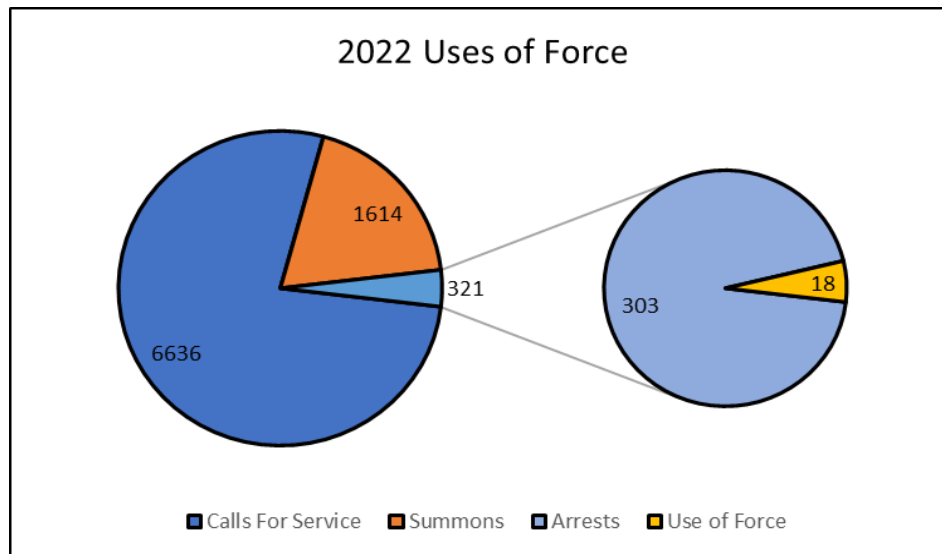


Memorandum

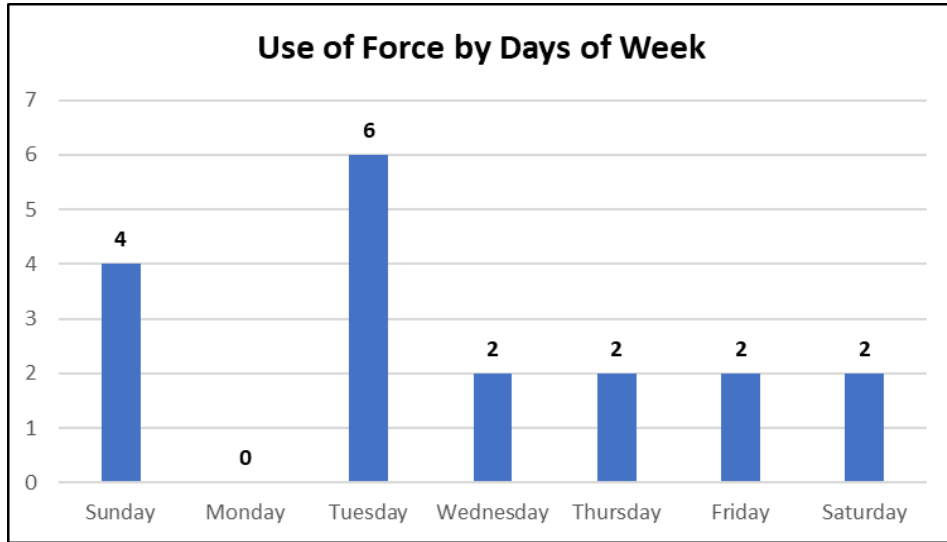
To: Chief A. Troy Aronhalt  
 From: Captain J.F. Shelhorse  
 Date: February 20, 2023  
 Re.: Use of Force Review 2022 (Annual)  
 Copy: Chain of Command, CALEA 4.2.4

In **2022**, the Ashland Police Department responded to **6,636** calls for service (CFS) and a total of **321** arrests were made. In addition, **1,614** 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. After conducting a review, it was found that **18** incidents involved some level of force. Further review indicated that force was used during **17** custodial situations and **1** high-risk traffic stop detention.

