Table 34 - Use of Force Incidents Involving Domestic Violence



### Type of Incident leading to Suspect Non-Compliance Report

In 2021, the Central Falls Police Department had 35 instances in which force was applied. The call type most commonly resulting in the use of force in 2021 was domestic violence calls for service, accounting for 20% of all initial calls leading to a use of force encounter. In 2020, the most common reason for force was search warrant execution and then domestic violence. In 2021, there was a significant spike in use of force encounters for persons already in custody, and for gun calls.

Table 35 - Initial Call Resulting in Use of Force Incident 2019-2021



## Force Methods/Types/Tools

Table 36 - Force Methods/Types/Tools 2021

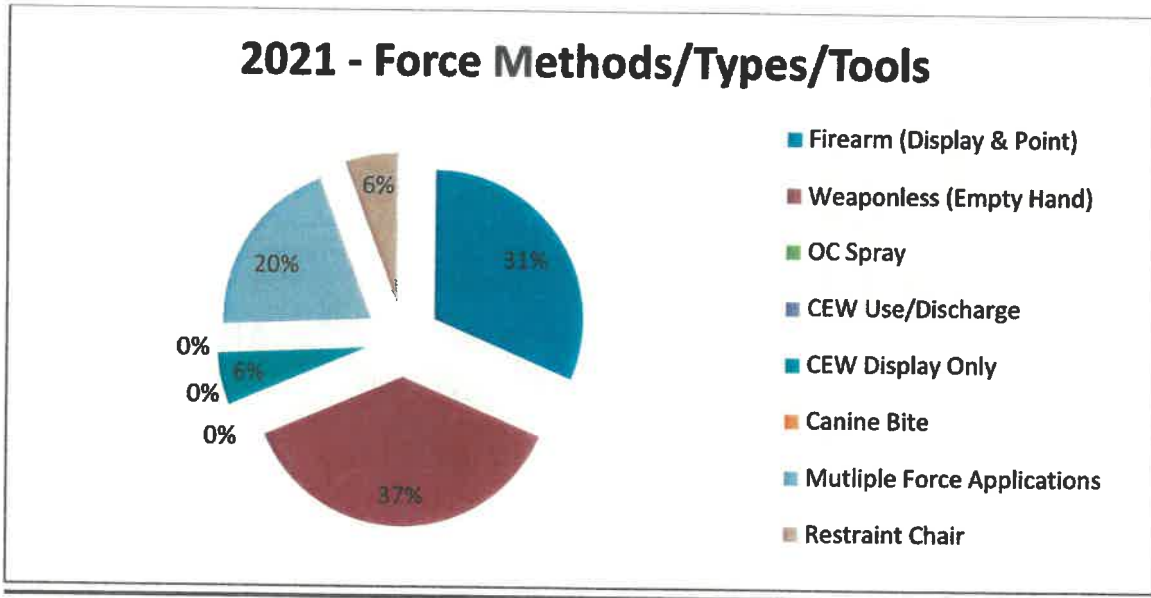


Table 37 - Force Methods/Types/Tools 2020

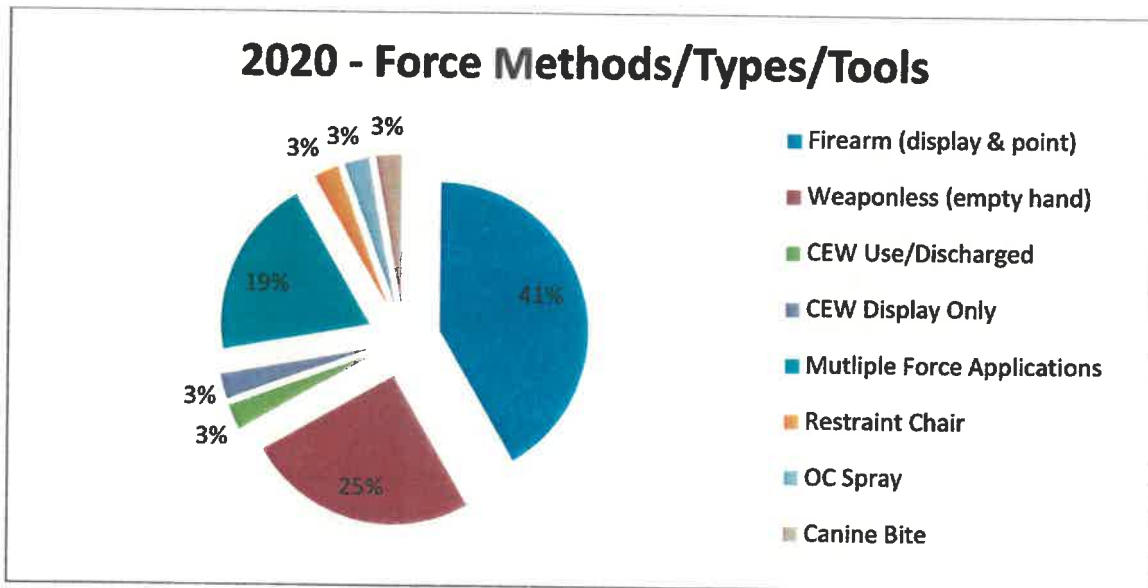
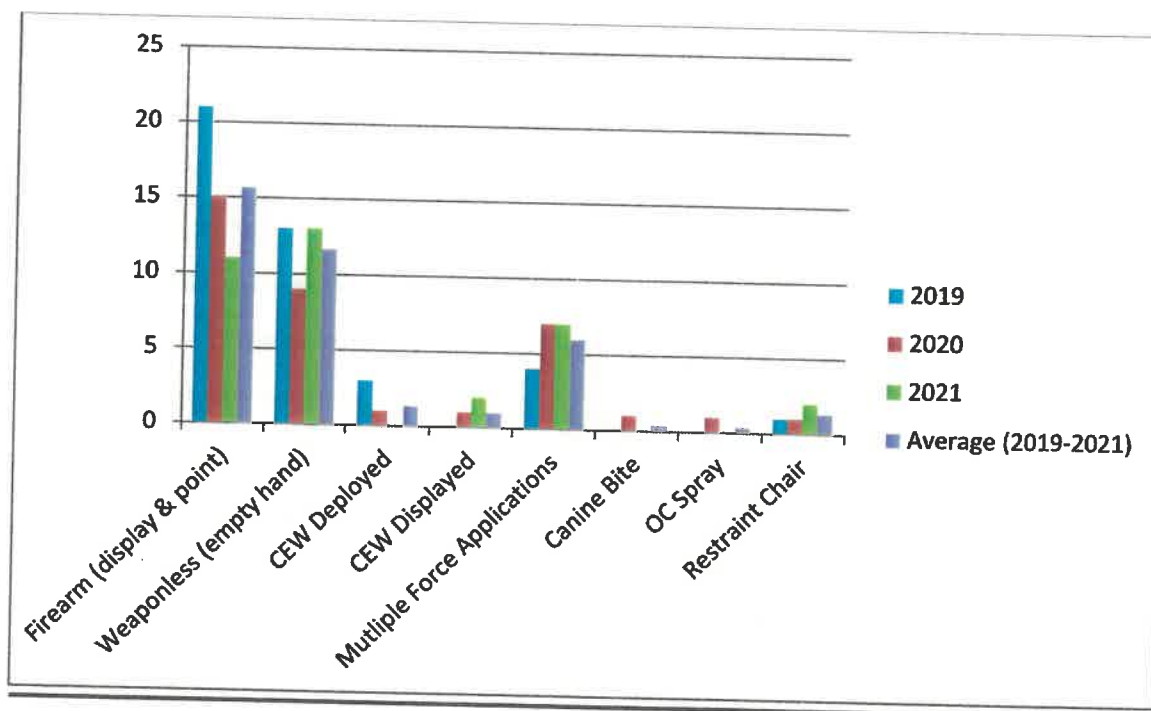


Table 38 - Force Methods



### Firearms (discharge)

In 2021, there were no instances of deadly force being utilized, which was consistent with 2018 through 2020.

### Firearms (display and pointing only)

In 2021, there were eleven (11) instances of a use of force incident involving the displaying and/or pointing of a firearm at a subject. This was a 26.67% decrease from the fifteen (15) use of force incidents involving the displaying and/or pointing of a firearm at a subject in 2020. The reduction does have a correlation to a decrease in the execution of search warrants as in 2020 and 2021.

