



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
CY2023 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It is the policy of the United States Capitol Police to allow officers to use only the level of force that is objectively reasonable to effectively accomplish their lawful duties (bring a subject under control), while protecting the lives of officers and others.

The authority to use force carries with it the need for accountability in order to safeguard the rights of the public and preserve the integrity of the Department and the jurisdiction that provides this authority.

As an ever-evolving learning institution, the United States Capitol Police strives to better itself and provide the highest quality of policing and public safety services.

It is for this reason that Department policy requires that all uses of force be reported to ensure transparency, integrity, and competence in our operations. These policy requirements are an important element of the Department's ongoing commitment toward accuracy and accountability in its use of force reporting.

The Office of Professional Responsibility thoroughly reviews, assesses, and investigates the objective reasonableness and reported use of Cooperative Controls, Contact Controls, Compliance Techniques, Defensive Tactics, and Lethal Force. The goal of these reviews is to verify and validate that the reported level of force was conducted within an authorized means, an authorized use, and was conducted within Department's Use of Force policy. These assessments also include a review to ensure that the level of force reported was not prohibitive in nature; that appropriate medical care was provided; and identified whether any additional training or qualification/certification is required.



Inspector Michael A. Spochart
Commander, Office of
Professional Responsibility

Executive Summary

The Department's Use of Force policy requires officers to complete a Use of Force report when any of the following incidents occur:

- The discharge of firearm for other than training.
- Action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
- The shooting of an injured or dangerous animal.
- The application of force through the use of lethal or less-lethal weapons.
- The application of weaponless physical force that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death of another person (to include firearm discharges).
- Unintentional firearm discharges, which must also be documented in an Office of Professional Responsibility report of investigation.
- The withdrawal of a weapon from its holster, and/or pointing a weapon (including a firearm) at an individual or animal.
- Any use of force greater than and including empty-hand control techniques.

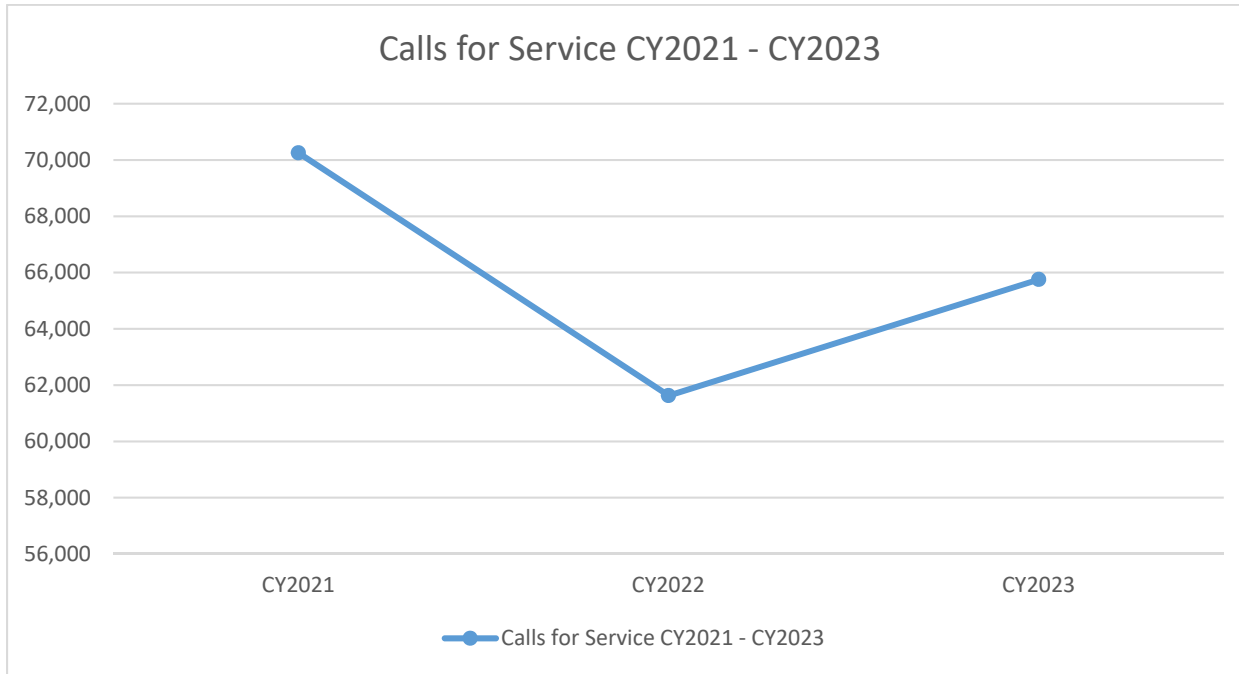
These policy requirements are an important element of the Department's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability in its use of force reporting.

The Office of Professional Responsibility has reviewed all reported Use of Force forms submitted during calendar year 2023 and have identified that the Department experienced 108 scenes where officers used a level of force in response to a subject's resistance, as compared 72 scenes in calendar year 2022. In total, 411 officers were involved in use of force incidents during calendar year 2023. However, 213 of those officers were only involved in two incidents – one in August where 109 officers responded to the Russell Senate Office Building for a call of an active shooter and a second incident in November where 104 officers responded to an active demonstration with resistance that occurred outside of the Democratic National Committee.

Analysis

Figure 1.

Number of USCP (Agency-wide) Calls for Service from calendar year 2021, 2022, and 2023.



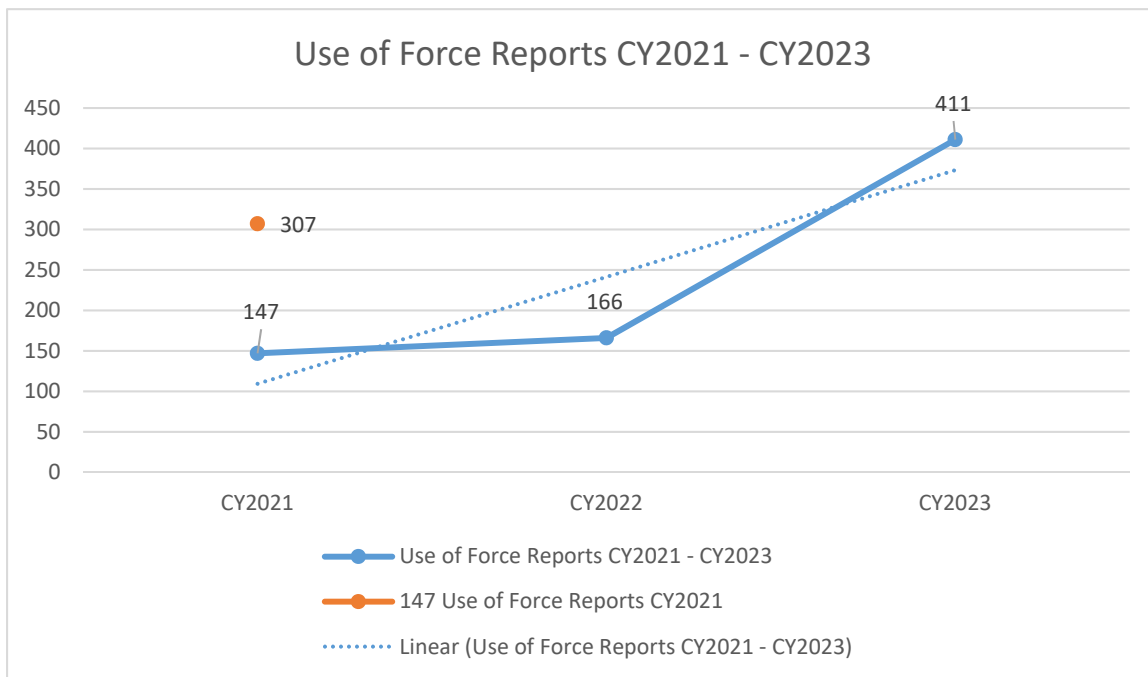
The data in the above chart reflects an overall decrease for the calls for service conducted by the United States Capitol Police between calendar years 2021 through 2023. During calendar year 2021, the Department experienced 70,252 calls for service, however, it should be noted that the January 6th Attack at the U.S. Capitol occurred during 2021. It should be noted that during the January 6th Attack at the U.S. Capitol, the United States Capitol Police received hundreds of calls for assistance that were each considered a separate call for service, however, the call takers were overwhelmed and were unable to accurately account for each individual call for service.

The Department experienced 61,628 calls for service during calendar year 2022 and 65,753 calls for service during calendar year 2023. *Note: This information was verified by our Communications Division and was consistently reported in the Department's Strategic Plan.*

The data depicts a +6% upward trend for calls for service as compared between calendar years 2022 and 2023.

Figure 2.

Number of Use of Force Reports from calendar year 2021 through calendar year 2023.



Note: The Office of Professional Responsibility's calendar year 2021 Annual Use of Force Report (submitted January 2022) identified 307 use of force reports being completed.

Note: 160 of the 307 reports received in calendar year 2021 were directly attributed to the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol (anomaly). In order to showcase a better representation of a three-year trend analysis (absent the anomaly), 147 use of force reports received in CY2021 are depicted in the above diagram. The blue dotted linear line in the chart depicts an upward trend line between calendar years 2021 and 2023.