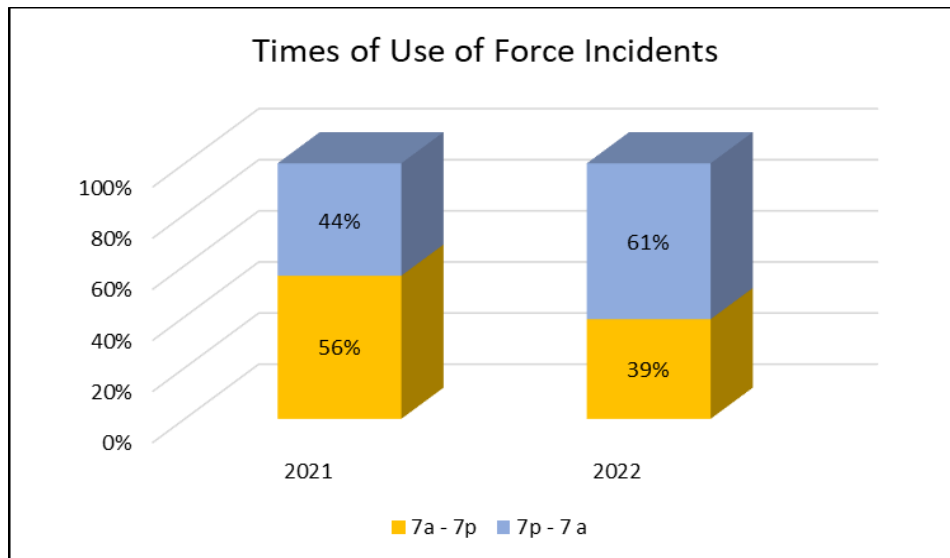


The review indicated a level of force was used in just over five percent (5.6%) of arrests in 2022; this was a slight decrease from just over six percent (6%) in 2021. The review of 2022 uses of force also revealed that nine (41%) suspects were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

In reviewing the use of force incidents by time of day and day of the week throughout the year, it was found that Tuesday had more incidents where force was used than any other day with six (33%) occurrences. Sunday had four (22%) incidents where force was used. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday each had two (11%) incidents where force was used. The review indicated that there were not any incidents where force was used on Monday.



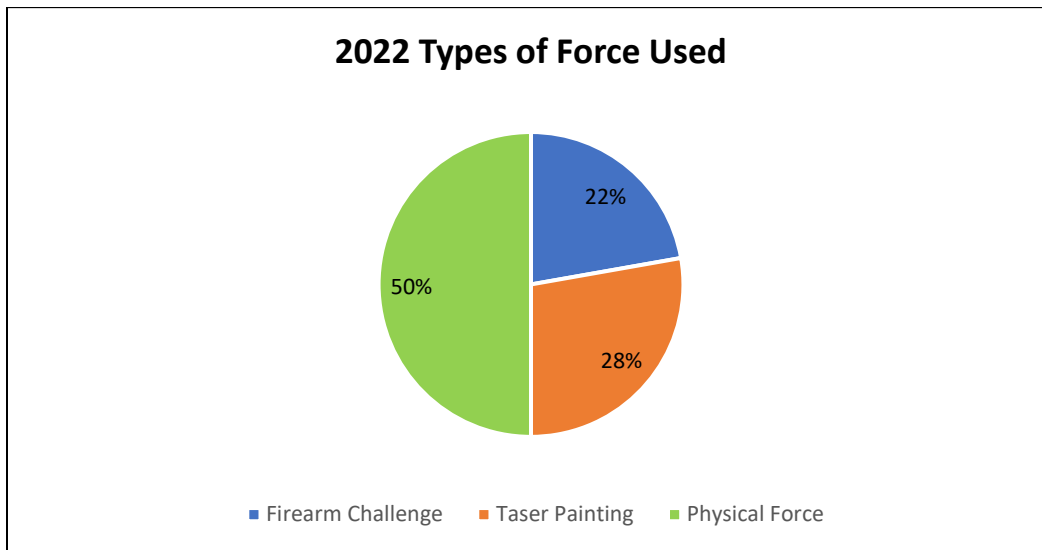
In 2022, more incidents occurred during night shift hours than occurred during the day shift hours. The review indicated seven (39%) incidents where force was used occurred during the dayshift and eleven (61%) occurred during the nightshift. The review indicated that this is a change from 2021 where more incidents occurred during the dayshift.



