



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

2023 Use of Force Annual Report

To: Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: Annual Use of Force Report, CY 2023

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 2023.

Local Considerations

As you are aware, and is mentioned in several other reports, 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. This does not take into account the huge amount of employees of the University system. 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.



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

Use of Force and Reporting Standards

The standards to trigger an incident as a reportable Use of Force is extremely low. 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 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. This is intended to capture and investigate incidents where force is even interpreted by anyone as being used.

Investigations

Investigations are completed at all levels of supervision, from the Officer's supervisor, to the Lieutenants, 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 2023, Officers of the Hadley Police Department used reportable force at 12 separate incidents, with a decrease from 14 in 2022. No Officers or suspects were injured in any Use of Force Incidents in 2023. Of those 12 incidents, eight 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 four incidents, three incidents involved force where the subject was resisting or physically fighting with officers. In two incidents, officers resorted to Taser use, and in the third, the officers used Hands on Techniques. The fourth physical Use of Force was a dog bite involving the police canine.

Of 12 incidents, six were town residents, a significant increase from 2022. Of the town residents, two had actual physical force applied.



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

Lethal weapons were presented during seven separate incidents, four of followed motor vehicle pursuits, two of the three remaining incidents involved the reports of knives being involved, and a third involved an active fight in progress. No officer discharged their weapons in 2023 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 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 two incidents, and both involved a drive-stun, or weapon-to-body contact.

Demographics on Use of Force

Gender- 12 Male, 0 Female, 0 Non-Binary

Race- Five Caucasian, one African American, two Asian, four Hispanic

Average Age- 30

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

Domestic Assaults- 2

Other Assaults- 1

Motor Vehicle Pursuit-4

Protective Custody- 2

Other-3

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

Mental Health-2

Substance Use- 3



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

A further analysis of the five 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, and were accompanied by our Mental Health Clinicians.

In two of the five incidents involving mental health or substance abuse, the subjects were referred to the criminal court system, and in the other three, they were hospitalized or held in custody until sober.

Prosecution

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

Pre-Trial Probation-1

Convicted- 1

Convicted-Probation-1

Convicted-Jailed-1

Convicted- Sentence to Jail with Suspended Sentence-0

Continued without a Finding/Probation- 0

Dismissed- 0

Pending/Open Case- 4

Department Considerations

CY 2023 Statistics showed that Use of Force related incidents most often occur on the 3-11 and 11pm-7am shift, on the weekend. The officer who reported the most used force incidents did so on four separate occasions, three of which were drunk drivers, the other was a call for an



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

Assault. Two of the calls were initiated calls, the other two were calls for service. None of the four mentioned incidents involve the use of physical force, only the presentation of force.

In comparison to 2022, which had 14 Use of Force incidents, 2023 showed a slight decrease. It is my belief that the continued decrease in Use of Force incidents can in-part be attributed to our on-staff crisis clinician.

With force being used in miniscule (less than .01%) amounts of incidents, with a majority of our Use of Force Incidents involving calls for service (Six out of Seven 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.

As a result of this year's annual reporting, I have identified an intersection between motor vehicle pursuits and the presentation of deadly force, with four of the six deadly force presentation encounters involving motor vehicle pursuits. I believe that the alteration of our Motor Vehicle Pursuit policy, mentioned in that specific annual report, will significantly impact the number of not only motor vehicle pursuits, but potential deadly force encounters.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lt. Mitchell Kuc