### Weaponless Use of Force (Empty Hand Techniques)

In 2021, there were thirteen (13) incidents in which officers utilized weaponless uses of force to include empty hand techniques or commonly referred to as compliance techniques. There was a 44.44% increase in the use of empty hand techniques alone being utilized in a use of force encounter in 2021 from 2020; however, the number of occurrences was identical to 2019.

### Expandable Baton

There were zero (0) incidents of an expandable baton being utilized as a use of force option in 2021, which was identical to the previous year.

### OC Spray

There were no incidents of OC Spray being deployed as a sole use of force option in 2021.

## TASER

In 2021, the TASER or conducted energy weapon (CEW) was utilized a total of two (2) times as a sole option in use of force encounters, and both times were for TASER display only.

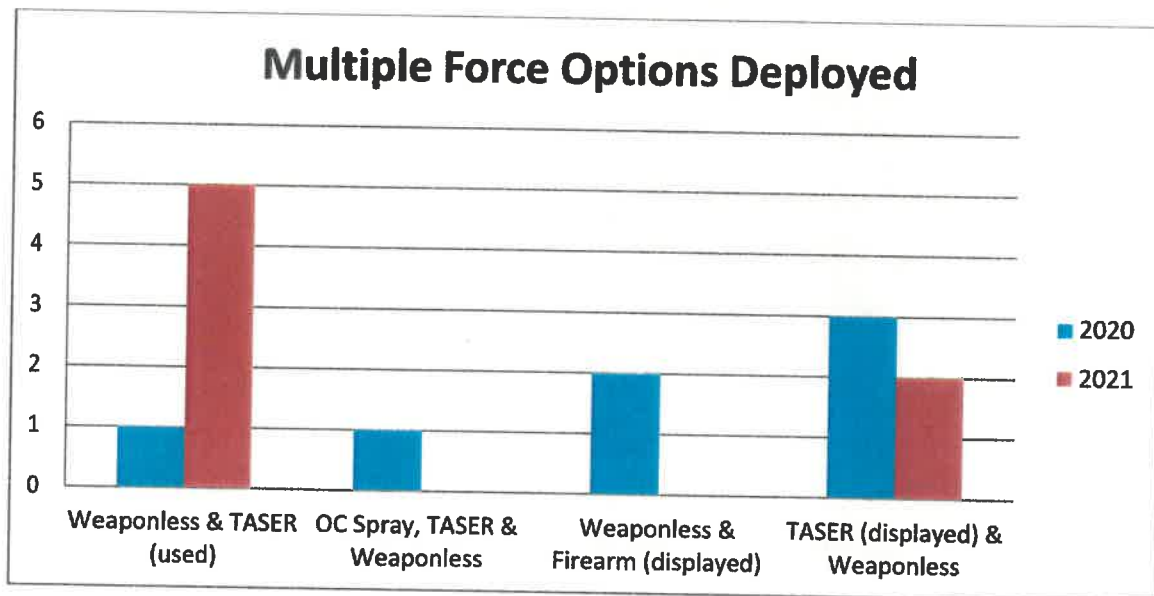
## Canine

There were no canine bites in 2021.

## Multiple Force Options

In 2021, there were seven (7) incidents involving multiple use of force options being utilized on a non-compliant subject, identical to the previous year. In 2021, the seven (7) multiple force options incidents all involved the use of a TASER and weaponless techniques. Two (2) incidents involved weaponless techniques and TASER display only. Another five (5) incidents involved the deployment/discharge of the TASER prongs or drive stun coupled with weaponless techniques

Table 39 - Multiple Force Options Deployed 2021



## Injuries to Non-Compliant Subjects

In 2021, there were a total of seven (7) subjects receiving injuries resulting from use of force incidents, a 40% increase from the previous year. All of these incidents resulted in the arrest of the non-compliant suspect. In seven (7) uses of force incidents resulting in injury to the non-compliant subject, all were male, six (6) were Hispanic males and one (1) was a white male. Of the seven (7) use of force incidents resulting in injury to a subject, six (6) of them, or 86% involved in an impaired subject by at least alcoholic beverages. Only in one (1) incident was there no evidence of impairment.