The data depicts that 147 Use of Force reports were received by the Office of Professional Responsibility during CY2021, 166 Use of Force reports were received during CY2022, and 411 Use of Force reports were received during CY2023.

Overall, the data identifies a constant upward trend (+36% rate) of use of force reporting between calendar years 2021 and 2023. In comparison to the previous year, CY2023 resulted in an increase of use of force reporting at a rate of +40% as compared to the previous year (2022).

The +40% increase of Use of Force reporting during CY2023 was directly attributed to the Use of Force policy changes, the changes to the Use of Force form reporting requirements, and the significant response to the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August (109 reports submitted) and the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building in November (104 reports submitted).

The changes to the Use of Force policy included the following:

- Chokeholds, trachea holds, and/or pressing a subject's neck or back with the officer's leg or knee were all expressly prohibited.

- The policy re-emphasized the requirement for de-escalation:
“Once the subject is under control, the officer must de-escalate the amount of force to the lowest level necessary to maintain control. Officers should also calibrate their use of force to the lowest level possible and be alert to opportunities to decrease their use of force as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances. In all circumstances, the use of any force should be avoided or minimized if practicable.”
- The policy re-stated that officers were required to who have placed a suspect in a prone (lying down) position for handcuffing, to sit or stand the suspect up as soon as possible after the placing of restraints to avoid injury to the suspect or to the officer.
- The policy reiterated that officers may only shoot at a moving vehicle if:
 - A person in the vehicle is threatening the officer or another person with deadly force or serious bodily injury through means other than the vehicle.
 - Or**
 - The vehicle is operated in a manner that threatens to cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others **and** no other objectively reasonable means of defense appear to exist, including moving out of the path of the vehicle.
- The policy required that any officer who witnessed an inappropriate use of force being applied by another law enforcement officer, (whether that officer was a member of the USCP or another agency) had a duty to intervene to prevent the inappropriate use of force unless intervening would cause harm to the witness-officer or additional harm to the subject. The officer also had a duty to report any inappropriate use of force to the Office of Professional Responsibility.
- The policy included a “Use of Force Handbook” that described the Department’s authorized “less lethal” weapons and how they were to be used. The handbook discussed the defensive tactics that were trained by the Department.
- The form updates included the additions of race and ethnic specific identities, the reorganization of the Department’s use of force levels and means. Specifically, Compliance Techniques, Defensive Tactics, and Deadly Force categories were categorically reorganized for efficient data reporting and consistency with training requirements.

Figure 3.

Number of Calls for Service, Use of Force Reports, and Number of Arrests in calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023

Category	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023	% Change CY22-23
Calls for Service	70,252	61,628	65,753	+6%
Number of Arrests	1,059	758	1,206	+63%
Use of Force Reports	*307/147	166	411	+40%

**160 of the use of force reports received by the Office of Professional Responsibility in 2021 were directly attributed to the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol.*

The data indicates use of force in response to resistance being used in only 0.006% of the calls for service made in 2023, compared to the 0.003% of the calls for service recorded in 2022. The data also indicates that both the incidence rate of the use of force and the calls for service have increased in comparison to 2022. In explanation of this, the use of force policy change and reporting requirements have added enhanced required and specific information be included in our interaction with the public in a post-COVID society.

USE OF FORCE-RELATED INCIDENTS

In 2023, there were 411 use of force reports reviewed by the Office of Professional Responsibility, compared to 166 use of force reports received in 2022. Through data analysis, the Office of Professional Responsibility has confirmed that the Department experienced 108 use of force incidents/scenes where a level of force or means of force was used in calendar year 2023. A review of the data indicated that some incidents/scenes experienced multiple officers using force, resulting in a higher number of use of force reports being generated when compared to the number of use of force incidents on record.

A review of the data received during calendar year 2023 identified that the 108 incidents/scenes occurred when officers stopped pedestrians (as they were wanted individuals, armed individuals, pedestrians fighting, combative individuals, or fleeing felons) and initiated traffic stops (when pursuing wanted felons and suspected stolen vehicles, which resulted in officers enacting felony traffic stops and withdrawing their firearm from the holster and pointing it at individuals in order to make apprehension.

Further, a review of the 411 use of force reports received during calendar year 2023 revealed zero instances where excessive use of force was improper, unjust, or illegal.

FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

Figure 4.

2023 Use of Force Incidents by Month, Day of Week, and Time of Day.

Month		Day of Week		Time of Day	
January	10	Sunday	21	2300-0700 hours	36
February	12	Monday	31	0700-1500 hours	185
March	21	Tuesday	44	1500-2300 hours	190
April	21	Wednesday	231		
May	11	Thursday	28		
June	8	Friday	20		
July	24	Saturday	36		
August	122				
September	21				
October	12				
November	131				
December	18				

In 2023, the months of November (32%) and August (30%) reported the highest number of incidents in which force was used in response to resistance. June (2%) and January (2%) reported the fewest incidents. The remaining months had an average of 17.5 incidents per month.

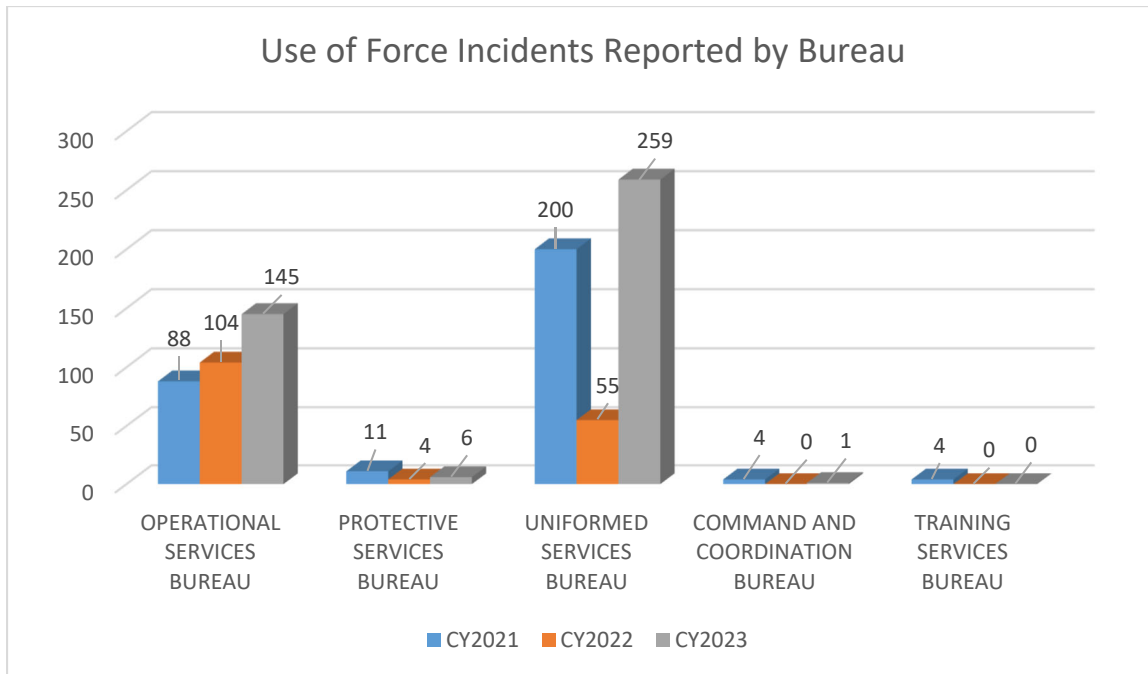
The data shows that in 2023, incidents involving force in response to resistance occurred consistently throughout most days of the week, with Wednesdays reporting the most incidents at 56% and Fridays reporting the fewest incidents at 5%.

There is an identified trend in that the rate of incidents of force occurrence steadily increased through the midnight (2300-0700 hours; at 9%) and day work (0700-1500 hours; at 45%) tours of duty, and peaked during the afternoon/evening hours (1500-2300 hours; 46%). This trend is similar to all calls for service that occurs throughout the day (*confirmed by USCP Communications*).

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS REPORTED BY BUREAU

Figure 5.

Use of Force Reports by Assigned Bureau for 2021, 2022, and 2023



Calendar year 2023 data revealed that the Operational Services Bureau reported 145 incidents, the Protective Services Bureau reported 6 incidents, the Uniformed Services Bureau reported 259 incidents, and the Command and Coordination Bureau reported 1 incident. In total, 411 incidents were received and reviewed during calendar year 2023.

The data shows that most of the reported use of force incidents in calendar years 2021 through 2023 occurred in the Operational Services Bureau and the Uniformed Services Bureau. In 2023, use of force incidents reported in the Operational Services Bureau and the Uniformed Services Bureau comprised of 98% of the use of force incidents reported, which was also the identical case in 2022.

