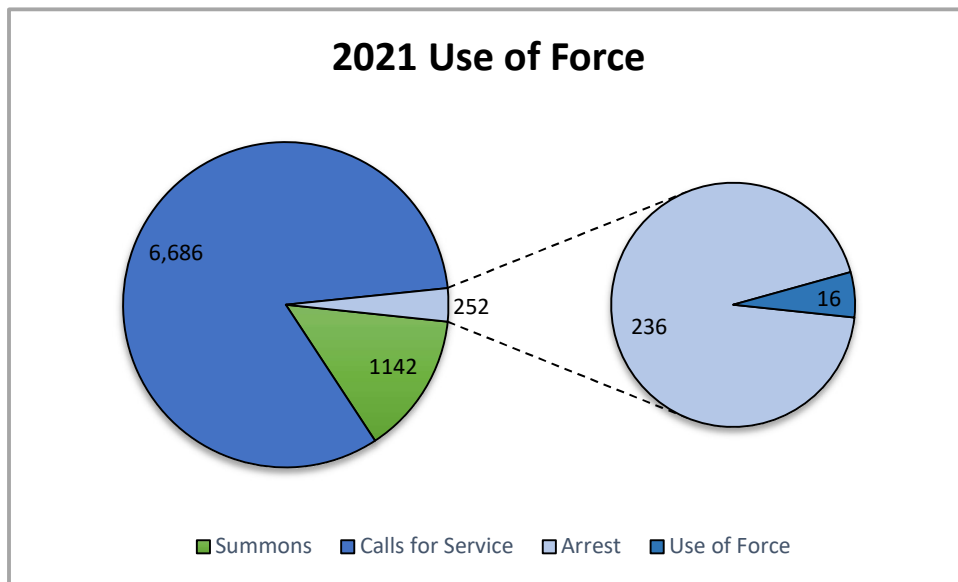


Memorandum

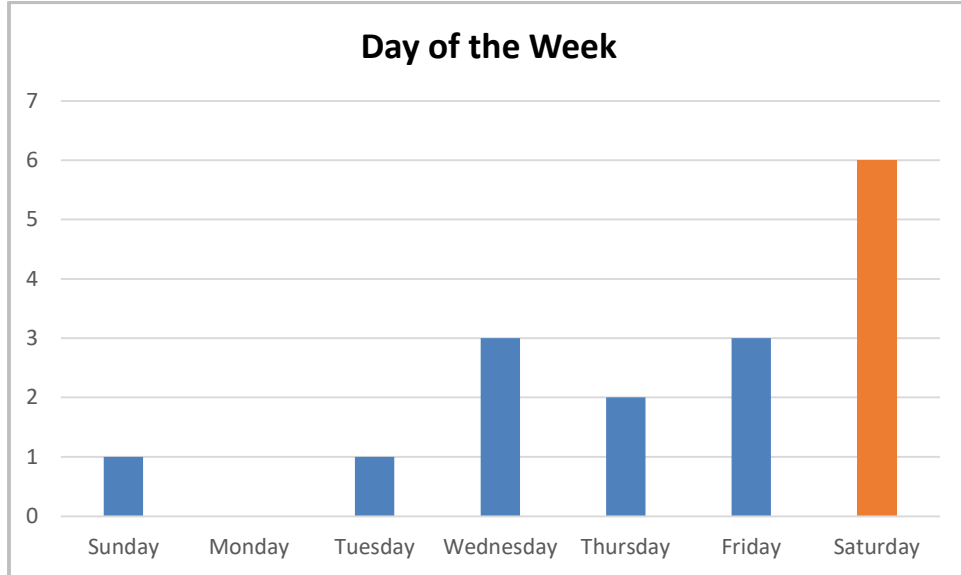
To: Chief Douglas Goodman  
 From: Major A. Troy Aronhalt  
 Date: February 23, 2022  
 Re.: Use of Force Review 2021 (Annual)  
 Copy: Chain of Command, CALEA 4.2.4

In 2021, the Ashland Police Department responded to 6,686 calls for service (CFS) and a total of 252 arrests were made. In addition, 1,142 Uniform Traffic Summons (UTS) were issued. The use of force review took into account all uses of force as determined by the policy to include: pointing a Taser (referred to as Taser painting), pointing of a firearm at a suspect, physical restraint where a suspect is taken to the ground, or other uses of force where agency issued weapons are used such as the use of oleoresin capsicum spray, the ASP baton, and the FN Herstal 303 less-lethal launcher. Considering the above-mentioned interactions, it was found that 16 of the arrests required a level of use of force to make the arrest effectively and safely.