Table 40 - Race/Ethnicity of Subject Injured 2020

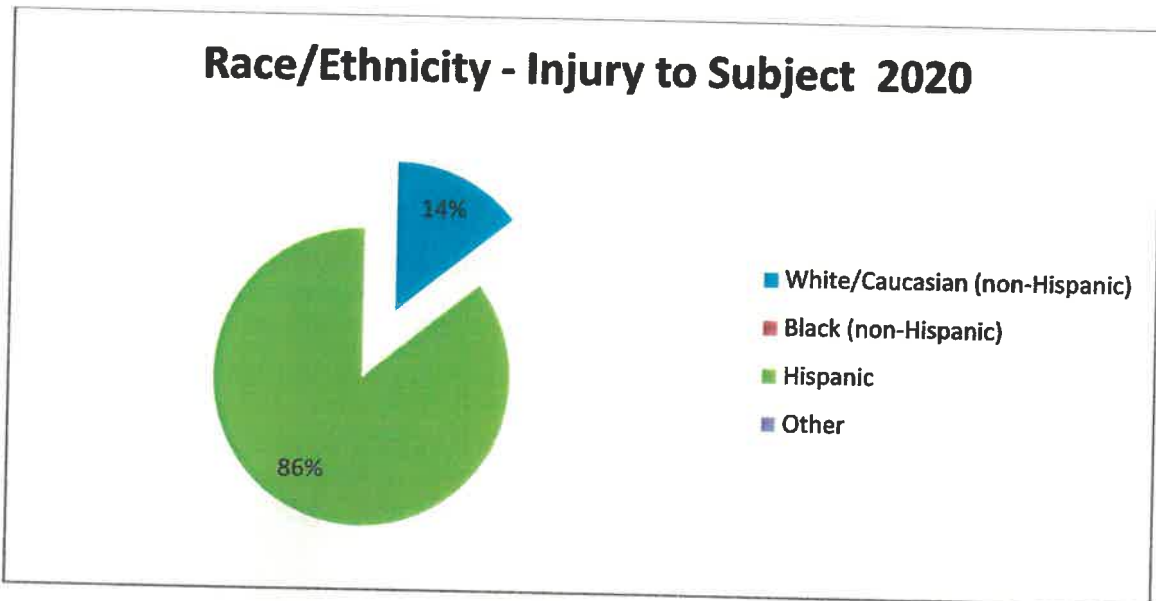


Table 41 - Impairment of Injured Subject

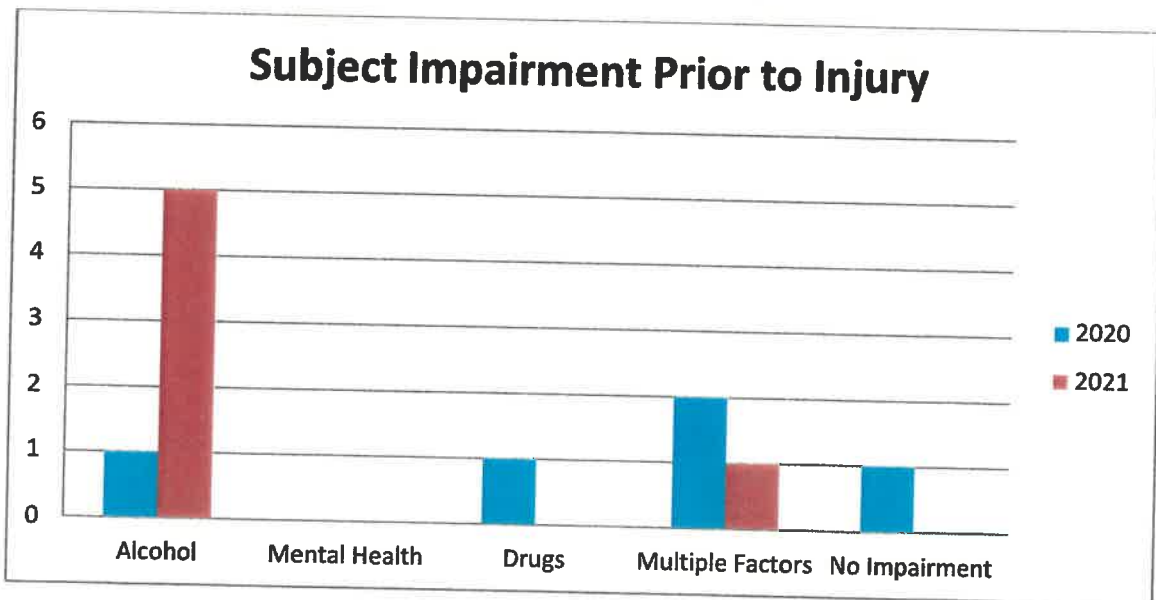
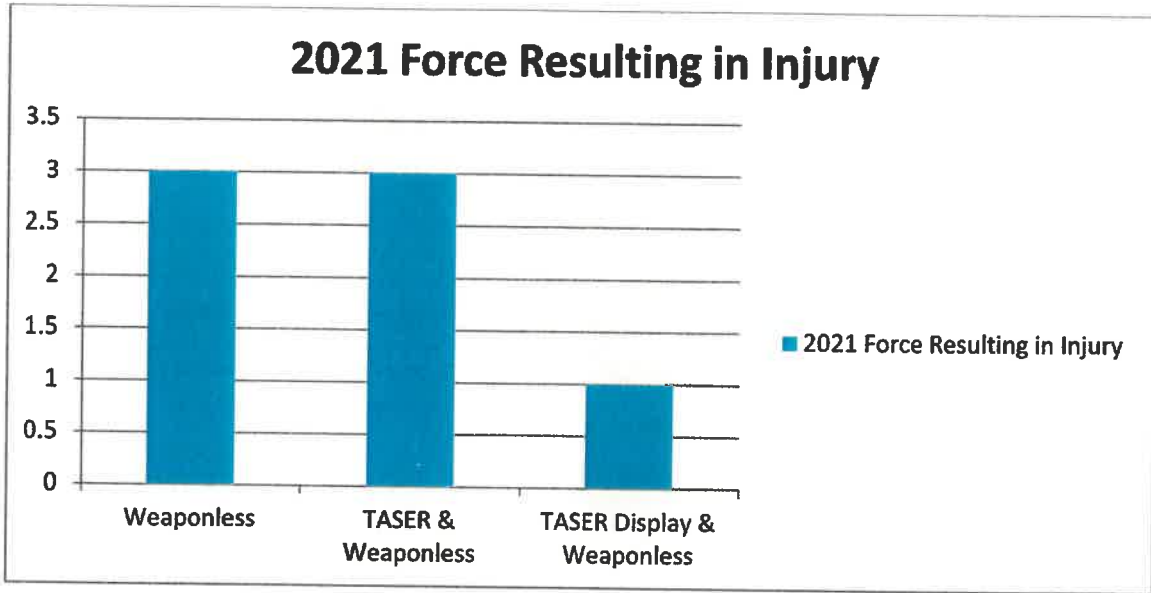


Table 42 - Force Type Resulting in Injury to Subject 2021



In examining which type of force is likely to cause injury to a suspect, all seven (7) incidents or 100% involved weaponless techniques, while 57% of the incidents also involved weaponless techniques and the use or display of a TASER or conducted energy weapon.

### Injury to Officers

In 2021, there were eleven (11) officers injured during use of force encounters, a 450% increase from the prior year. Six (6) injuries involved male officers and five (5) involved female officers.

Table 43 - Injury to Officer, Subject Impairment

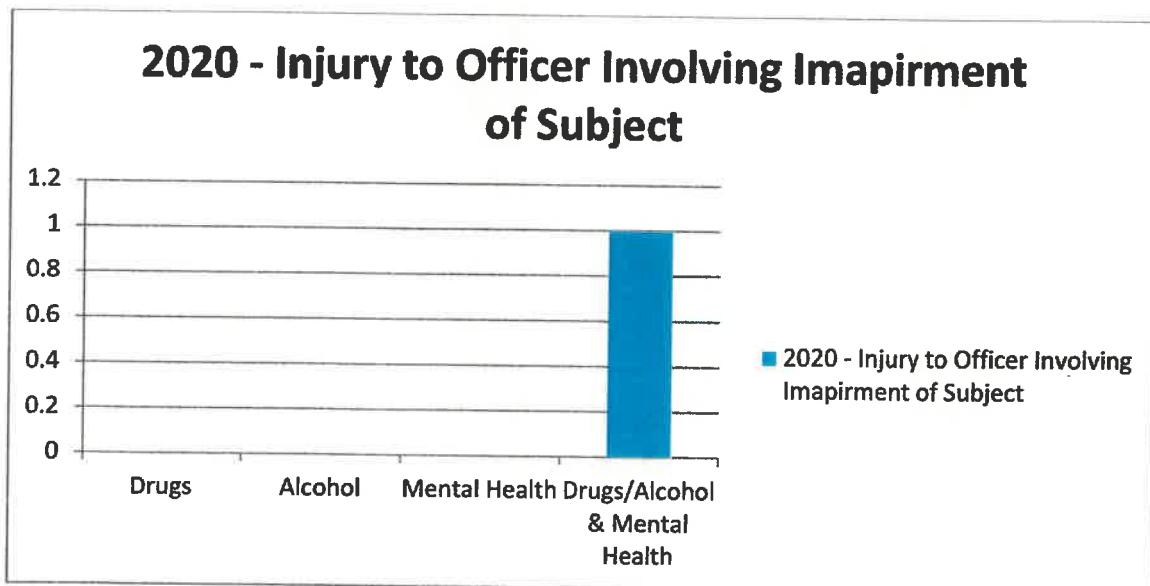
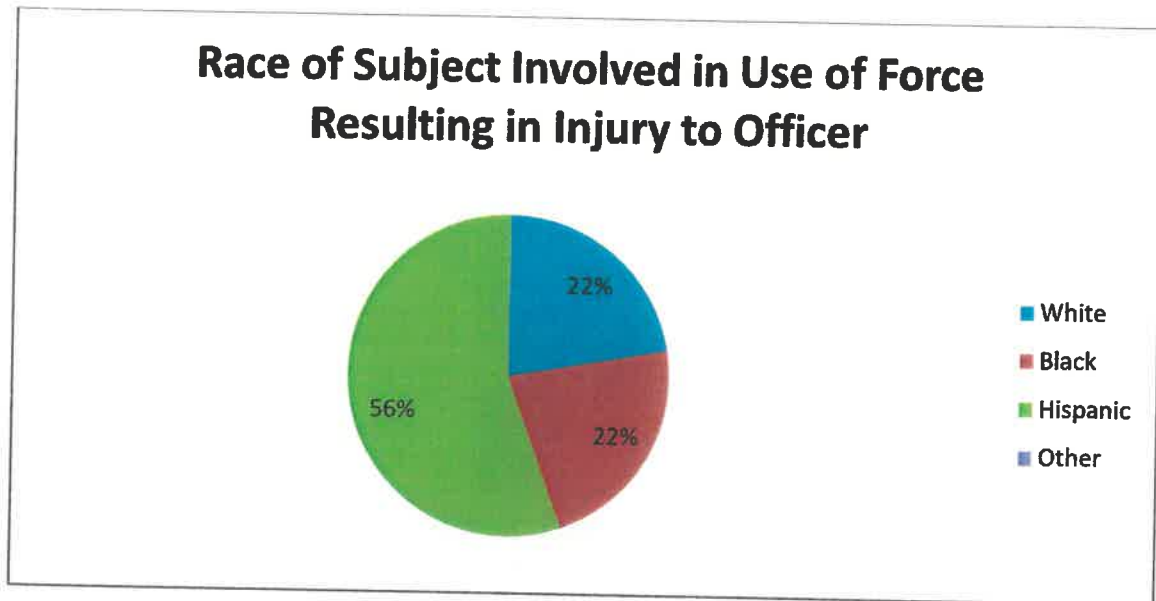
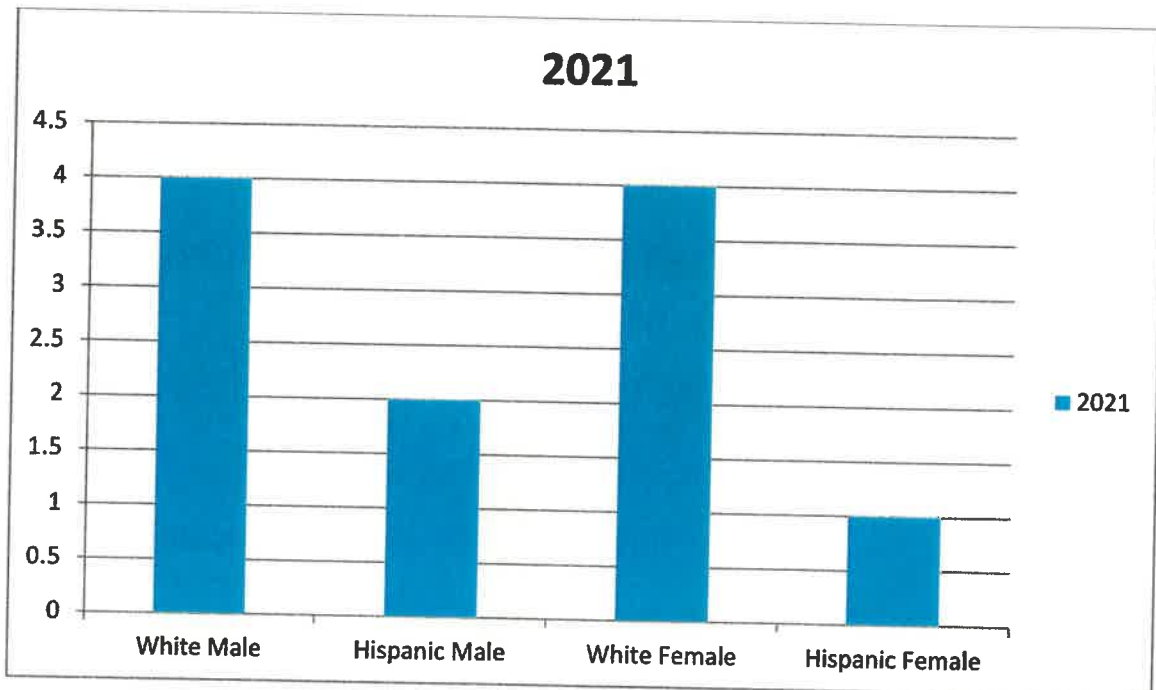