Out of the 18 use of force incidents, it was found a total 22 different individuals were involved. Four of the incidents (22%) involved a firearm challenge, five

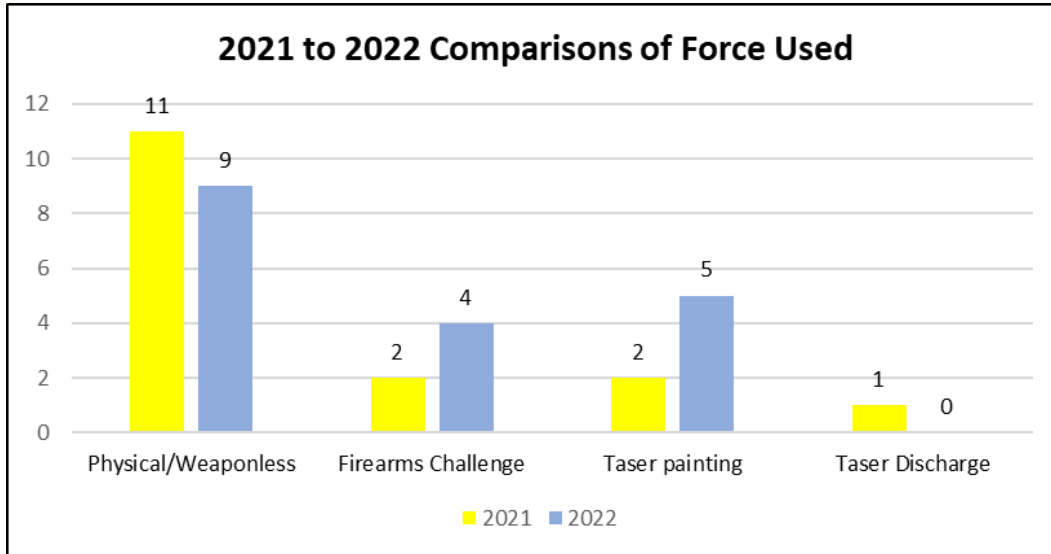
(28%) were as a result of Taser painting, and nine (50%) of the uses of force involved physical weaponless force. The review indicated there were two incidents involving more than one individual. One involved a high-risk traffic stop occupied by 4 individuals and the second a Taser painting of two individuals in making an arrest. The review further indicated that in three (17%) of the use of force incidents two types of force were required to escalate or de-escalate the level of force in response to the individual's actions.

Other forms of use of force that are tracked in our data include firearm discharge, taser discharge, chemical/OC discharge, FN 303, and baton use. It was found during the review that none of these force actions were recorded in 2022.



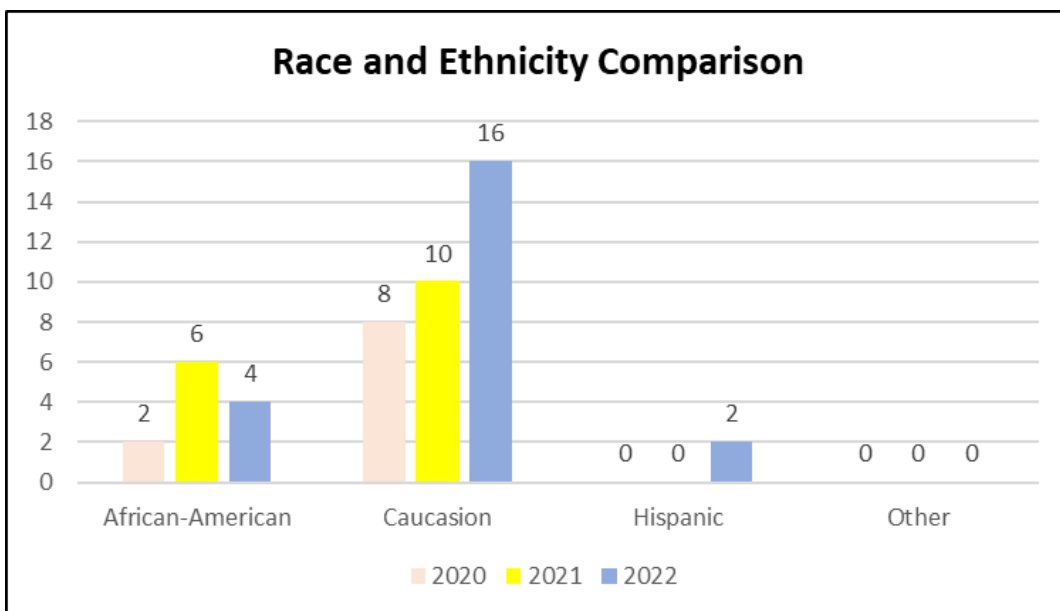
*Note: In this review, if a secondary use of force was used, the use of force that was most likely to cause the greatest harm was primary for this report. There was secondary force used in three (17%) incidents. Two of the incidents involved weaponless force in conjunction with a Taser painting and the other was a Taser painting along with a firearm challenge.*