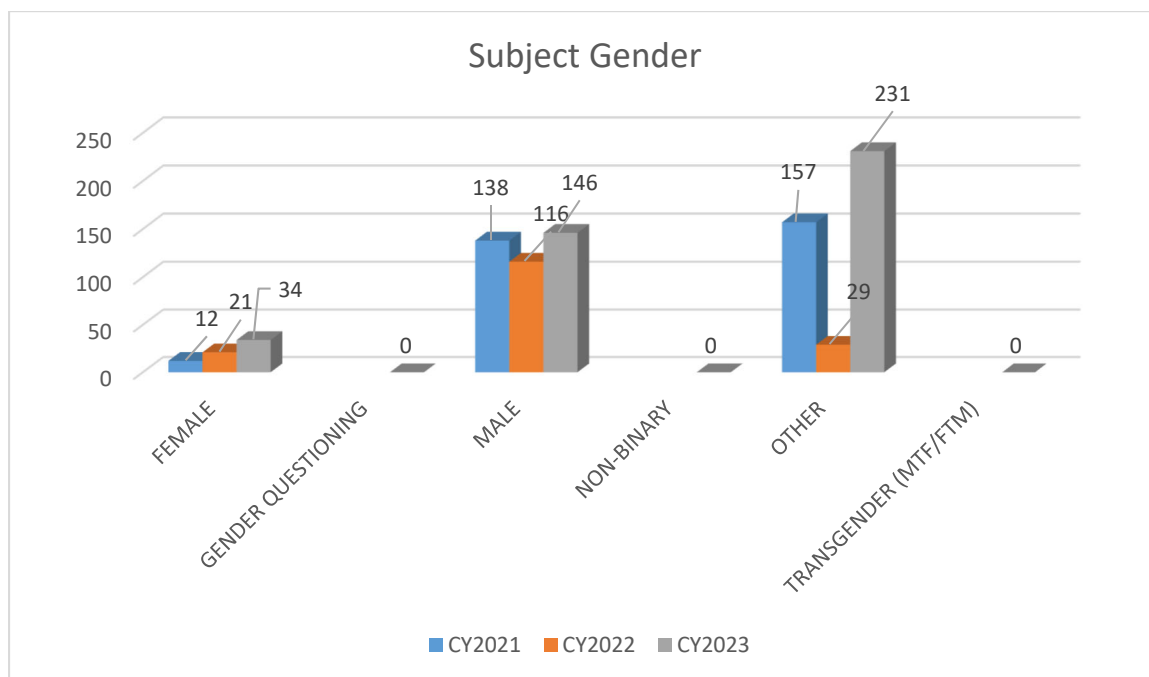
The data depicted is consistent with the operational bureaus who primarily respond to all calls for service and enact stops or arrests.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBJECTS ON WHOM FORCE WAS USED

The Department's Use of Force reporting includes capturing data on the demographics of subjects on whom force was used. Specifically, the Department attempts to identify whether subjects categorize themselves as male, female, or other/unknown. In December 2023, the additional categories of non-binary, transgender (MTF/FTM), gender questioning, and other/unknown were added the Use of Force reporting requirements, but none were reported to be involved in December 2023.

Figure 6.

Gender of Subjects Involved in Use of Force Incidents During 2021, 2022, and 2023



The Subject Gender category in CY2023 involved 34 females, 146 males, and 231 gender unknown. In total, 411 genders were reported.

The data indicates that there was an increase in all categories of subjects involved in use of force incidents in 2023 compared to 2022. The large number of unknown genders in CY2023 was due to the greater reporting of specific emergency incidents, such as the response to the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August (109) and the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building in November (104).

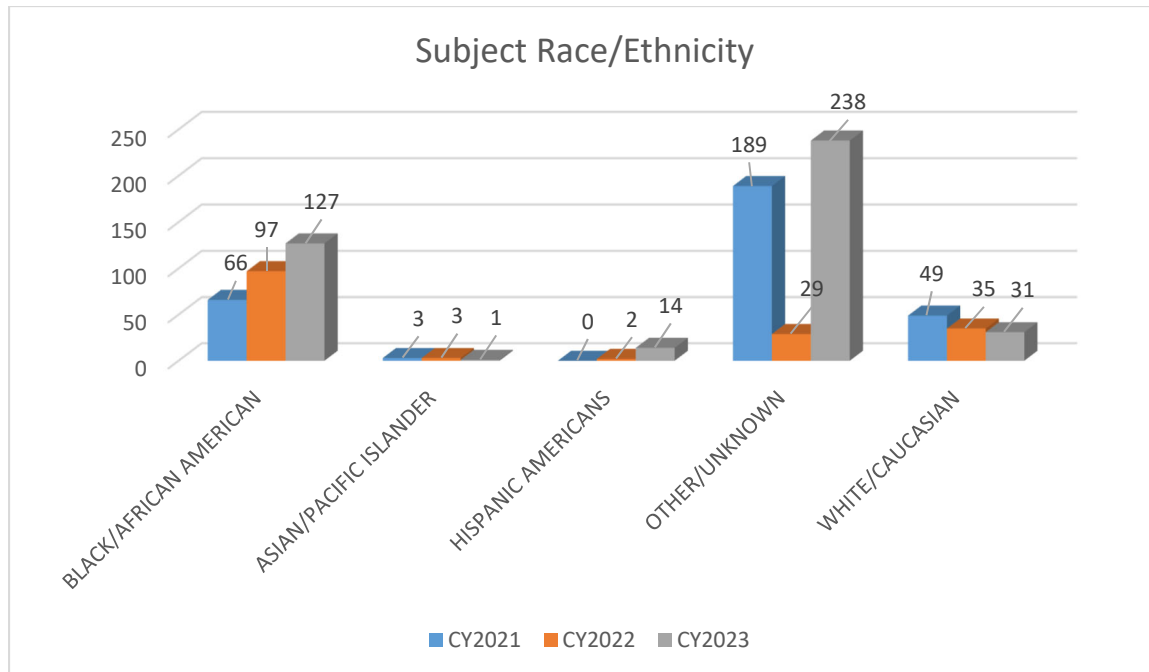
In comparison over all subject genders, the overwhelming majority of the subjects involved in use of force incidents in 2023 (56%) were unknown.

Calendar year 2021 resulted in 160 of the use of force reports being directly attributed to the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol. A vast majority of those reports (157) in CY2021 revealed the reporting of Unknown Subjects involved in a use of force incident because no arrests were made during the January 6, during the Attack at the U.S. Capitol.

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SUBJECTS INVOLVED IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Figure 7.

Race and Ethnicity of Subjects Involved in Use of Force Incidents During 2021, 2022, and 2023



During calendar year 2023, officers reported using force in response to resistance on 127 Black/African Americans, 1 Asian/Pacific Islander, 14 Hispanic Americans, 238 Other/Unknown individuals, and 31 White/Caucasians. In total, 411 race/ethnicities were reported.

A review of the 2023 data revealed that Black/African American individuals were involved in 31% of the reported use of force incidents, Asian/Pacific Islander were involved in 0.2% of incidents, Hispanic Americans were involved in 3% of the reported use of force incidents, Other/Unknown race/ethnicity were involved in 58% of incidents, and White/Caucasian were involved in 8% of incidents.

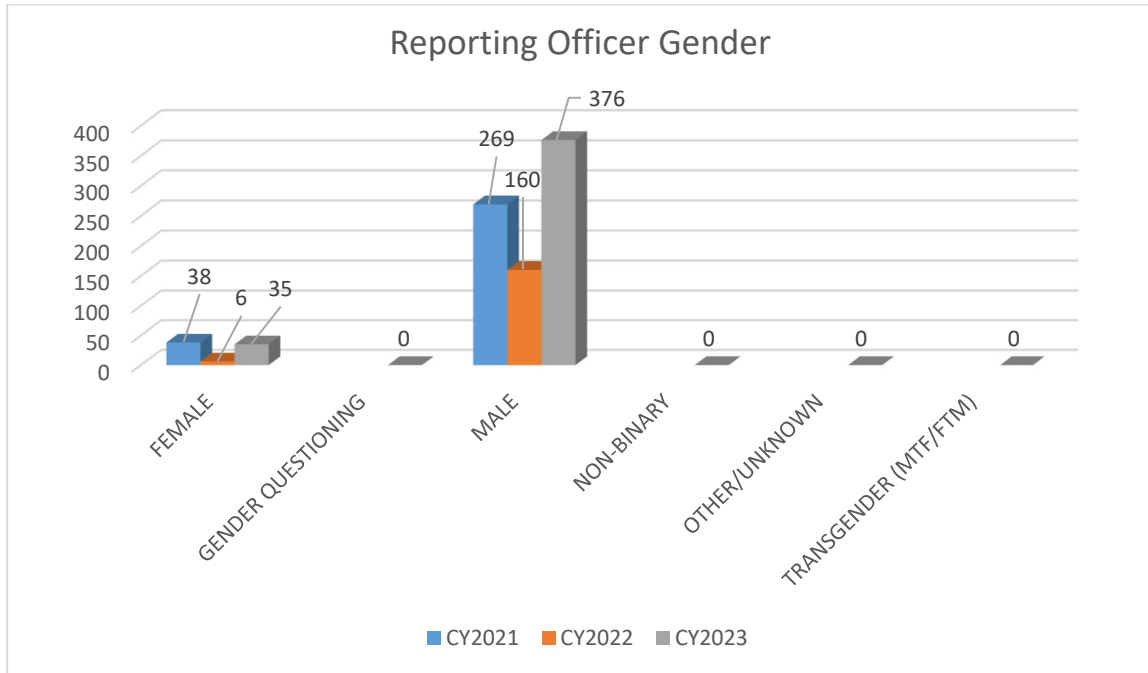
The large number of unknown genders in CY2023 was due to the greater reporting of specific emergency incidents, such as the response to the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August and the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building in November.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF REPORTING OFFICERS

OFFICER GENDER INVOLVED IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Figure 8.