Table 44 - Race of Subject Involved in Use of Force Incident Resulting in Officer Injury



In 2021, nine (9) subjects were involved in use of force incidents resulting in injury to eleven (11) officers. In Table 45, the gender and race breakdown of officers injured in use of force encounters in 2021 is depicted. The same table shows that white non-Hispanic officers made up 72% of the officers injured in use of force encounters.

Table 45 - Race/Gender of Injured Officers in UOF Encounter



## Officers Utilizing Force

In 2021, there were 32 incidents of suspect non-compliance, excluding three (3) search warrants where firearms were displayed in execution of the warrant. A total of eighty-four (84) officers utilized force during 32 use of force encounters in 2021. Of the 84 officers involved in suspect non-compliance incidents, excluding search warrants, a total of twenty-eight (28) actual officers from the agency applied a force option. An analysis of the race/ethnicity of the officers involved in suspect non-compliance, excluding search warrants, showed fifteen (15) to be white (Caucasian) male officers, three (3) were white (Caucasian) female officers, five (5) were Hispanic male officers, two (2) were Hispanic female officers, two (2) were black (non-Hispanic) male officers, and one (1) was a mixed race male officer.

Table 46 - Ethnicity of Officers Utilizing Force

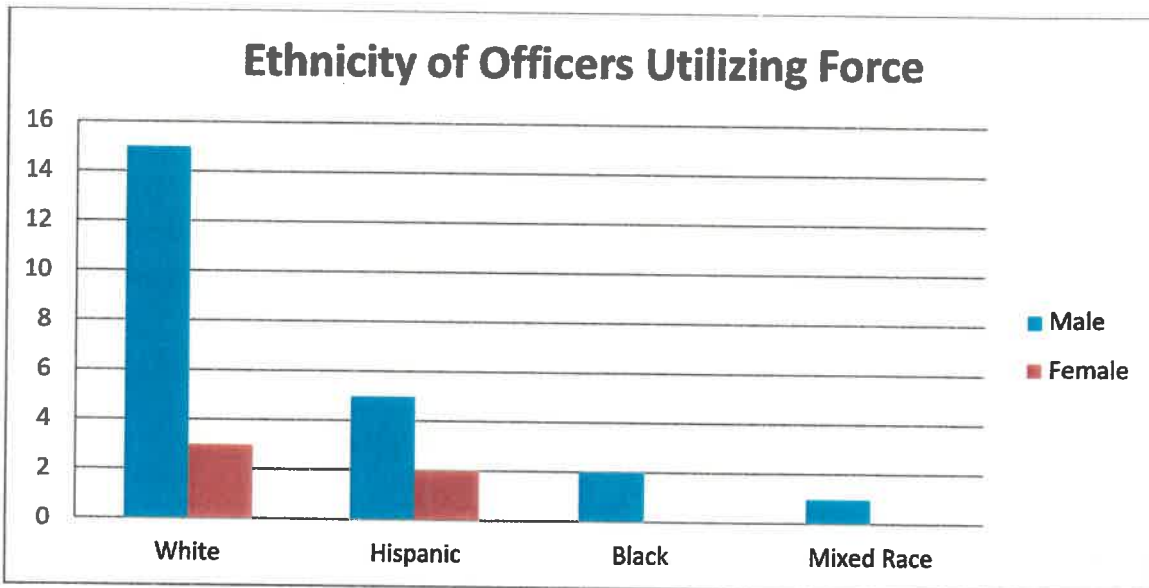
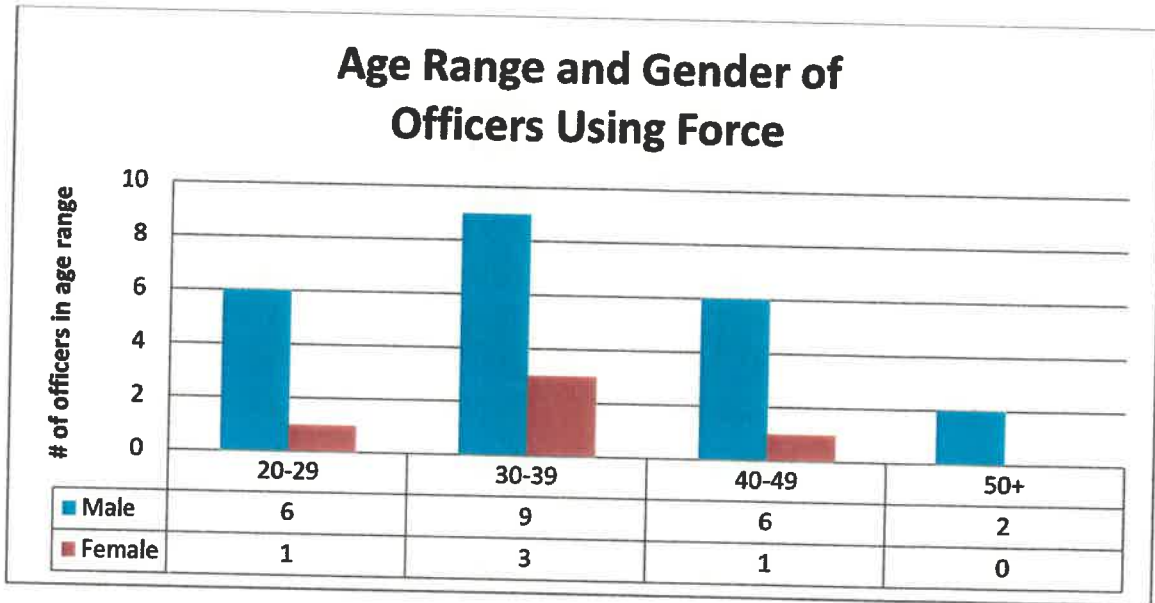