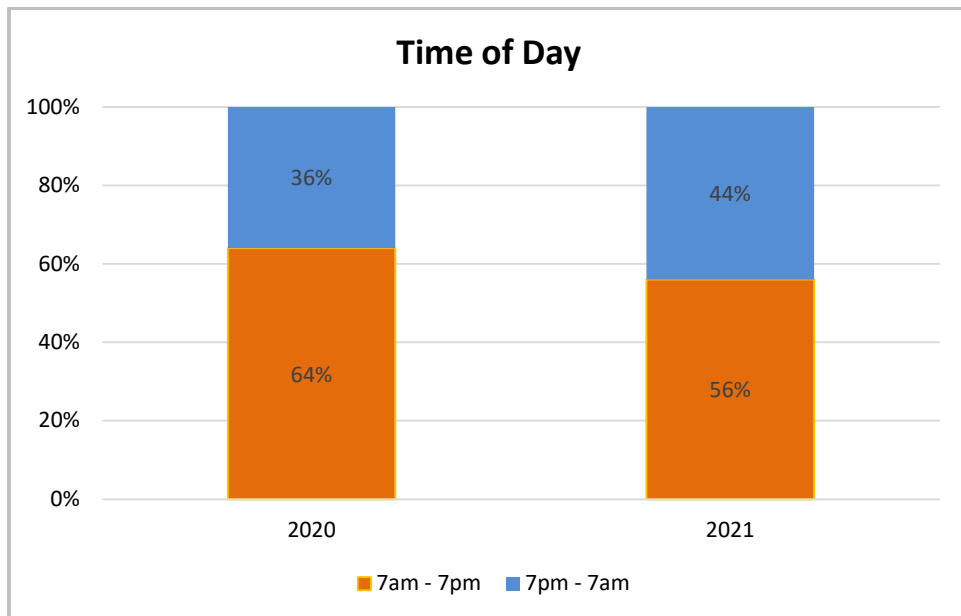


The review indicated a level of force was used in just over six percent (6%) of arrests in 2021; this was an increase from 2020. In reviewing the use of force incidents by time of day and day of the week throughout the year Saturday had more incidents than any other day. There were not any use of force incidents that occurred on Mondays. A review of the incidents on Saturdays revealed four

suspects were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Three of the incidents occurred on dayshift and there were also three on nightshift.



In 2021, more incidents occurred during day shift hours than the night shift hours. Nine incidents (56%) of the uses of force occurred during the dayshift and seven (44%) occurred during the nightshift. This was similar to 2020, but the number of incidents on dayshift has decreased when compared to incidents that occurred in 2020.

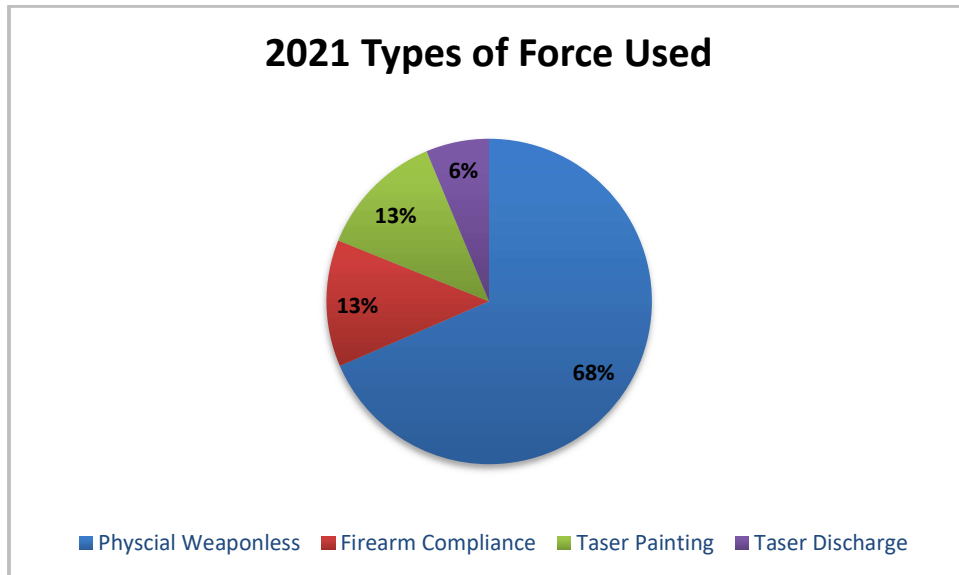


When looking further, of the nine events involving a level of force during the day shift hours, two of the incidents involved an arrestee/detainee that was under the

