



Greenbelt Police Department

2020 Use-of-Force Analysis



During 2020, there were twenty-four (24) incidents where reportable force was used. This number is up considerably from previous years. This increase appears to be due to officers feeling the need to document any and all contact with a suspect(s) that could be considered a use of force. It should be noted that out of the (24) use of force incidents, (22) were either “show of force” or empty hand techniques. The level of force used by an officer in each incident is as follows: Taser/Probe (2), Taser/Display (14), Flashlight (0), Baton (0), Pepper Stray (OC) (0), and Empty Hand (7) and Canine (0) and one Firearm Display.

A ten year comparison is as follows:

2020 Use of Force Data

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Firearm | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Firearm Display | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | 1 |
| Taser Dart | 5 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Taser Stun | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taser/Display | 6 | *** | *** | 5 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| Flashlight | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Baton Impact | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pepper Spray (OC) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Empty Hand | 5 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Canine | | | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 22 | 27 | 12 | 22 | 14 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 7 | 5 | 24 |

* The 2017 firearms discharge was a negligent discharge.

***Not recorded

Use of Force by Calls for Service

| YEAR | CALLS FOR SERVICE | USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS | USE OF FORCE PERCENT |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2020 | 27,709 | 24 | .00086 |
| 2019 | 25,743 | 5 | .00019 |
| 2018 | 24,006 | 7 | .00029 |
| 2017 | 25,417 | 20 | .00078 |
| 2016 | 24,720 | 14 | .00056 |
| 2015 | 27,445 | 20 | .00072 |
| 2014 | 25,734 | 10 | .00038 |
| 2013 | 31,582 | 22 | .00069 |

Use of Force by Arrest

| YEAR | ADULT & JUVENILE ARREST | USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS | USE OF FORCE PERCENT |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2020 | 219 | 24 | .100 |
| 2019 | 851 | 5 | .005 |
| 2018 | 608 | 7 | .01 |
| 2017 | 847 | 20 | .02 |
| 2016 | 438 | 14 | .03 |
| 2015 | 624 | 20 | .03 |
| 2014 | 676 | 10 | .01 |
| 2013 | 909 | 22 | .02 |

Officers are still initially utilizing verbal commands and open hand techniques, but it appears that the TASER remains the prevalent device when engaging in incidents which require an increase level of force. The general public is becoming more and more aware of these devices as well as their functions. The suspects appear to be eager to comply with the officer's directions as opposed to be electronically restrained.

Use of Force by Geographic Location

| Location | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Historic Greenbelt | 7 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Greenbelt East | 7 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Greenbelt West | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 18 |
| Other Jurisdiction | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 16 |
| Commercial | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 |
| Hotel | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Public Park | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Stop | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| Restaurant/Bar | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 24 |

Findings and Data Analysis

In 2020, the agency found that the (24) use-of-force incidents were within the scope of Departmental policy. A new software program has been put into place that will better track use of force incidents in real time. This new software, in combination with new software implemented last year will allow for instance notifications to Command Personnel when an employee triggers the Early Warning System. The agency has also started to review Body Worn Camera video of all Use of Force incidents prior to approving the Subject Management Report. This review of body worn camera footage takes place at each level of the review and approval process.

As mandated by Maryland State law, agency Tasers were downloaded and audited. This documentation showed agency compliance.

Use of Force by Time of Day

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Day | 10 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Evening | 5 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Midnight | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 |

Use of Force by Day of Week

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |

Use of Force Subjects Under the Influence

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| CDS | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Alcohol | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Mental Illness | * | * | * | * | 4 |

Use of Force by Encounter

| Incidents | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Call for service- Officers responded for a suspect wanted in connection with a burglary and armed assault. Suspect resisted arrest. Physical force controls were used to gain compliance. Both suspect and officer received minor injuries. |
| 2 | Call for service- Suicidal subject armed with knife. Taser red dot was pointed at suspect, suspect gave up and was taken to hospital for evaluation. |
| 3 | Call for service- Domestic assault. Suspect assaulted female and then assaulted the officer as the officer was trying to arrest the individual. |