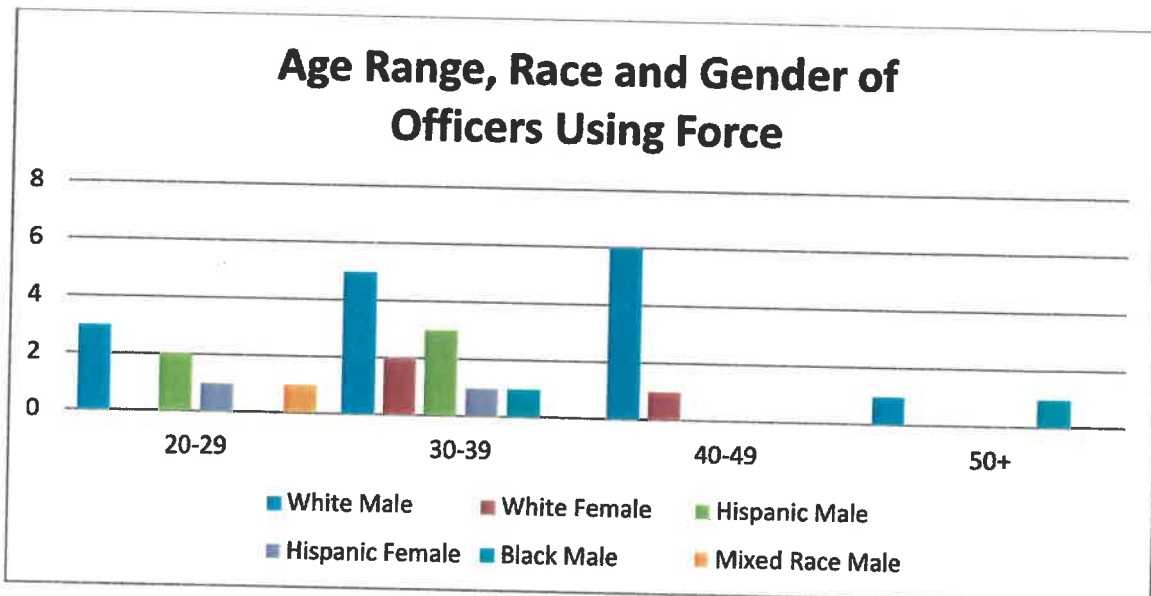


Table 47 - Age Range and Gender of Officers Using Force



Of the twenty-eight (28) officers involved in suspect non-compliance incidents seven (7) were 29 years old or less, twelve (12) were between the age of 30-39 years old, seven (7) were between the age of 40-49 years old, and two (2) were age 50 plus. Table 48 below depicts the gender and age breakdown of each officer involved in a use of force incident (excluding search warrants).

Table 48 - Age, Race, Gender of Officer Using Force 2021



## **Background Information and Reasons for Force Being Used**

### **Incident #1: January 7, 2021, 1321 hours**

Day shift officers responded to a request to conduct a vehicle stop as part of a wanted subject investigation. A male occupant was believed to be inside the vehicle and was wanted by the Pawtucket Police Department for firearms charges. A felony vehicle stop was conducted and firearms were drawn while occupants were removed from the vehicle safely. The wanted subject was taken into custody by Pawtucket Police who were on scene.

### **Incident #2: January 29, 2021, 0744 hours**

Members of the morning shift responded to the Cell block for an uncooperative and unruly male in custody and had blocked the cell door with his body and urinated in the cell. Officers forced entry into the cell and the male subject refused to cooperate. A struggle ensued and the subject was ultimately restrained and placed into the restraint chair.

### **Incident #3: February 2, 2021, 1918 hours**

A motor vehicle stop was attempted on Pine Street at Rand Street, however, the vehicle failed to stop. The operator was suspected of being an impaired driver and was eventually stopped on Rand Street approaching Lonsdale Avenue. Once stopped, the male operator refused to exit the vehicle. While being removed from the vehicle by an officer, the suspect was taken to the ground during the attempted arrest. The male subject sustained a minor laceration under his right eye after being taken to the ground during the resistance to arrest.

### **Incident #4: February 4, 2021, 0546 hours**

Officers from the morning shift were dispatched to Rand Street for a youth problem. Upon arrival, officers could hear a female screaming for police assistance. Officers encountered a juvenile male acting in a disorderly manner and damaging a cell phone in front of officers. An arrest was attempted and the juvenile male immediately resisted and actively assaulting officers on scene. A TASER was displayed, however, it was not utilized and the suspect was taken into custody with the use of physical force to gain compliance. The juvenile admitted to being under the influence during the use of force encounter.

### **Incident #5: February 8, 2021, 1015 hours**

Detectives transported a female prisoner to the Office of the Attorney General for an arraignment. Upon arrival at the facility, the suspect began assaulting a detective, while handcuffed, and attempted to flee custody. The suspect was physically restrained; however, made several other attempts throughout the custodial encounter to escape custody and assault

law enforcement personnel from the Central Falls Police Department, the Rhode Island Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Corrections. Physical force and strikes were deployed on several of the instances to subdue and restrain the suspect from fleeing custody or actively assaulting law enforcement.

#### **Incident #6: February 20, 2021, 2245 hours**

Officers from the Night Shift were dispatched to Central Street for an unwanted person. Upon entering the residence, officers encountered an intoxicated female who was erratic. During the call, the female began to assault another male on scene and officers intervened. The female began to assault and resist officers and physical compliance techniques were utilized to gain compliance. Once at the police department, the female in custody began to act increasingly violent and assaulted officers. It was later learned that in addition to the intoxication, the female suffered from mental health issues and was transported to a local hospital for treatment and evaluation.

#### **Incident #7: February 21, 2021, 1713 hours**

Officers on the night shift were dispatched to an unwanted male subject at ABC Liquors on Broad Street. Upon encountering the male, officers learned he was wanted by the Pawtucket Police Department. While attempting to take the male into custody, the subject became noncompliant and refused to place his hands behind his back. The male continued to attempt to pull away from officers and was subsequently taken to the ground and taken into custody. The male later complained of wrist and back pain and was transported to the hospital for medical aid.

#### **Incident #8: March 5, 2021, 2202 hours**

Officers on the night shift were dispatched to Central Street for a domestic disturbance. Upon arriving, the officers on scene determined the suspect was no longer present and identification information and a description were relayed to other officers. Other officers in the area of the initial call located the suspect who immediately fled from officers. The male suspect was noncompliant with officers who attempted to apprehend him and concealed his hands. A TASER was deployed and was successful in bringing the suspect to the ground. Once on the ground, the male subject continued to resist arrest and would not remove his hands from under his body. A TASER was deployed two (2) more times, and did not achieve compliance. Officers continued to struggle to handcuff the male subject and deployed knee strikes to attempt to free his concealed hands. Soon after the strikes were delivered, the male complied and was taken into custody without injury.

### **Incident #9: March 9, 2021, 1950 hours**

A male subject in custody at the Central Falls Police Department was utilizing a bench in the cell as a brace to continuously kick and strike the door. De-escalation techniques were attempted to no avail and the subject was restrained and placed into the restraint chair for 15 minutes. After calming down, the male was placed back into the cell with no injury.

### **Incident #10: March 11, 2021, 1820 hours**

Officers assigned to the night shift responded to a residence on Rand Street for a domestic disturbance. While conducting a domestic violence investigation, officers encountered the male party on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor who was irate and uncooperative. The male subject assumed a fighting stance with officers and was uncooperative and displayed active resistance when he was informed he was under arrest. The male began actively fighting officers, striking them with closed fists while attempting to flee into his apartment. A TASER was utilized in drive stun mode and did not achieve compliance. Officers were finally able to subdue the male and take him into custody; however, he refused to comply with commands to walk to the cruiser and began kicking officers. The male suspect had to forcibly be pushed into the cruiser for transport.

### **Incident #11: March 13, 2021, 2313 hours**

Officers assigned to the night shift were dispatched to Fletcher Street for the report of a disturbance involving two (2) males assaulting a female. An officer on patrol located a person matching the description of a suspect, who was alleged by a complainant to be in possession of a firearm. The officer drew his firearm, given the nature of the call and potential for the suspect to possess a firearm, and gave verbal commands while pointing his firearm at a low ready. The male was detained, however, no firearm was located and it was determined there was not enough probable cause to lead to an arrest. The male was released on scene and was not injured.

### **Incident #12: March 18, 2021, 2121 hours**

Officers were dispatched to the area of Fales Street for the report of an armed male subject with a firearm. A subject was encountered outside and officers drew, but did not point, their firearms. The subject was detained and claimed to be the caller and stated his cousin had the firearm. Officers located a piece of a magazine in a hallway and encountered the other male. No firearm was located and no charges were filed.

### **Incident #13: March 24, 2021, 0635 hours**

Members of the Investigative Division along with members of the Providence Police Department executed a court authorized narcotics search warrant on Tiffany Street. Due to the warrant being

a “no knock” warrant, firearms were drawn and displayed upon entry. There were no injuries during the execution of the warrant.