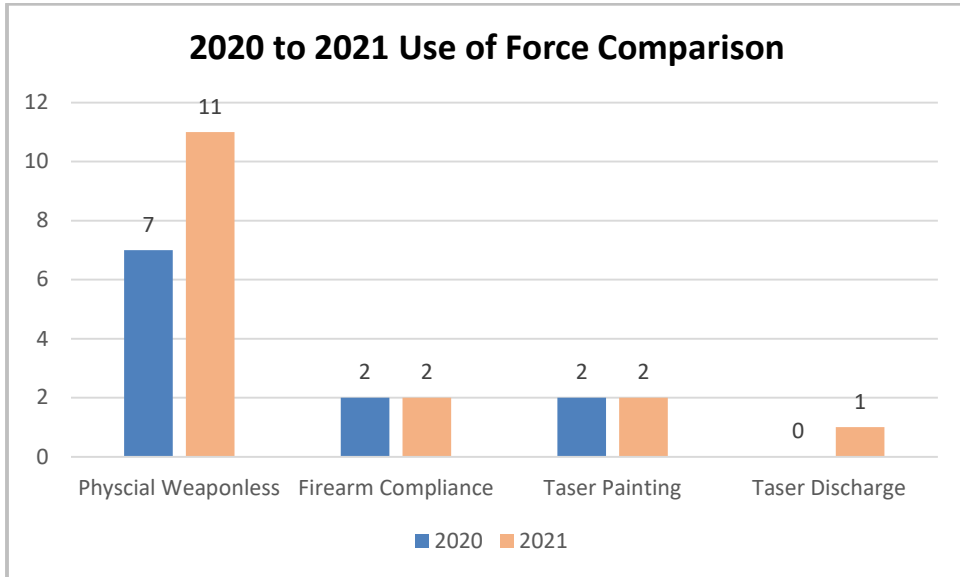
influence of alcohol or drugs or both and one suspect condition was unknown. Two the incidents involved subjects in crisis needing services and two involved weapons.

Out of the total use of force incidents (16), two of them (13%) were for law enforcement officers displaying their firearm, two of them (13%) were for Taser painting/display, one of them (6%) was for Taser discharge, and eleven (69%) of them were physical weaponless force. In two (6%) of these incidents two forms of force were used during the situation that involved the need to escalate or de-escalate the level of force. *In this review, if a secondary use of force was used, the use of force that was most likely to cause the greatest harm was primary for this report. There was secondary force used in two (12.5%) incidents. One of the incidents was firearm compliance in conjunction with a Taser discharge and the other was physical/weaponless force in addition to Taser display.*

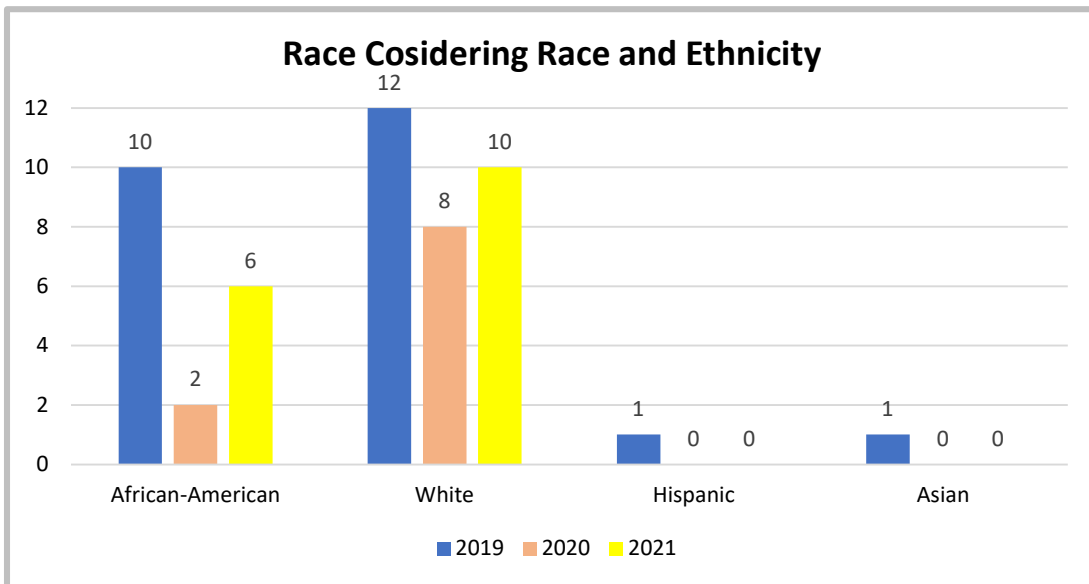
Other forms of use of force that are captured in our data are firearm discharge, chemical/OC discharge, FN 303, and baton however none of these force actions were recorded in 2021.