Gender of Officers Involved in Use of Force Incidents During 2021, 2022, and 2023



In December 2023, the Use of Force form was amended to include not only the two categories (male and female), but also for the additional categories of gender questioning, non-binary, other/unknown, and transgender (MTF/FTM). Although the form was amended, no involved officers were in these categories.

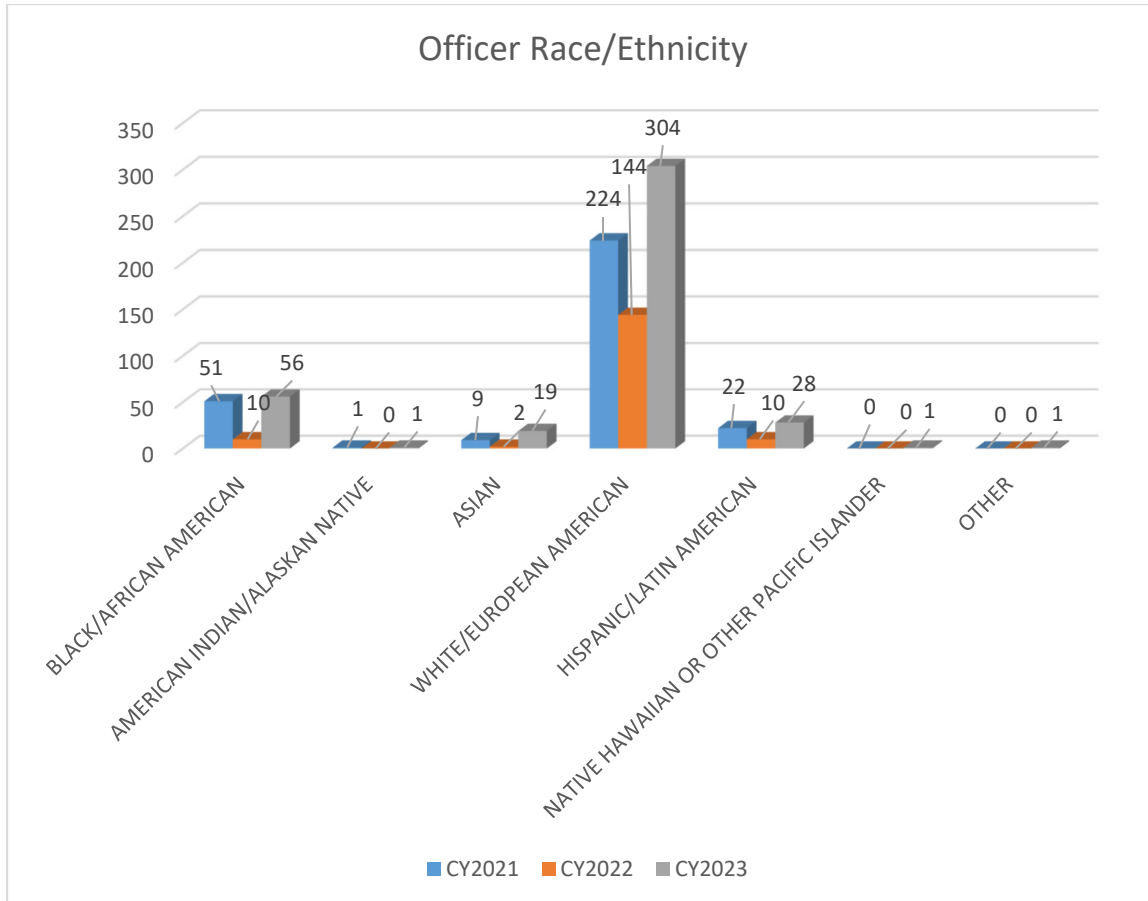
Calendar year 2023 resulted in 35 female officers and 376 male officers being involved in use of force incidents. In total, 411 officer genders were reported.

The data shows that in 2023, there was an overall +40% increase in the number of both female and male officers reporting to be involved in use of force incidents as compared to the previous year (CY2022). It should be noted that use of force incidents can involve more than one officer. The data shown in the chart reflects only the gender of the reporting officer for all incidents reported. It should also be noted that the large number of involved both female and male officers in CY2023 was due to the greater reporting of specific emergency incidents, such as the response to the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August and the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building in November.

OFFICER RACE AND ETHNICITY INVOLVED IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Figure 9.

Race and Ethnicity of Officers Involved in Use of Force Incidents During 2021, 2022, and 2023



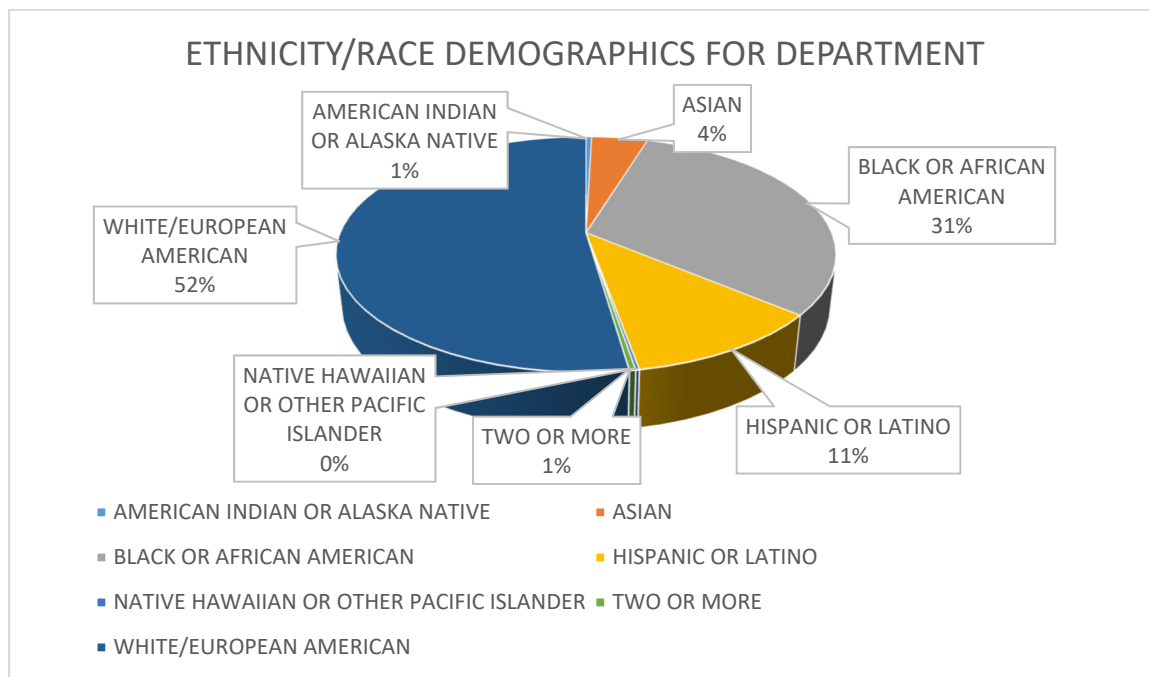
Calendar year 2023 resulted in 56 Black/African American officers, 1 American Indian/Alaskan Native officers, 19 Asian/Pacific Islander officers, 304 White/European American officers, 28 Hispanic/Latin American officers, 1 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander officer, and 1 Other officer involved in use of force reporting. In total, 411 officer race/ethnicities were reported.

In comparison to 2022, all categories of officer race/ethnicity resulted in an increase of officers involved. This is attributed to the overall number of use of force reports being less in CY2022 (166 in CY2022 compared to 411 in CY2023). In addition, the data for CY2023 is proportionately larger, but does not primarily adjust any of the percentages in each category.

DEPARTMENT'S SWORN RACE/ETHNICITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 10.

The following chart identifies the Department's Sworn Race/Ethnicity demographics as of December 31, 2023, for Calendar Year 2023



As of December 31, 2023, the Department reported the sworn employment of 9 American Indian or Alaska Natives, 89 Asians, 645 Black/African Americans, 228 Hispanic/Latin Americans, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders, 7 Two or More, and 1077 White/European American employees. In total, 2,059 sworn employees were members of the Department on December 31, 2023. *Note: This information was confirmed by the Office of Human Resources.*