#### **Incident #14: March 24, 2021, 1135 hours**

Members of the Investigative Division executed two (2) court authorized narcotics search warrants on High Street. Prior to entry, officers unholstered their firearms and displayed them. There were no injuries during the execution of the warrant.

#### **Incident #15: March 31, 2021, 1115 hours**

Officers responded to a residence on Central Street for the report of a possible domestic disturbance. Upon arrival an investigation began and a decision was made to arrest a male subject. The male began resisting, attempting to pull away from officers, and was brought to the ground and eventually secured in handcuffs. During the takedown, the male subject suffered a small laceration to the eyebrow. The male continued to resist when being escorted to the cruiser, attempting to pull away from officers.

#### **Incident #16: May 15, 2021, 1947 hours**

Officers responded to the area of Summer Street for the report of a female screaming. Upon arrival in the area, officers were directed to a residence on Summer Street for a reported altercation. Officers soon encountered an active disturbance inside a residence and attempted to separate parties. A male subject began to assault an officer and a takedown was affected after a punch was thrown by the male subject at an officer. The male subject actively resisted efforts by officers to secure him and ignored verbal commands. A struggle ensued and officers were unable to secure the male, resulting in a strike being administered by an officer. The male subject refused to be placed in the cruiser. A TASER was displayed at the male, coupled with verbal command, in an attempt to gain control of the male. The male subject was later transported by rescue to a local hospital due to repeated violent outbursts.

#### **Incident #17: May 23, 2021, 2145 hours**

Officers were dispatched to Pine Street for the report of a domestic assault. Upon arrival, the reporting party notified officers the male subject had run up the stairs to his second floor apartment and does own a firearm. Officers entered the residence and cleared it in a protective sweep with firearms drawn. The male suspect had fled the scene and there were no injuries as a result of police force utilized.

#### **Incident #18: May 30, 2021, 0505 hours**

Officers on the morning shift were dispatched to a residence on Hedley Avenue to attempt to locate a suspect on a domestic violence offense that had occurred within the past twenty-four

(24) hours. The suspect was believed to be in possession of a firearm. Upon arrival, officers observed a blood trail leading to the basement. Officers entered under exigent circumstances with firearms drawn and encountered the suspect hiding between hot water tanks. Verbal commands were given for approximately two (2) minutes before the suspect surrendered and was taken into custody without further incident. The suspect received medical aid for a minor wound to the hand, the source of the injury producing blood, and no weapons were located on the suspect or in the basement.

#### **Incident #19: June 10, 2021, 1359 hours**

Officers responded to a residence on Cleveland Street to assist a DCYF Investigator investigating a potential violation of a no contact order by a male subject with numerous active warrants for his arrest. Upon arrival, a female answered verbally to officers identifying themselves, however, was clearly stalling in opening the door according to officers on scene. Once in the apartment, the female was looking intently at a closed door and officers began to clear the apartment suspecting the male was hidden. One officer drew his TASER and located the male hiding between a bed and wall. The male was taken into custody without incident.

#### **Incident #20: June 10, 2021, 2207 hours**

Officers on the night shift responded to a gas station on Broad Street for a report of a naked male trying to gain access to vehicles. Officers soon encountered the male, now only wearing a pair of shorts on Blackstone Street. A drug recognition expert on scene immediately observed the male to be sweating in the 60 degree weather, while mostly nude, to have a blank stare, and erratic and agitated behavior. Believing the subject may be under the influence of a stimulant and may be displaying early warning signs of excited delirium, additional units and rescue personnel were requested. Officers gave verbal commands and attempted to restrain the male, who was assuming an aggressive posture. It took five (5) officers to gain control of the male on the ground and secure him in handcuffs after using take down techniques such as arm-bars and leg sweeps. During the struggle, two officers suffered minor injuries, one (1) a dislocated finger and the other a shoulder injury. The male subject was charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct and transported to a local hospital for treatment and evaluation.

#### **Incident #21: June 24, 2021, 1100 hours**

Officers on the day shift responded to a residence on Central Street for the report of an unwanted male subject on the premises. Officers encountered the male subject and it was soon learned the male had an active warrant for his arrest. As the officers on scene attempted to take the male into custody, the male subject fled. One officer attempted to tackle the subject and was dragged down a flight of stairs by the wanted male. Another officer deployed the TASER to the chest of the male with no effect. The male fled the scene on foot and evaded officers. One officer suffered a minor injury and was treated at a local hospital.

### **Incident #22: June 28, 2021, 1340 hours**

Officers on the day shift responded to a residence on Sumner Avenue for a reported domestic disturbance. Parties in the residence refused verbal commands to open the door as part of the investigation and well-being check. Attempts were made via telephone to have a Domestic Violence advocate speak to the parties, to no avail. Eventually officers forced entry into the apartment and two (2) subjects were taken into custody on outstanding warrants. During the forced entry, a TASER was displayed, however, no actual force was applied and nobody was injured.

### **Incident #23: July 31, 2021, 0010 hours**

Officers on the morning shift were dispatched to a residence on Summit Street to assist the fire department who encountered a domestic disturbance during a medical call request. During the initial investigation, the male subject pushed the officer on scene. The officer pushed the subject back, causing him to fall to the ground, and he was taken into custody without further incident. Neither the suspect nor the officer was injured.

### **Incident #24: August 10, 2021, 2255 hours**

Officers on the night shift were dispatched to the area of Bagley Street for a reported disturbance in progress. A description was provided of a potential male subject involved. One of the responding units observed a male matching the description of one of the subjects involved. An officer attempted to stop the male and investigate the disturbance and the male subject immediately fled after asking the officer what he wanted. The subject was pursued on foot into a backyard on Bagley Street where he was taken to the ground by the pursuing officer. The subject refused continued verbal commands and resisted arrest. He was secured in handcuffs without further incident, however, once at the station, he began punching and slamming the cell door. He was later evaluated for arm pain and transported to a local hospital for treatment.

### **Incident #25: September 11, 2021, 1344 hours**

Officers on the dayshift were dispatched to the area of Dexter Street for a reported assault. Upon encountering a potential female suspect, it was learned she was wanted. When attempting to place the female under arrest, she began resisting and attempted to flee. A takedown technique was performed and she was subsequently handcuffed without further incident or injury.

### **Incident #26: September 23, 2021, 2003 hours**

Officers were assigned to the Sacred Heart Park for a vigil following a recent homicide at that location. An officer on scene observed a motor vehicle traveling slowly in the area which matched the description of a potential suspect vehicle in the homicide. Two (2) officers began to

approach the vehicle and a passenger exited the vehicle displaying a handgun. Officers drew firearms and the passenger re-entered the vehicle, which fled. A vehicle matching the description was subsequently stopped utilizing a high risk stop, with firearms drawn, however, it was determined that vehicle was not involved in the display of the firearm at the vigil.

#### **Incident #27: October 5, 2021, 1750 hours**

During a traffic stop, the male operator attempted to flee his vehicle and enter the residence on multiple occasions on Liberty Street. Numerous verbal commands were administered to the male operator to remain seated in the vehicle while the traffic stop was conducted and the male repeatedly refused. The male was advised continued behavior and refusal to obey commands would result in an obstruction arrest and the male continued to defy orders. The male was informed he was under arrest and began to passively resist, then actively resist by grabbing the interior of the car. The male was eventually taken down to the ground using a takedown technique and was secured in handcuffs without injury.

#### **Incident #28: October 13, 2021, 1930 hours**

An officer on the night shift was dispatched to the cell block at the Central Falls Police Department for a male prisoner damaging the cell. Once the officer entered the cell, the male prisoner attempted to exit the cell. The officer stopped his attempt and a physical altercation ensued in the cell block. The officer attempted to use a takedown technique to secure the male in custody, however he resisted and pushed the officer back several times. The officer was soon assisted by a detective and the male subject was taken to the ground and secured in handcuffs.

#### **Incident #29: October 16, 2021, 1344 hours**

Officers responded to Binford Street for a reported disturbance. Upon arrival, officers encountered a juvenile female who was agitated outside. The female refused to calm down during de-escalation techniques and continued to scream and yell, disturbing the peace. The female was subsequently informed she was under arrest for disorderly conduct and she began to resist. Officers struggled to pull her hands behind her back. When attempting to place her in the cruiser, she was again non-cooperative and kicked an officer. Officers had to forcibly push her into the cruiser and push her legs in for transport.