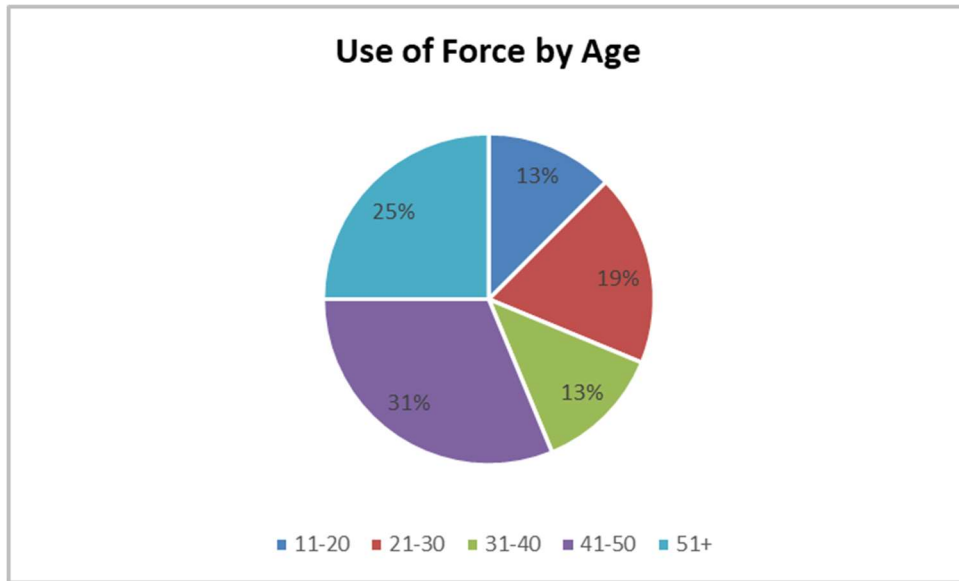
In comparing 2020 to 2021, there was approximately a forty-five percent (45%) increase in the total number of arrests requiring a level of force to safely effect an arrest or detain a suspect. **In 2020, there were 11 incidents, increasing to 16 incidents in 2021.** Firearm display incidents remained at the same in 2021 when compared with 2020. Taser painting remained the same with an increase with one Taser discharge in 2021. There was an increase in incidents of physical force used.



Ten (62.5%) of the offenders that were involved in use of force related incidents were Caucasian and eight (37.5%) were African American. There was not any force reported on any other demographic. Additionally, 14 (87.5%) of the incidents requiring a level of force involved a male arrestee or detainee and two (12.5%) involved females. A review of the sex/race data from the use of force incidents indicates there was an increase in force used in incidents involving females and an increase in incidents involving a minority race when compared with 2020. The review indicated that the incidents of force in 2021 were more in line with 2019. None of the use of force incidents indicated any form of racial bias.



In 2021, over half of the persons which a level of force was needed in order to take them into custody were over the age of 41. these two age groups accounted for fifty-six (56%) of the offenders. This is a change from 2020 where almost half of the uses of force involved individuals in the 11 to 20 year-old range.