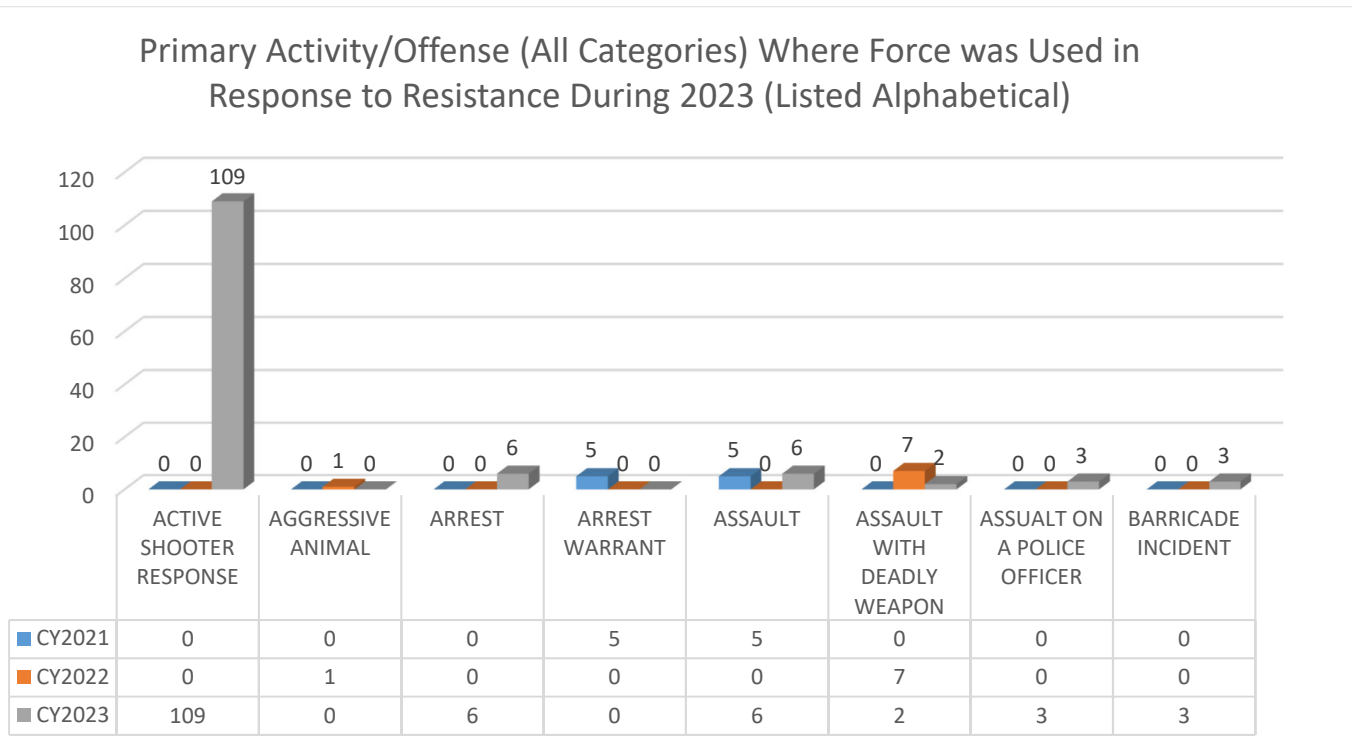
As identified in Figure 9 on the previous page, in 2023, White/European officers were involved in 74% of the reported use of force incidents, Black/African American officers were involved in 14% of incidents, Hispanic/Latin American officers were involved in 7% of incidents, and Asian officers were involved in 5% of the reported use of force incidents. These percentages are in relative proportion to the agency's total sworn demographics (race and ethnicity) as identified in Figure 10 above, which validates that no specific race or ethnicity is more involved in using use of force in response to resistance of a subject.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY OR OFFENSE TYPE BEING CONDUCTED WHILE FORCE WAS USED

Figure 11.

Primary Activity or Offense Type (All Categories) Being Conducted While Force was Used During Criminal Activity During 2021, 2022, and 2023

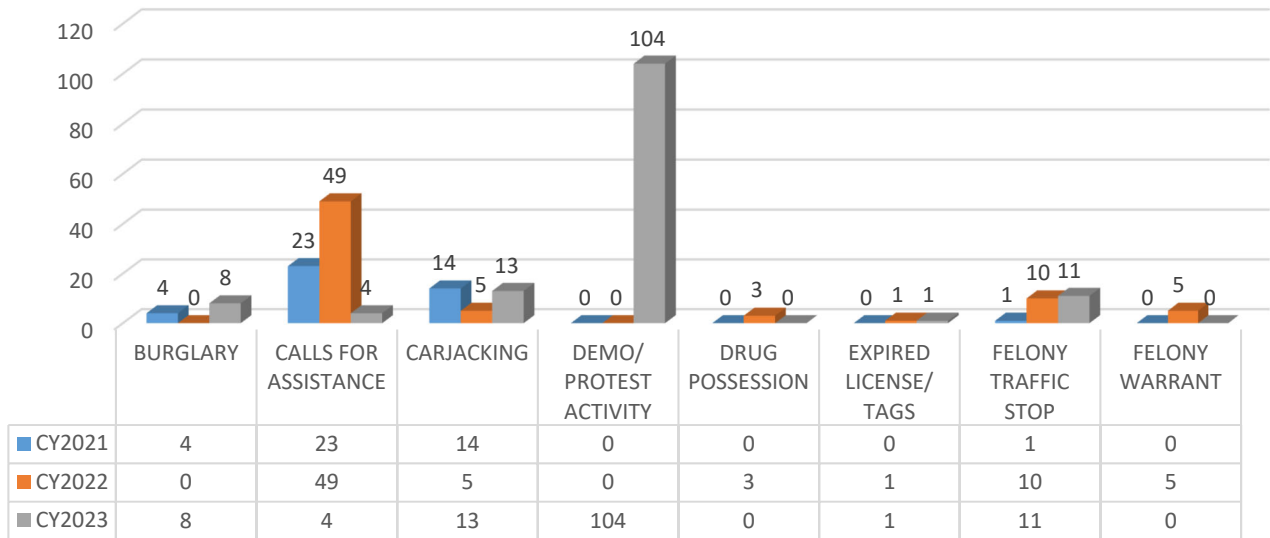
The below figures are representational of all activities and offense types (listed alphabetical) that occurred during calendar year 2023.



CY2023 resulted with officers reporting using force during 109 Active Shooter Responses, 6 Arrests, 6 Assaults, 2 Assaults with Deadly Weapon, 3 Assaults on Police Officers, and 3 Barricade Incidents.

The Active Shooter Response was the largest single response that resulted in officers using force (i.e. firearms withdrawn from the holster and at low-ready position) in the Russell Senate Office Building in August.

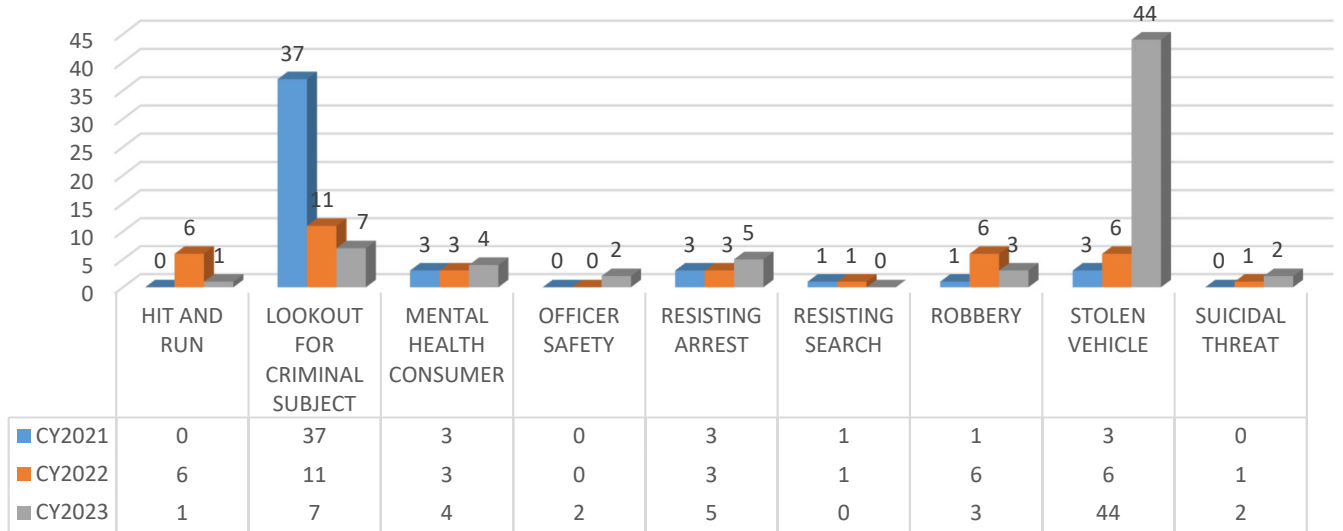
Primary Activity/Offense (All Categories) Where Force was Used in Response to Resistance During 2023 (Listed Alphabetical)



CY2023 resulted with officers reporting using force during 8 Burglaries, 4 Calls for Assistance (includes requests to respond to assist with a resistant and combative individual from another agency, such as the Metropolitan Police for the District of Columbia, Amtrak Police Department, or the United States Park Police), 13 Carjackings, 104 Demonstration or Protest Activity, 1 Expired License/Tags, and 11 Felony Traffic Stops.

The Demonstration/Protest Activity Response was the second largest single response that resulted in officers using force (i.e. batons at the ready position with defensive shields, pushing and pulling with subjects) at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters in November.