| | |
|----|--|
| | Multiple officers then used physical control to handcuff the prisoner. Officer not injured, suspect received minor injuries |
| 4 | Call for service- Trespass. Suspect suffering from mental illness. Refused to leave. Assaulted officers while being handcuffed. Officers and suspect received minor injuries. |
| 5 | Call for service- Burglary of vacant apartment. Five suspects inside. Taser was displayed to four of the subjects in an attempt to control them until additional officers arrived. No injuries. Note-Documented as (4) separate use of force reports. |
| 6 | Call for service- Naked man under influence of PCP. Suspect fought officers. Taser was deployed. Suspect was restrained and transported to hospital for emergency mental evaluation. Suspect received minor injuries, officers not injured. |
| 7 | Call for service- Threats complaint. Suspect and suspect's dog became aggressive towards responding officers. Red dot laser from Taser was deployed and compliance was gained. No injuries either party. |
| 8 | Call for service- Hold up alarm. Officer displayed his service weapon at suspect. Suspect refused commands and put his vehicle in drive and intentionally struck police vehicle with officer and K-9 inside. The officers used physical control to complete the arrest. |
| 9 | Call for service-Trespasser. Officers used physical control and pressure point techniques to gain control of suspect. Suspect spit on officers during arrest. Suspect was a professional boxer and under the influence of PCP. It took three officers to complete the arrest. Five officers had to carry the suspect to the patrol vehicle. Suspect received minor injuries. |
| 10 | Call for service- Shoplifting. Suspect got combative. Officer displayed the Taser red dot and suspect submitted to the officer's commands. No injuries, either party. |
| 11 | Call for service- Theft from auto. Suspect came out of woods. Officer displayed Taser red dot, suspect complied. No injuries to either party. |
| 12 | Call for service- Traffic stop. Unregistered, license suspended. Subject incoherent and under influence of PCP. Verbal commands and physical control were used to complete the arrest. The officer was injured, the suspect was not injured. |
| 13 | Call for service- Violent domestic in progress. Male subject refused officer's instruction and physically assaulted officer. Responding officers used Taser red dot and physical control to complete the arrest. The officer was injured, the suspect was not injured. |
| 14 | Call for service- Stabbing. Officer located suspect and used handcuffing and verbal commands to complete the arrest. The officer was not injured, the suspect received minor injuries. |
| 15 | Call for service- Domestic assault. Male subject became extremely violent at which time the responding officer deployed the Taser probes. The suspect was arrested and taken to the hospital for mental evaluation. The officers were not injured, the suspect received minor injuries. |
| 16 | Call for service- Stolen vehicle. Suspect ran from officer and when the officers finally got the suspect stopped, the Taser red dot was displayed while the arrest was completed. Neither party was injured. |

| | |
|----|--|
| 17 | Call for service- Stabbing. Suspect refused to cooperate during arrest and responding officers had to use verbal commands, physical controls, pressure points as well as the red dot from the Taser to complete the arrest. No officers were injured, the suspect received minor injuries. |
| 18 | Call for service- Burglary in progress. Suspect appeared to be under influence of PCP. During arrest, suspect was controlled with verbal commands, physical controls and the Taser red dot. Both officer and suspect received minor injuries. |
| 19 | Call for service- 4 th degree burglary. Suspects located inside vacant apartment. Officer used Taser red dot to gain compliance and complete the arrest. Neither the suspect nor officers were injured. |
| 20 | Call for service- Shoplifting. Suspect attempted to resist arrest. Verbal commands and physical control were used to complete the arrest. Officer was not injured, suspect had of minor injuries. |
| 21 | Call for service- Disorderly subject. Suspect was actively assaulting a citizen in the parking lot. Officer attempted to detain suspect when she began punching the officer in the head with a closed fist. Officer used verbal commands and physical control to complete the arrest. The officer and suspect received minor injuries. |

*Note- one incident resulted in multiple Use of Force Reports- Overall total 24

Use of Force Suspect's Demographics

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| African American | 12 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 20 |
| White non-Hispanic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Hispanic | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Use of Force by Suspect's Gender

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Male | 11 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 22 |
| Female | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |

Use of Force Injuries

| Type of Injuries | Injured Suspect | Injured Officer |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No apparent injuries | 11 | 15 |
| Minor Injuries | 13 | 9 |
| Serious Injuries | 0 | 0 |
| Fatality | 0 | 0 |

Use of Force by Rank

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Officer | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| PFC | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| MPO | 9 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Corporal | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Sergeant | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment and training.

There were no warning shots fired in 2020. There was (1) incident where the officer displayed his/her firearm as a use of force in order to stop a felony assault.

There were no use-of-force training, equipment or policy deficiencies discovered during this analysis. The agency has started to review Body Worn Camera footage on all Use of Force incidents during the administrative review process.