The review revealed when compared with 2021 that there was an increase of two incidents representing a 12.5% increase. A more in-depth review of 2022 compared with 2021 was conducted. The review indicated use of force involving firearm compliance incidents increased by two representing a 100% increase. Use of force involving Taser painting occurred five times in 2022 representing an increase of 3 (150%) when compared to 2021. Incidents involving physical force indicated a reduction from 11 incidents in 2021 to 9 in 2022. This represented an 18% decrease in weaponless uses of force.

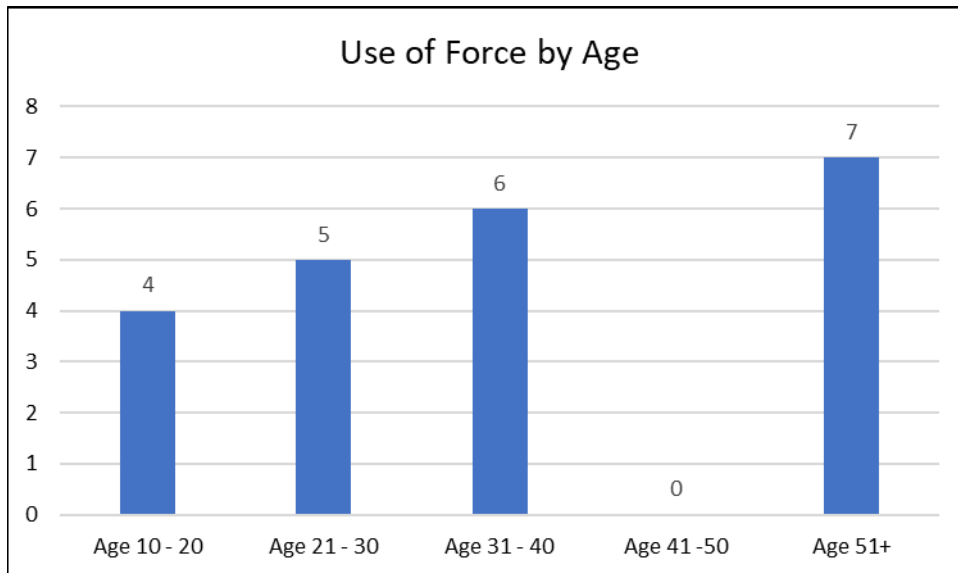


To accurately capture incidents of force when compared to race and gender identity all 22 individuals from the 18 incidents where force occurred were reviewed. Sixteen (73%) of the offenders that were involved in use of force related incidents were Caucasian, four (18%) were African American, and two (9%) were Hispanic. There was not any force reported on any other demographic. Additionally, 18 (82%) of the incidents requiring a level of force involved a male arrestee or detainee and four (18%) involved females.

A review of the ratio of sex/race data in 2022 compared to uses of force from 2021 indicate there was a decrease in force used in incidents involving African Americans. Incidents involving Caucasians and Hispanics both increased when compared with 2021. None of the use of force incidents indicated any form of racial bias.



In 2022, there were twenty-two offenders included in the eighteen (18) use of force incidents. The age group with the highest total of uses of force were those over the age of 51. There were no uses of force for individuals between the ages of 41-50. Therefore, the number of incidents for individuals 41 years of age and older was reduced by two from nine in 2021 to seven in 2022. This accounted for less than 50% of total offenders in use of force incidents as compared to 56% in 2021. Offenders 51 age and over still reflect a higher number of incidents than the other age categories.