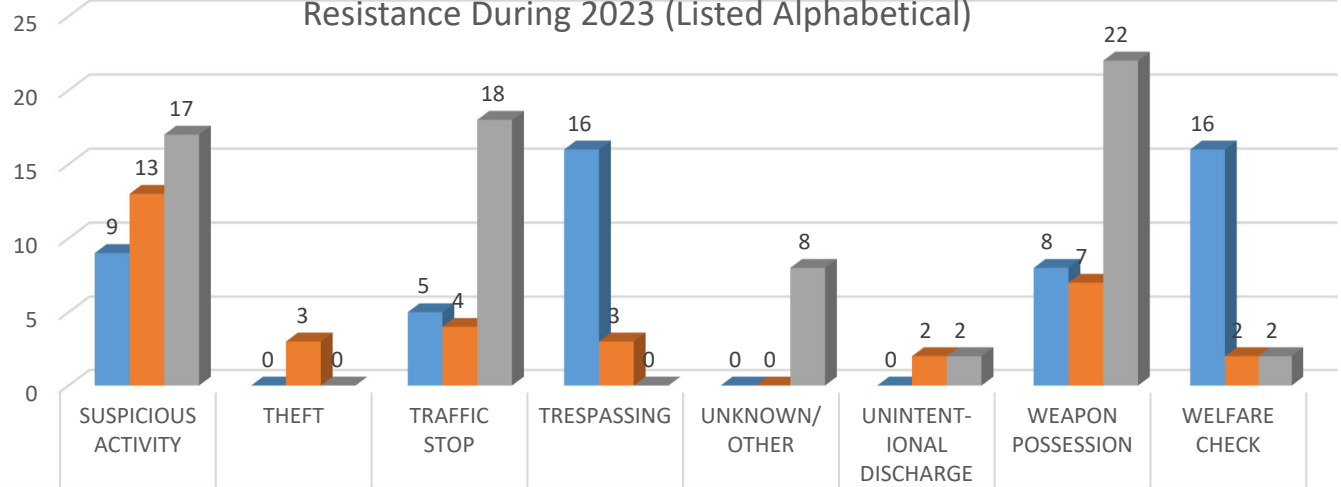
Primary Activity/Offense (All Categories) Where Force was Used in Response to Resistance During 2023 (Listed Alphabetical)



CY2023 resulted with officers reporting using force during 1 Hit and Run, 7 Lookout for Criminal Subject, 4 Mental Health Consumers, 2 Officer Safety, 5 Resisting Arrest, 3 Robberies, 44 Stolen Vehicles, and 2 Suicidal Threats.

During these interactions with individuals, the United States Capitol Police confiscated 73 firearms, 45 knives, and 70 other weapons, which included any item considered to be a weapon or prohibited item under D.C. Code (i.e. brass knuckles, Taser/stun gun, screwdriver).

Primary Activity/Offense (All Categories) Where Force was Used in Response to Resistance During 2023 (Listed Alphabetical)



CY2021	9	0	5	16	0	0	8	16
CY2022	13	3	4	3	0	2	7	2
CY2023	17	0	18	0	8	2	22	2

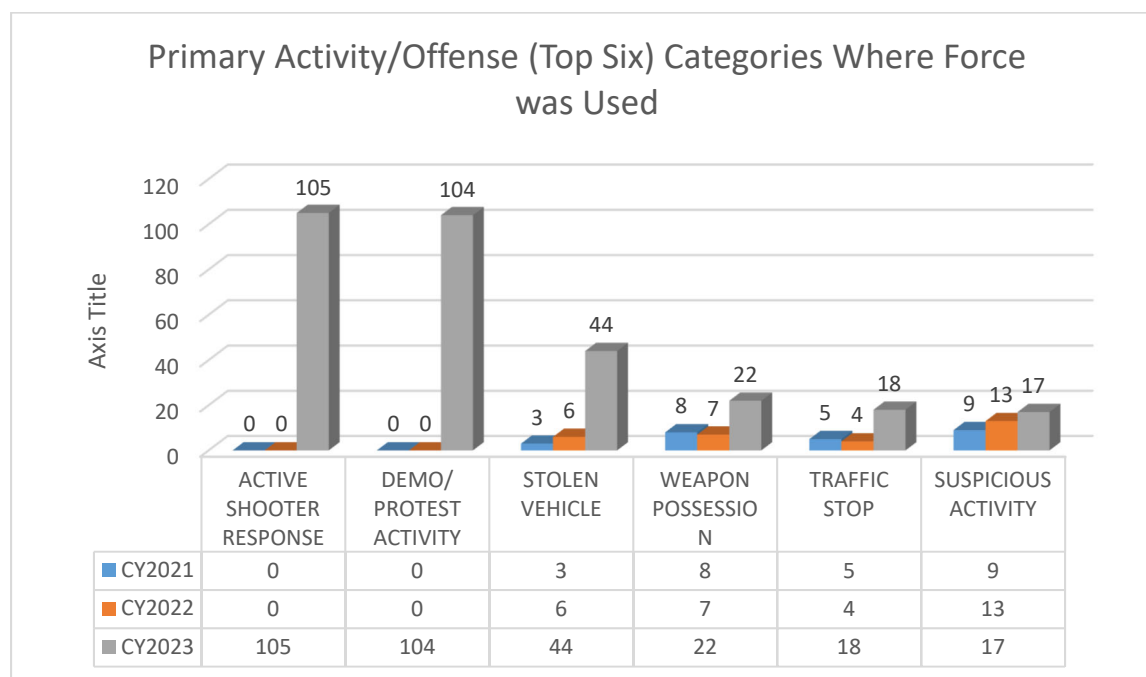
CY2023 resulted with officers reporting using force during 17 Suspicious Activities, 18 Traffic Stops, 8 Unknown incidents, 2 Unintentional Discharges, 22 Suspects Possessing Weapons, and 2 Welfare Checks.

In total, 411 activities or offenses were reported during calendar year 2023.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY OR OFFENSE TYPE (TOP SIX CATEGORIES) BEING CONDUCTED WHILE FORCE WAS USED

Figure 12.

Primary Activity or Offense Type (Top Six Categories) Being Conducted While Force was Used During Criminal Activity During 2021, 2022, and 2023



The above figure is representational of the top six activities or offense types (taken from Figure 11 on the previous page) that occurred during calendar year 2023.

The categories of Active Shooter Response, Demonstration/Protest Activity, Stolen Vehicle, Weapon Possession, Traffic Stops, and Suspicious Activity resulted in the majority of reporting and comprised of 77% of the activities where officers needed to employ a level of force in response to resistance, compared to 20% of the same activity/offense that were reported in 2022. These particular categories were primarily reported by officers who were assigned to the Operational Services Bureau and primarily conduct traffic and subject stops and arrests. Further, the majority of Active Shooter Response reporting and Demonstration/Protest Activity occurred during two single and significant responses during the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August (105 reports submitted) and the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building in November (104 reports submitted).

TYPES OF FORCE – LEVELS AND MEANS

It is the policy of the Department to allow officers to use only the level of force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring a subject under control, while protecting the lives of officers and others. The goal of using force is to gain control of the subject(s).

LEVEL OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

Levels of Force are categorized into three main categories: Compliance Techniques, Defensive Tactics, and Deadly Force. These levels are progressive in nature – meaning compliance techniques are the lowest level of physical force and deadly force is the highest level of physical force. Officers select a level of force based upon the resistance of a subject.

There are three types of resistance that a subject may exert on an officer:

- *Passive* – These individuals may display low levels of non-compliance. The individual who passively resists will go limp and demonstrate indifference to the officer's commands, actions, and empty-hand control.
- *Active physical resistance* – These individuals will use physically evasive movements and will not comply with an officer's requests or commands. These subjects may exhibit actual physical defiance and may include evasive movements to defeat the officer's attempt at control, including but not limited to, pushing, or other physical resistance to hands on control by an officer.
- *Bodily harm* – This occurs when an individual's resistance level increases from active physical resistance to confrontational behavior, so as to inflict bodily harm. This level usually involves the individual attempting to assault the officer or another person.

Officers use physical control tactics as Compliance Techniques when a subject becomes actively resistant. These tactics are of sufficient force to overcome the subject's active resistance, and the officer remains vigilant for more aggressive behavior from the subject. Examples of Compliance Techniques include come-along holds, pressure point applications, joint locks, take-downs, and OC spray.

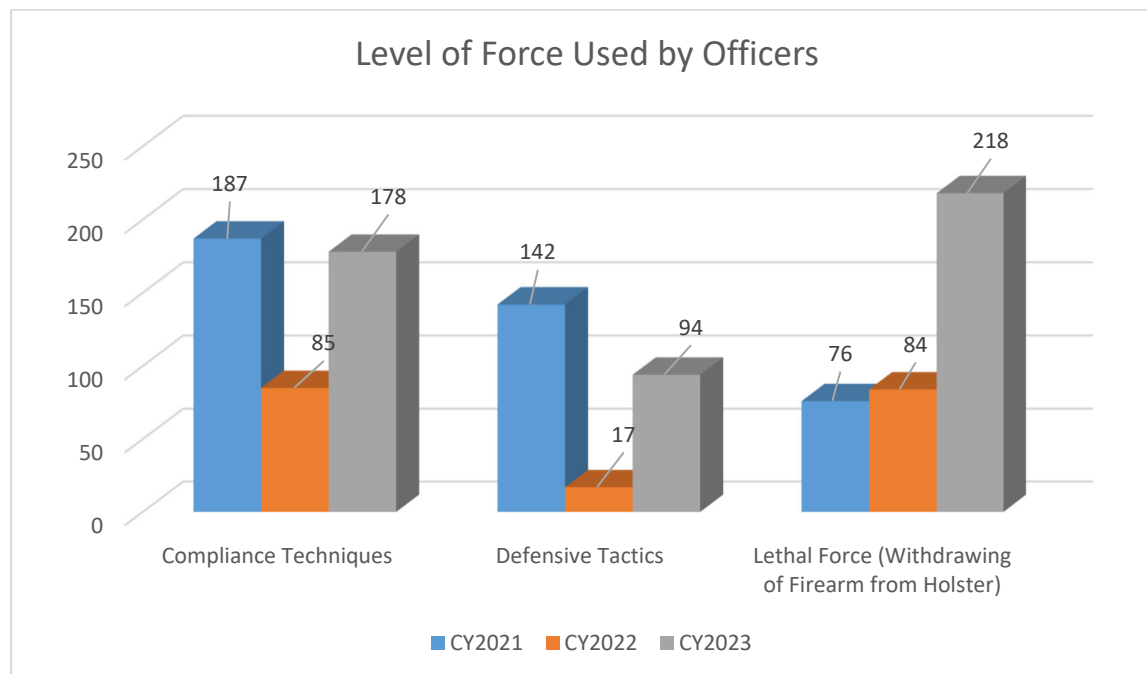
Defensive Tactics are used by officers when an individual attempts or commits an assault on the officer or another person. When this occurs, officers are justified in using defensive countermeasures designed to cease the subject's non-lethal assault on the officer or others, regain control, and assure continued compliance. Examples of Defensive Tactics include basic self-defense striking techniques (punches and kicks), basic self-defense control techniques, basic empty-hand self-defense escort techniques, handcuffing/restraint techniques, weapon disarmament/retention techniques, take-down techniques, baton strikes and striking/blocking techniques, or ground fighting techniques. It should be noted that in no case are chokeholds authorized.

