



TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

15 East Street, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035 Telephone 413-584-0883 Fax 413-582-9053

MICHAEL A. MASON
Chief of Police

2022 Use of Force Annual Report

To: Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: Annual Use of Force Report, CY 2022

Chief,

As required by our Use of Force Reporting Policy, please find here a summary of the annual Use of Force data for the calendar year 2022.

Local Considerations

As you are aware, the Town of Hadley's commercial base, centralized location to the Five College area and location between Interstate 91 and UMass Amherst brings tens of thousands of non-residents through and to town each day, in addition to the nearly 5200 permanent residents. Statistics available by UMass Amherst show that in 2022 there are more than 28,000 students enrolled. Statistics from MassDOT on traffic counts vary depending on how many counters, or stations are deployed in a given year. In 2013, there were seven stations giving a total daily traffic count of over 66,000 cars. In 2015 there were five separate stations that reported over 40,000 cars per day. In the 2015 and 2013 counts, only one station is duplicated. A combination of the 12 stations indicates that traffic through Hadley may be just below 100,000 cars daily on average during that span of years.

The number of non-owner occupied rental properties and hotels in Hadley also raises the number of number of individuals staying within the Town of Hadley significantly. There are several major hotel supplying the local area with several hundred hotel rooms.

Use of Force and Reporting Standards

A reported Use of Force is not necessarily the actual application of physical force, such as strikes, or the use of a taser or baton by a police officer onto a subject. Even the simple removal



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of a taser from a holster is a reportable use of force. Reportable Use of Force may even include situations where a subject was completely unaware of any force used. Reportable Use of Force may include situations where lethal and less-lethal weapons are presented and not used, as well hands-on techniques where minor force is used, for example, to remove an unwanted person from a business, or to overcome minor resistance/refusal to comply or become handcuffed.

Investigations

Investigations are completed at all levels of supervision, from the Officer's supervisor, to the Lieutenant, to the Chief. All supervisors have been trained in conducting Internal Affairs Investigation, including myself who is certified to do so, as well as to conduct investigations in Use of Force incidents.

All of the incidents were investigated and the force applied in each case was found to be justified. Additionally, no civilian complaints were received following any Use of Force incident.

Overview

During 2022, Officers of the Hadley Police Department used reportable force at 14 separate incidents, with a decrease from 25 in 2021. One officer received an ankle injury and was out of work for several months during a use of force incident in January. One suspect received minor scrapes while being taken into custody. Of those 14 incidents, five of those *did not* result in actual physical force from an officer being applied to the suspect; those force incidents mainly involved Taser or Pistol presentation. Of the remaining 9 incidents, only two incidents involved force where a subject was physically fighting with officers. The remaining incidents involved minor resisting.

Of 14 incidents, only two involved residents of town. Of the town residents, one had actual force applied, and is the subject previously mentioned that physically fought officers.

Lethal weapons were presented during three separate incidents, two of which were felony motor vehicle stops, the other involved the operator of a vehicle that fled from Holyoke Police in a vehicle while intoxicated on PCP. No officer discharged their weapons in 2022 other than for training purposes or animal destruction, and there were no incidents of serious bodily injury or death to any suspect. This resulted in monthly "zero reports" for all 12 months of the year to



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the national Use of Force Database which requires the submission of reporting for use of force incidents resulting in serious bodily injury or death.

Electronic Conductive Weapons (ECW's), or Taser's were deployed during seven incidents, three of which tasers were only presented. The four remaining incidents involved the use of the taser against a subject; two incidents involved a probe deployment, and two involved a drive-stun, or weapon-to-body contact.

Demographics on Use of Force

Gender- 9 Male, 4 Female, 1 Non-Binary

Race- 12 Caucasian, 1 African American, 1 Middle Eastern/Indian

Average Age- 36

The following are the types of incidents where force was used;

Domestic Assaults- 3

Other Assaults- 1

Motor Vehicle Stops- 1

Robbery/Larceny-5

Disturbance-0

Drunk Driving-3

Other-1

The following shows the break-down of substance abuse or mental health crisis in Use of Force Incidents;

Mental Health-3

Substance Use- 5



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A further analysis of the 6 calls where mental health and/or substance abuse was determined to be a factor, officers were only aware that they were encountering a person experiencing a mental health crisis prior to arrival on two occasions. Of the 6 incidents, Staff Crisis Clinician Emma Reilly (who started working in October of 2021) was on scene for two of the incidents and requested a section 12 issuance for one such incident. The other incident resulted in a section 35.

In all six incidents, each subject was referred to the criminal court system.

Prosecution

The following are the results of prosecution for each incident where Use of Force was reported.

Pre-Trial Probation-1

Convicted-3

Convicted-Probation-1

Convicted-Jailed-3

Convicted- Sentence to Jail with Suspended Sentence-0

Continued without a Finding/Probation- 5

Dismissed- 1

Department Considerations

CY 2022 Statistics showed that Use of Force related incidents most often occur on the 3-11 shift on the weekend, which in our experiences are the busiest shifts for calls for service. The officer who reported the most used force incidents did so on four separate occasions, three of which were drunk drivers, the other a domestic assault suspect. The officer who used the most force



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next did so on three separate occasions, and in only one incident actually applied physical force towards a person.

In comparison to 2021, which had 25 Use of Force incidents, 2022 saw a reduction back to 2020 statistics which had 13 Use of Force incidents. It is my belief that the decrease in Use of Force incidents can in-part be attributed to our on-staff crisis clinician.

In closing, with force being used in 0.1% of incidents, with 13 of 14 of our Use of Force Incidents involve calls for service (100% of Use of Force Incidents involving non-white individuals were calls for service, and not initiated by police), with injuries to officers and suspects being very rare, I find no issues procedurally or departmentally.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Mitchell Kuc