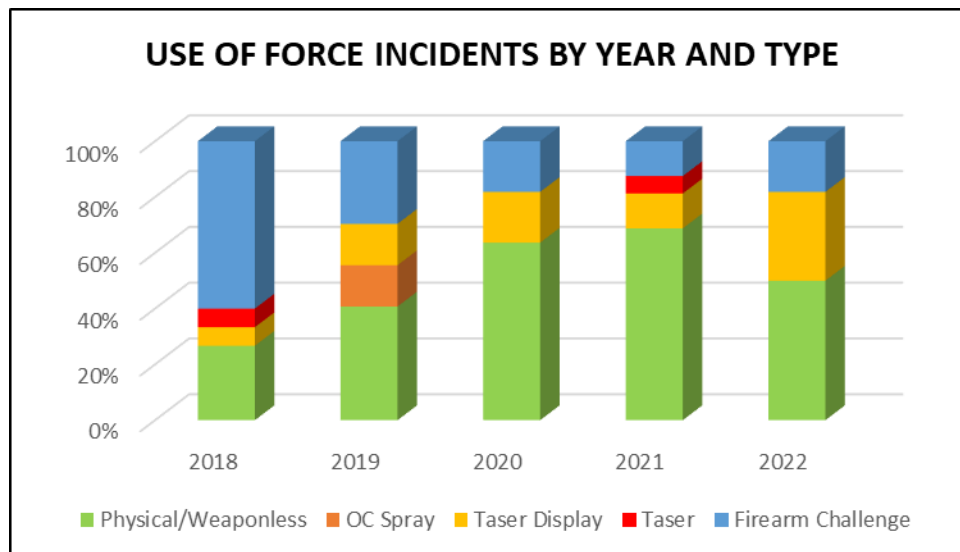


Looking further into the incidents involving individuals over 51, out of the seven incidents involving someone from this age range, two of them were arrested or detained for an incident where they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol and one of the seven was experiencing a mental crisis. The chart below demonstrates that most of the situations involving those individuals in this age range were involved in some sort of domestic dispute or argument with another individual.

AGE	RACE/SEX	INITIAL REASON	DRUGS/ALCOHOL
54	W/M	TRESPASSING	NO
59	W/M	THREATENING	NO
78	W/M	DOMESTIC ASSAULT	YES
60	W/M	DOMESTIC ASSAULT	NO
52	W/F	DOMESTIC ASSAULT	NO
74	W/F	MENTAL	NO
59	B/M	SHOOTING	YES

Currently we continue to work towards having all the department’s personnel (sworn and non-sworn) receive the full Crisis Intervention Training. As new officers graduate from the police academy and complete field training successfully, we identify a CIT course for them to attend. If they attend Hanover Sheriff’s Office training academy, they are automatically held a spot in the next Hanover County sponsored CIT course. 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 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. As now a part of state law, officers must attempt to verbally de-escalate use of force situations based on the totality of circumstances. It is the policy of the Ashland Police Department that when all the reasonably known circumstances indicate it is safe, prudent, and feasible to do so, an officer should attempt to contain, reduce the intensity, or stabilize the situation so that more time options and/or resources may become available for incident resolution.



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 is 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 by department Use of Force trainers.

In all situations that a level of force was used, a use of force report was completed in Guardian Tracking and submitted by the primary reporting officer. All officers involved in the use of force submit a statement, their information and involvement to be included in the force report. 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. All incidents reviewed in 2022 were found to be within policy. Out of the eighteen use of force incidents, six individuals reported or had visible signs of injury sustained from the force used. The injuries sustained were a fractured arm, 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.

There was only one reported incident in which property damage occurred during a use of force incident. During this incident an armed individual retreated into his home where the subject of his threats resided. Officers damaged the front door in their attempts to keep him from harming the individual he was threatening.

## **Conclusion**

Our agency remains dedicated to providing professional and ethical service to this community and all who visit. This is accomplished with having proper policy, thorough training, and competent and proper supervision in the field. 13 (59%) of the 22 individuals involved in the 18 use of force incidents were citizens from the Town of Ashland.

There was a level number of physical uses of force in and 2021 and 2022 however the number of firearm compliance increased as well as taser paintings. Furthermore, there were not any notable trends or problems in this annual review and all uses of force were considered within policy.

It is recommended we continue with our current training practices and aggressively pursue obtaining 100% of the officers being trained in Crisis Intervention Training as staffing continues to improve. Part of the training committee's focus in 2023 was to concentrate efforts on supervisor training and instructor development to not only ensure proper succession planning, but to improve field supervision of critical incidents, to include use of force scenarios. More force instructors in the field will help the agency better guide younger officers in their techniques and de-escalation efforts.