An officer may use lethal force only when the officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in the defense of any person in imminent danger of death or serious physical injury. Lethal force is also authorized to apprehend or prevent the escape of a fleeing felon when (1) the officer has probable cause to believe that the person to be apprehended committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of death or serious physical injury, (2) the officer reasonably believes that the person to be arrested or apprehended will pose an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others if apprehension is delayed, and (3) when practical, the officer identifies themselves as a police officer and gives the subject a warning of the imminent use of lethal force. During these instances, officers enact immediate countermeasures to stop the threat. These tactics include the intentional discharge of a firearm, impact weapons or other objects used to strike critical areas of a subject's body, and emergency barrier deployment procedures.

The following charts show the breakdown of the types of force used by officers in calendar year 2023 compared to calendar year 2021 and 2022.

Figure 13.

Level of Force Used by Officers in Response to Resistance During 2021, 2022, and 2023



The Department's Use of Force policy defines lethal force as force that is reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury. Per policy, lethal force includes the requirement that officers will document anytime they withdraw their Department-issued handgun from its holster. During calendar year 2023, all 218 Lethal Force incidents included officers withdrawing their Department-issued handgun from the holster. During calendar year 2023, two officers reported discharging their firearm off duty. In both incidents, officers were practicing using their Department-issued firearm while within their residence and discharged one round (in each

incident) through the walls of their residence and into the confines of another's residence. In both cases, the discharged rounds did not cause injury or death to another living being.

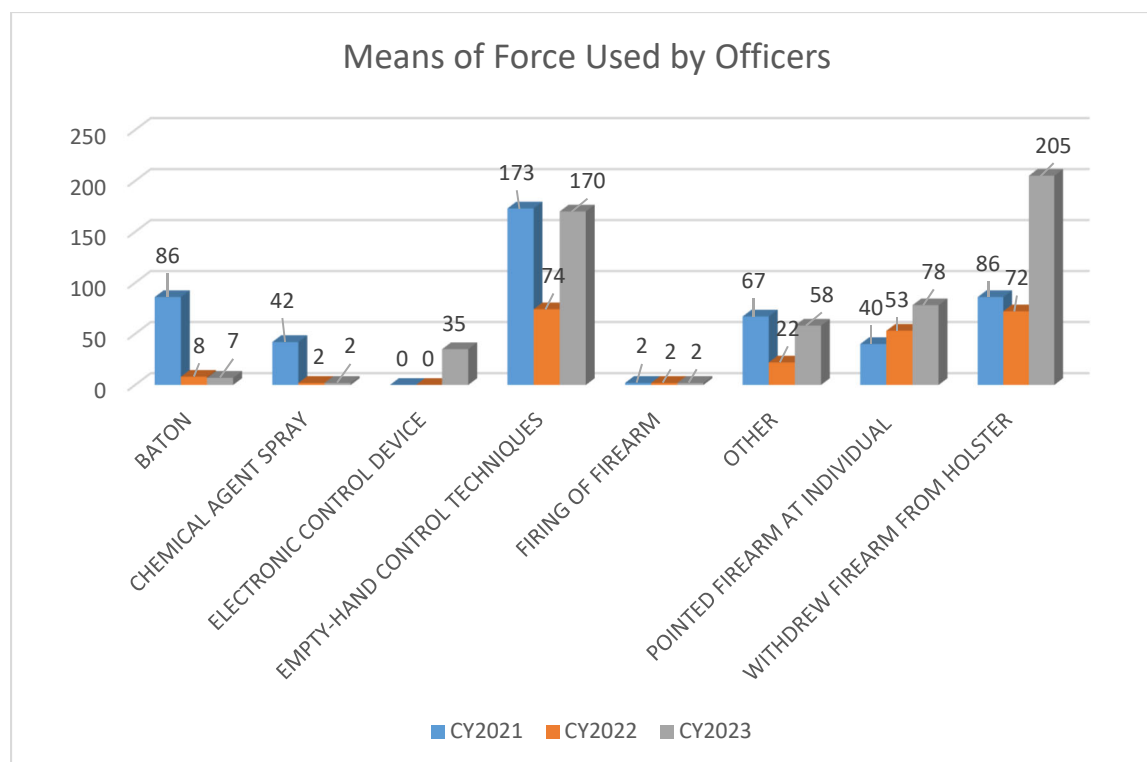
Overall, officers reported using 490 levels of force in these three categories on 411 use of force reports in calendar year 2023. Note: The 79 difference was attributed to officers reporting using multiple different levels of force during the same incident. For instance, officers withdrew their firearm from the holster in an attempt to stop a fleeing felon (Lethal Force), but then re-holstered their firearm, engaged in a foot pursuit, and used basic self-defense control techniques and handcuffing/restraint techniques (Compliance Techniques) during the apprehension and the handcuffing phase of the arrest. Thus, two different levels of force were used in the same incident.

The 490 levels of force reported in calendar year 2023 were categorized as officers using 178 Compliance Techniques, 94 Defensive Tactics, and 218 Lethal Force (withdrawal of firearm from holster) incidents. Note: 105 reports were submitted from the significant response to the report of an active shooter in the Russell Senate Office Building in August.

MEANS OF FORCE

Figure 14.

Means of Force Used by Officers in Response to Resistance During 2021, 2022, and 2023



The data for calendar year 2023 resulted in the reporting of 557 Means of Force used by officers. 7 use of Batons in response to resistance, 2 Chemical Agent Spray, 35 Electronic

Control Devices, 170 Empty-Hand Control Techniques, 2 Firing of Firearms, 58 Other incidents, 78 Pointing of Firearms at Individuals, and 205 instances of officers Withdrawing the Firearm from the Holster occurred.

The two firing of firearms incidents involved off-duty officers practicing using their Department-issued firearm while within their residence and discharging one round (in each incident) through the walls of their residence and into another's residence. In both cases, the discharged round did not cause injury or death to another living being.

Examples of Other Means of Force included less than lethal options used during civil disturbance events, such as, deploying bean-bag or pepper-ball munitions, or using hands on to gain compliance of an individual.

Calendar year 2023 categories of Empty-Hand Control Techniques, Withdrew Firearm from Holster, and Pointed Firearm at Individual comprised of the majority (81%) of the Means of Force used by officers, which is consistent with the CY2022 data (85%). As a reminder, the empty-hand controls primarily occurred during the demonstration and protest at the Democratic National Committee in November 2023 and the withdraw of firearm and pointed firearm are high due to the Active Shooter emergency response in August 2023.

In January 2023, the United States Capitol Police began deploying Electronic Control Devices. It is for this reason that there is no data for this category in any previous year. During its first year of deployment, officers deployed Electronic Control Devices on 35 occasions. The Office of Professional Responsibility thoroughly reviewed each deployment of the Electronic Control Devices in an effort to determine its use was just, proper, and in accordance with policy and training.

