



GASTON COUNTY POLICE

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1578 GASTONIA, N.C. 28053-1578
STREET ADDRESS: 420 W. FRANKLIN BLVD, GASTONIA, N.C. 28052
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (704) 866-3320 FAX NUMBER (704) 866-3314



Joseph D. Ramey
Chief of Police

Captain J.D. Cole
Professional Standards Unit

January 19, 2022

To: Chief J.D. Ramey

From: Capt. J.D. Cole

Re: 2021 Annual Conflict Resolution Report (Use of Force) Review

The 2021 Annual Conflict Resolution (Use of Force) review is complete. During 2021, Gaston County Police personnel were involved in 104 incidents involving the use of force against 112 persons, for a total of 112 individual uses of force. This number is up 29% from 92 incidents in 2020, which was up 31% from 70 incidents in 2019. All uses of force were reviewed and none were found to be in violation of Gaston County Police Policy, state or federal law.

There were 3,506 GCPD arrests in 2021, up approximately 4.5% from 3,354 in 2020.

One-hundred twelve uses of force were derived from those 3,506 arrests for a use of force rate per arrest of 3.2%, up from 2.7% in 2020, which was also up from 1.5% in 2019. In short, the use of force rate has more than doubled in the last three years.

There were 52 injuries in use of force incidents in 2021, up from 38 in 2020. Of these 52 injuries; three (5.8%) injuries were officers, forty-six (88.5%) were offenders, and three (5.8%) incidents involved injury to both officer and offender.

The use of force injury rate was 46% in 2021, up from 41% in 2020, which was down from 43% in 2019.

Officers were injured in almost two tenths of a percent (.17%) of **all** arrests, which is almost double the 2020 rate of .09%.

Offenders were injured in over one percent (1.40%) of **all** arrests, which is up from 1.07% in 2020, which was also up from .63% in 2019.

The most common uses of force were physical force (36%), K9 bite (31%), and pointing of firearm (27%); which is the inverse of the last few years.

Attached is the review of total 2020 use of force incidents as well as five year comparisons.