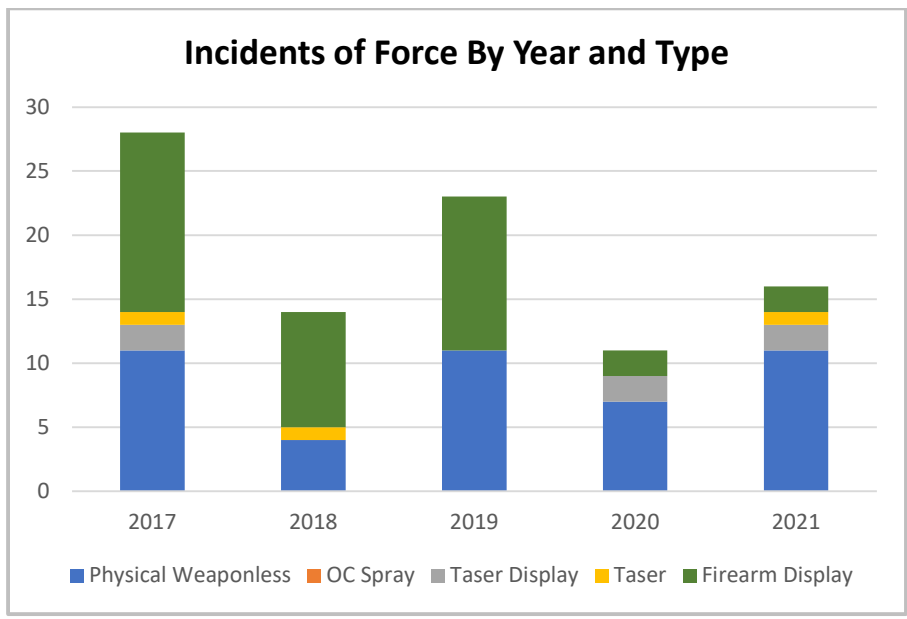
Looking further into the incidents involving individuals over 41, out of the nine (9) incidents involving someone from this age range, six (6) of them were arrested or detained for an incident where they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Three of the nine aforementioned were in mental crisis. Looking below at the chart there were nine individuals that were in the over the age of 41 years of age category there is a clear consistency involving drugs and/or alcohol.

Age	Race	Reason	Drugs/Alcohol
61	B	Trespassing	Y
46	W	Disorderly/DIP	Y
46	W	Mental	Y
54	W	Wanted	Y
42	W	EPO violation	N
42	W	Arrest/ Armed Suspect	N
46	W	Obstructing another arrest	Y
54	W	Arrest/Obstruction	Y
66	B	Shooting incident advised weapon still on scene	N

Currently, seventy-nine percent (79%) of the department’s personnel (sworn and non-sworn) have received the full Crisis Intervention Training (*We have had a reduction in our saturation due to new employees and the limited amount of classes available*). In addition, on an annual basis all personnel receive a Crisis Intervention Training update to review the tactics learned in Basic Crisis Intervention Training class. In addition, officers develop this area further in classes such as de-escalation which is covered semi-annually during use of force training and attending with Dealing with Emotionally Disturbed Persons Training. All of these combined helps officers communicate more effectively on a daily basis, specifically, when dealing with consumers that are in need of mental health services and/or might be experiencing a mental health crisis at the time of contact.

All uniform patrol officers are issued an officer worn camera and are required to record their interactions with citizens according to policy. A random selection of videos are reviewed on a monthly basis by the shift supervisor and documented on their inspection. The program is reviewed annually, and updated equipment and technology is implemented as it becomes available.

Our officers are issued multiple pieces of equipment both lethal and non-lethal to resolve encounters with the minimum amount of force needed. Officers receive training on each piece of lethal (duty handgun, rifle if issued, and shotgun) and non-lethal (Taser, OC Spray, Baton, Defensive Tactics and FN303 launcher) equipment at least annually. In each training session the correlating policy is reviewed and discussed.



In all situations that a level of force was used, a use of force report was completed and submitted by the involved officers. Those reports are then reviewed by the supervisor and forwarded to the Patrol Commander. The Patrol Commander reviews each report and forwards the findings to the Chief of Police for final review. Out of the 16 use of force incidents, five suspects reported or had visible signs of injury sustained from the force used. The injuries sustained were bruises, minor abrasions and red marks from the force used. In one instance, an officer was injured. The officer suffered a cut to his head and nose. He also suffered from minor bruising and complained of blurred vision. He did seek medical treatment.

### **Conclusion**

The climate of law enforcement is constantly changing; though in the Town of Ashland, we remain very fortunate to have constant support from our community. Five (32%) of the 16 use of force incidents involved citizens of the Town of Ashland. The remaining 11 (68%) involved individuals who did not reside within the town corporate limits.

During this review it was found that we experienced an increase in use of force incidents over last year. This is in large part due to 2020 being an anomaly where we experienced an abnormally low crime rate and the remaining impacts of COVID. The review indicated, 2021 is more in keeping with previous years. Firearm display is an exception. Despite the increase in uses of force over 2020 the incidents where firearms were displayed remained the same with two instances having occurred.

Furthermore, there were not any notable trends or problems in this annual review; however, it was found one of the use of force incidents was not within policy, not because of excessive force, but policy violations surrounding the detention.

It is recommended we continue with our current training practices and aggressively pursue obtaining 100% of the officers being trained in Crisis Intervention Training. The agency also provides several less lethal options to officers should they be needed. It is imperative we continue to research new technologies as they become available to keep both the officer and the individual we encounter safe.