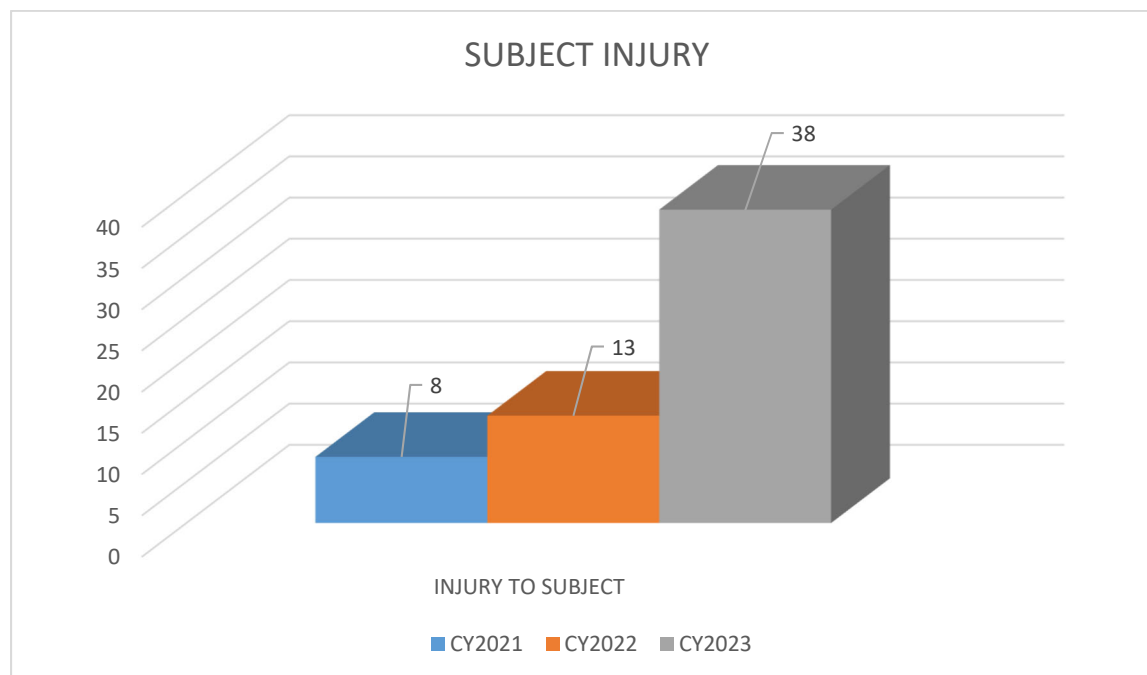
REPORTED INJURIES OF SUBJECTS AND OFFICERS

SUBJECT INJURY AS A RESULT OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

The following chart depict a three-year analysis of reported injuries to subjects while engaged in a use of force activity.

Figure 15.

Subject Injury as a Result of Force Used by Officers in Response to Resistance During 2021, 2022, and 2023



Note: Calendar year 2021 resulted in the overall reporting of 26 subjects injured. However, 18 of the 26 reports received were directly attributed to the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol (anomaly).

The data shows that calendar year 2021 resulted in the reporting of 8 injuries to subjects, 13 injuries to subjects in calendar year 2022, and 38 injuries to subjects in calendar year 2023.

The calendar year 2023 Subject Injury resulted in a +66% increase as compared to the previous year. A review of the last three year period revealed a steady increase in the number of injured subjects, year by year. The justification for this increase is attributed to the Department returning to its normal operational period post the January 6 Attack at the U.S. Capitol with an increased staffing and patrol functions. In addition, the increase is attributed to a citywide increase in armed carjacking/violent crimes during the CY2022 and CY2023 period.

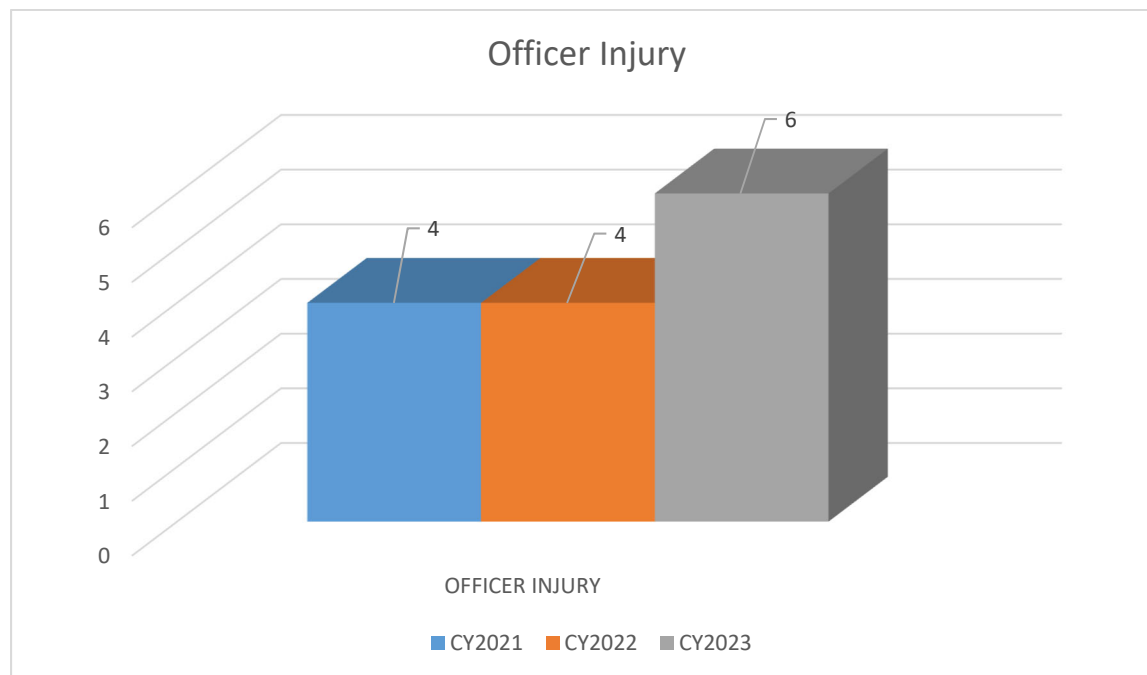
Through data analysis, the Office of Professional Responsibility confirmed that although 38 injuries of subjects occurred in calendar year 2023, all reported injuries were treated successfully by medical professionals while either on the scene or at a medical facility.

OFFICER INJURY AS A RESULT OF FORCE USED IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

The following chart depict a three-year analysis of reported injuries to officers while engaged in a use of force activity.

Figure 16.

Officer Injury as a Result of Force Used in Response to Resistance During 2021, 2022, and 2023



Note: Calendar year 2021 resulted in the overall reporting of 26 officers injured. However, 22 of the 26 reports received were directly attributed to the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol (anomaly).

The data shows that calendar year 2021 resulted in the reporting of 4 injuries to officers, 4 injuries to officers in calendar year 2022, and 6 injuries to officers in calendar year 2023.

Through data analysis, the Office of Professional Responsibility confirmed that although 38 injuries to subjects and 6 injuries to officers occurred in calendar year 2023, all reported injuries were treated successfully by medical professionals while either on the scene or at a medical facility.

OFFICER DISCHARGING ISSUED FIREARM

The following chart depicts a three-year analysis of Officers Discharging Department-issued Firearms by calendar year.

Figure 17.

Officer Discharging Department-issued Firearm by calendar year.

CY2021	CY2022	CY2023
2	2	2

During calendar year 2023, the Office of Professional Responsibility conducted a thorough administrative investigation into two (2) reports of an officer discharging their Department-issued firearm.

On October 20, 2023, at approximately 1000 hours while in his personal residence, an officer unintentionally discharged his Department-issued handgun. The officer was practicing withdrawing his Department-issued handgun from the holster and dry-firing (depressing the trigger) in preparation for his Range requalification. The officer believed he had fully unloaded the gun, but there was still one round in the chamber when he depressed the trigger. One round went through the walls into an adjoining residence, but did not strike another living being. The Office of Professional Responsibility conducted an administrative investigation and determined that although this was an unintentional discharge, the discharge violated Department policy and sustained a rule violation for Use of Weapons. The officer was subsequently retrained, disciplined, and held accountable.

On November 28, 2023, at approximately 1015 hours while in his personal residence, an officer unintentionally discharged his Department-issued handgun. The officer was practicing withdrawing his Department-issued handgun from the holster and dry-firing (depressing the trigger) in preparation for his Range requalification. The officer believed he had fully unloaded the gun, but there was still one round in the chamber when he depressed the trigger. One round went through multiple walls and two adjoining residences, but did not strike another living being. The Office of Professional Responsibility conducted an administrative investigation and determined that although this was an unintentional discharge, the discharge violated Department policy and sustained a rule violation for Use of Weapons. The officer was subsequently retrained, disciplined, and held accountable.

The United States Capitol Police have been consistently low in its number of firearm discharges as demonstrated in the above chart over the course of a three-year span. This is attributable to the Department heavily emphasizing firearm safety and use of force training.

SUMMARY

The authority to use force carries with it the need for accountability in order to safeguard the rights of the public and preserve the integrity of the Department and the jurisdiction that provides this authority. As such, it is the policy of the Department that the use of force, as defined in the Directive, shall be reported in a timely, complete and accurate manner by the involved officer(s).

The Office of Professional Responsibility is the central repository for all Use of Force reporting and is responsible to review all reported incidents generated by Department employees.

The Department's Use of Force policy (Directive 1020.004) requires officers to complete a Use of Force report for any of the following incidents:

- The discharge of firearm for other than training.
- Action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
- The shooting of an injured or dangerous animal.
- The application of force through the use of lethal or less-lethal weapons.
- The application of weaponless physical force that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
- Unintentional discharges, which must also be documented in an Office of Professional Responsibility report of investigation.
- The withdrawal of a weapon from its holster, and/or pointing a weapon (including a firearm) at an individual or animal.
- Any use of force greater than and including empty-hand control techniques.

These policy requirements are an important element of the Department's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability in its use of force reporting.

The Office of Professional Responsibility has reviewed all reported Use of Force forms submitted during calendar year 2023 and have identified that the Department experienced 108 scenes where 411 officers used force in response to resistance.

Overall, the data collected during calendar year 2023 indicates that for the overwhelming majority of calls for service, officers rarely use force in response to resistance in the performance of their duties and were compliant with the Department's Use of Force form reporting requirement.