#### **Incident #30: November 3, 2021, 1610 hours**

An officer on routine patrol observed a male walking southbound on Washington Street who he knew to have numerous arrest warrants. The male attempted to hide behind a vehicle as the officer approached and then fled on foot. The male subject refused to obey commands to submit to arrest and was taken to the ground from the torso area. Once on the ground, the male subject actively resisted arrest, but was eventually arrested and transported to the station for processing.



The male was later transported to a local hospital for treatment due to drug and alcohol use prior to arrest.

### **Incident #31: November 9, 2021, 1130 hours**

An officer on routine patrol observed a wanted male subject known to him driving a vehicle. The officer attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop and the subject fled. It was learned the vehicle involved was a rental and detectives were able to track the vehicle via GPS. The officers arrived in the last known area and the vehicle was disabled by the rental company. Officers drew their firearms and began ordering the male subject from the vehicle, which he refused. A brief struggle ensued and the male was forcibly removed from the vehicle and secured in handcuffs.

### **Incident #32: November 18, 2021, 1050 hours**

Members of the Special Investigations Unit executed a narcotics search warrant on Cottage Street. Prior to execution of the warrant, surveillance was established on the address. The target of the investigation was observed arriving in a vehicle. Detectives in plain clothes approached the vehicle with guns drawn and observed the male making furtive movements. Detectives identified themselves and ordered the suspect from the vehicle and he refused. Detectives were able to remove the subject, and he attempted to re-enter the vehicle while resisting arrest. After a continued struggle, the male subject was placed under arrest and transported to the station for processing.

### **Incident #33: November 18, 2021, 1130 hours**

The subject arrested from an early narcotics warrant became combative in the cell block. A struggle ensued during an attempted strip search (court ordered). The male was taken to the ground and continued to actively resist. Two (2) drive stuns were administered and eventually after a sustained struggle, the male was handcuffed again. Three (3) officers suffered minor injuries in the struggle.

### **Incident #34: December 2, 2021, 2200 hours**

An officer responded to a restaurant on Dexter Street for an alarm. During a search of the premises, an officer observed a light on in the basement and heard several voices. The officer drew his firearm and opened the door, subsequently encountering two (2) males with knives. The males were ordered to drop the knives and complied. A subsequent investigation determined those males resided in the basement and armed themselves believing there was a break-in occurring.

## **Incident #35: December 5, 2021, 1243 hours**

An officer on routine patrol on the dayshift notified dispatch he was out with an unknown problem on Beacon Street. The responding officer soon learned it was a custody dispute and the male subject was armed with a piece of wood. When the female party took possession of the baby, the male became enraged and charged at the mom and child, refusing to adhere to verbal commands. The officer on scene requested assistance and deployed his TASER, striking the male subject in the back. The male was on the ground when additional officers responded to assist. The male began actively resisting arrest and several distractionary strikes were administered. During the ensuing struggle, an officer observed a wooden handle in the male's waistband. The officer attempted to remove the item and the male subject bit the officer. The officer delivered a closed strike to the subject's face to stop the assault and he was placed in handcuffs. The subject continued to resist arrest while being placed in the cruiser and again strikes were administered as well as a drive stun from a TASER. After being instructed continued resistance would be met with deployment of OC Spray, the male eventually was placed in the rear of a cruiser and was transported from the scene.

### **Impact Findings on Policy and Practices**

The Central Falls Police Department has a Use of Force Policy, General Order 200.03. This policy was updated on December 30, 2020, and redistributed to all sworn personnel. On June 8, 2021, the general order was revised upon recommendations from the Central Falls Policing and Use of Force Commission, the RI Interlocal Trust, and in accordance with CALEA standards revisions. The policy was redistributed to personnel at that time. In September of 2021, a policy review of all applicable Use of Force Policies, including Lethal and Less Lethal Weapons policies were distributed to all sworn personnel for review. This review was in conjunction with the agency's annual spring firearms qualifications and covered the following General Orders as part of the review:

1. General Order 210.04 – Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Policy
2. General Order 210.05 – Expandable Baton Policy
3. General Order 210.06 – Pepperball System Policy
4. General Order 210.07 – Deployment of the TASER X26 Electronic Control Device (ECD) Policy
5. General Order 270.05 – Emergency Restraint Chair Policy
6. General Order 200.03 – Use of Force Policy
7. General Order 210.01 – Weapons Safety Policy
8. General Order 210.02 – On and Off Duty Weapons Policy
9. General Order 210.03 – Shotgun Policy
10. General Order 210.08 – Patrol Rifle Policy

## 11. General Order 210.09 – Use of Personally Owned Patrol Rifles Policy

The agency conducts annual reviews of these policies to determine if revisions are necessary. If revisions are made, such revisions are immediately distributed to personnel. All use of force incidents are reviewed by a supervisor, a Use of Force Instructor, and the Office of Professional Standards and Training to determine if policy failures occurred or if revisions or additional training is necessary. In 2021, no use of force incidents were noted or found to be in violation of policy.

### Review Process

The agency reviews each suspect non-compliance incident. The review process includes a review by the supervisor not involved in the use of force incident, followed by a review by a Use of Force Instructor from the agency, and a final review by the Office of Professional Standards and Training.

Any complaint of excessive force is thoroughly investigated. The agency also utilized Benchmark Analytics software in 2021 to provide the agency with “early intervention” alerts when an officer was involved in multiple suspect non-compliance incidents during the year. The early intervention system did not perform as expected and required individual monitoring and searches within the system, rather than system generated alerts being sent out via email. According to agency Internal Affairs records, there were no findings of discipline against officers for excessive force in 2021 and there were no civilian complaints.

### Impact Findings on Training and Practices

During the course of my analysis and review, each of the 35 listed Use of Force incidents, none were found by the Office of Professional Standards and Training to be in non-compliance with the best practices of training and policy. As noted previously, there were no civilian complaints in 2021 in regards to excessive force.

Based on the data from the analysis, there was a noticeable increase in use of force encounters with white (non-Hispanic) subjects and a slight increase with Hispanic subjects. There was a 31% decrease in use of force incidents involving black subjects. The review and analysis could not determine any trend or pattern for these changes in 2021. However, the agency has continued to conduct impartial policing training and in 2021 while partnered with the Institute on Non-Violence conducted a forty (40) hour training for all personnel, which included training in implicit bias awareness and de-escalation techniques. The statistical data on injuries amongst suspects and officers grew sharply in 2021; however, coming out of a pandemic, no determination of causation could be made at this time. Continued emphasis should be placed on

training officers in de-escalation techniques, sound defensive tactics, and scenario based training going forward. Several issues were noted with Benchmark Analytics reporting software, including a flawed review process, lack of proper notifications to personnel for review and/or revisions, and a flawed early intervention system. As a result, in 2021, the agency began exploring a new reporting system, LEFTA Shield Suites, and has contracted with that company for 2022 to replace Benchmark Analytics.

### **Impact Findings on Equipment**

This use of force analysis did not identify any equipment issues that need to be addressed or corrected at this time. There were no documented instances of equipment failure during a use of force encounter. Our armorers and Use of Force Instructors will continue to inspect firearms, OC Spray, TASERS, and batons during firearms qualifications and note such inspections on the qualification forms. The Pepperball gun is non-operational and currently discussions are in place to disband its use going forward and rescind the policy.

### **Conclusion**

The analysis and review demonstrated all Suspect Non-Compliance reports were reviewed by a supervisor. In 2021, the agency utilized Benchmark Analytics for use of force internal reporting. There were numerous issues with timely reviews of reports, timeliness of reporting and revising reports, and inconsistencies in the review process. There were no civilian complaints regarding use of force in 2021 and there were no findings of use of force incidents being in violation of policy in 2021 by the Office of Professional Standards and Training. The Central Falls Police Department continues to utilize the state model policy with minor updates to reporting methods and compliance with applicable state laws or city ordinances.

Currently, there is no emerging pattern to suggest any officer individually or collectively, is using force which is greater than is reasonably necessary to affect an arrest or control a violent or non-compliant subject. There is no data which supports or suggests any Central Falls Police officer is acting overly aggressive in the application of force. The evidence over the past several years is compelling and demonstrates Central Falls Police officers exercise extreme discretion and proper diffusion and de-escalation techniques in daily dealings and encounters with the public. The agency continues to focus on providing the most up to date resources to personnel in the areas of de-escalation and mental health.

## Recommended Actions:

1. The Central Falls Police Department should continue to conduct refresher training in Use of Force Policies.
2. The agency should continue refresher training in Ethics and Impartial Policing.
3. The agency should continue refresher training in Mental Health including Excited Delirium training.
4. The agency should continue training in the use of defensive tactics and less lethal weapons options on an annual basis in conjunction with annual lethal force weapons trainings and qualifications.
5. The agency should continue to provide specialized training for Use of Force instructors and make every effort to identify qualified officers to join the cadre of certified instructors at the RI Municipal Police Academy.
6. The agency should continue training in verbal de-escalation strategies.
7. The agency should focus training on scenario based encounters if possible, and place an emphasis of handcuffing techniques.
8. The agency should continue to staff busy/violent nights with additional officers as dictated by trends and patterns on shifts and days of the week. This may require constant analysis and input from the shift commanders and the Administrative/Investigative Division Commanders to the Patrol Operations Commanders.
9. The agency should immediately cease use of the Benchmark Analytics software application and partner with LEFTA Shield Suites.

Respectfully submitted:



Lt. Joseph Tougas

## Use of Force - Access to Public Records Request

Lisa Dias <ldias@centralfallsri.us>

Mon 7/18/2022 10:10 AM

To: 127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com <127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com>

Cc: mjerzyk@gmail.com <mjerzyk@gmail.com>

Good morning Mr. Sinyangwe,

The City of Central Falls received your original records request on April 25, 2022. On May 1, 2022, an extension of your request was emailed to the "preferred email: 127936-694429256@requests.muckrock.com" (see attached). On June 1, 2022, a response to your request was emailed again to the "preferred email" (see attached). On July 6th, 2022, the information was once again mailed out to your attention at 411A Highland Avenue, Somerville, RI (see attached). In addition, a fax was sent out on June 17, 2022, and a busy signal was received (see attached). Since those dates, the City has received a fax from you requesting follow-up on June 16, July 1st, and July 18th. The most recent fax received noted that for mailed responses, the address has changed to 263 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA.

In addition to this email today, I will be sending out the information to you by mail to the new address.

Lisa



**LISA DIAS**  
HRLAW - Clerk

 (401) 727-7400 | Ext.2431 Law 2433 HR

 ldias@centralfallsri.us

 580 Broad St. Central Falls, RI 02863

Fax number for Human Resources and Legal Dept.: (401)727-7422



**CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS**  
Law Department  
580 Broad Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863

**MR SAMUEL SINYANGWE  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
411A HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE RI 02144**



**UNITED STATES POSTAGE**  
  
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0000913688  
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**\$ 000.530**

**[EXTERNAL]: RE - MuckRock - Use of Forces**

Matthew Jerzyk &lt;mjerzyk@gmail.com&gt;

Wed 6/1/2022 1:51 PM

To: 127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com &lt;127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com&gt;; Lisa Dias &lt;ldias@centralfallsri.us&gt;

June 1, 2022

Mr. Samuel Sinyangwe  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 127936  
411 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

VIA EMAIL[127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com)**RE: ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST**

Dear Mr. Sinyangwe:

This Department's review of your April 25, 2022, Access to Public Records Act ("APRA") request is complete. Specifically, you seek the following:

"A copy of all use of force reports reported by this law enforcement agency from 2016-2021, specifying the date of incident, race of subjects and type of force used, preferably in spreadsheet format. If one or more items requested are unavailable, please provide the remaining requested items".

Upon a review of the files maintained and possessed by the City of Central Falls, we have determined that the City does possess records that are responsive to your request. Please see the attached Use of Force reports.

In addition, I have the underlying police reports which are the basis for these annual reports. If you would also like these, the estimate of the search, retrieval, copying and redaction costs billable under APRA: for search, retrieval, and redaction costs at \$15.00 per hour for ten (10 hours), with the first hour being free is **\$135.00**. This is only an estimate; if the costs are higher, you will be billed for the additional amounts. Please send a check in the applicable amount to the attention of the Law Department. Once the check is received, we will then commence the work of searching, retrieving, redacting, and copying.

The decision of this Department can be appealed pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-8 by appealing this decision to the Mayor of the City of Central Falls, Maria Rivera, City of Central Falls, 580 Broad Street, Central Falls, RI 02863. You may also file a complaint with the Department of Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, or the Providence County Superior Court.



Thank you for your time and cooperation and, just so you know, I am a big fan of Pod Save the People!

Very truly yours,  
/s/Matthew T. Jerzyk,  
*City Solicitor*

~~~~~

Matthew Jerzyk, Esq.  
*William A. Farrell & Associates LLC*  
50 Park Row West Suite 100 Providence, RI 02903  
Email: [mjerzyk@wafarrell.com](mailto:mjerzyk@wafarrell.com)  
*Central Falls City Solicitor*  
580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863  
E-mail: [mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us](mailto:mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us)  
Phone: 401-556-7412

Enclosures

TX Result Report

P 1  
 06/17/2022 12:48  
 Serial No. A7PY017001570  
 TC: 143803

Addressee	Start Time	Time	Prints	Result	Note
912402133870PP1224	06-17 12:48	00:00:09	000/004	Busy	

Note TMR:Timer TX, POL:Polling, ORG:Original Size Setting, FME:Frame Erase TX,  
 DPG:Page Separation TX, MIX:Mixted Original TX, CALL:Manual TX, CSAC:CSAC,  
 FWD:Forward, PC:PC-FAX, BND:Double-Sided Binding Direction, SO:Special Original,  
 FCODE:F-code, RTX:Re-TX, RLV:Relay, MBX:Confidential, BUL:Bulletin, SIP:SIP Fax,  
 IPADR:IP Address Fax, I-FAX:Internet Fax

Result OK: Communication OK, S-OK: Stop Communication, PW-OFF: Power Switch OFF,  
 TEL: RX from TEL, NG: Other Error, Cont: Continue, No Ans: No Answer,  
 Refuse: Receipt Refused, Busy: Busy, M-Full:Memory Full, LOUP:Receiving length Over,  
 POUA:Receiving page Over, FIL:File Error, DC:Decode Error, MDN:MDN Response Error,  
 DSN:DSN Response Error, PRINT:Compulsory Memory Document Print,  
 DEL:Compulsory Memory Document Delete, SEND:Compulsory Memory Document Send.

MATTHEW T. JERZYK  
 CITY SOLICITOR



MARIA RIVERA  
 MAYOR

CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS  
 LAW DEPARTMENT

580 BROAD STREET  
 CENTRAL FALLS, RI 02863

OFFICE: (401) 727-7490  
 FAX: (401) 727-7422

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: MR. SAMUEL SINYANGWE

FROM: MATTHEW JERZYK

COMPANY: MUCKROCK NEWS

DATE: 6-17-22

FAX NUMBER: 240-2133870

TOTAL NO. 4

PHONE NUMBER:

RE: Access to Public Records Response

- URGENT     FOR REVIEW     PLEASE COMMENT     PLEASE REPLY     PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Good afternoon Mr. Sinyangwe,

The response to your April 25, 2022, records request was sent out on June 1, 2022.

Lisa Dias



**CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS**  
Law Department  
580 Broad Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863

**MR SAMUEL SINYANGWE  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
411A HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE RI 02144**



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MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 02863

**Use of Forces - Access to Public Records**

Lisa Dias <ldias@centralfallsri.us>

Mon 5/2/2022 2:06 PM

To: 127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com <127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com>

Cc: mjerzyk@gmail.com <mjerzyk@gmail.com>

May 1, 2022

Mr. Samuel Sinyangwe  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 127936  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

VIA EMAIL

127936-69429256@requests.muckrock.com

**RE: ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST**

Dear Mr. Sinyangwe:

The City of Central Falls received your request for copies of certain public records on April 25, 2022. Due to the extensive amount of research pertaining to your request, the City has good cause to extend the ten (10) day time period by an additional twenty (20) days. Please note this is not a denial of your request to review the requested documentation. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Dias, on behalf of  
Matthew T. Jerzyk,  
*City Solicitor*

~~~~~  
Matthew Jerzyk, Esq.  
*William A. Farrell & Associates LLC*  
50 Park Row West Suite 100 Providence, RI 02903  
Email: [mjerzyk@wafarrell.com](mailto:mjerzyk@wafarrell.com)  
*Central Falls City Solicitor*  
580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863  
E-mail: [mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us](mailto:mjerzyk@centralfallsri.us)  
Phone: 401-556-7412