



TOWN OF HUDSON

Police Department

Partners with the Community

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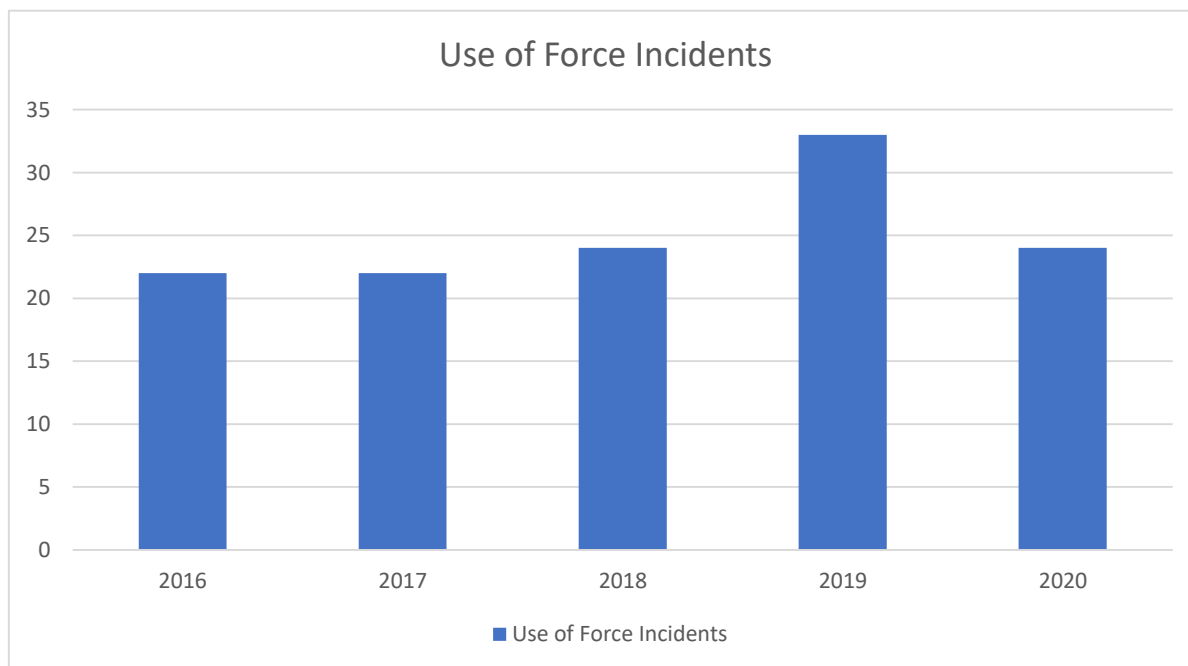
Captain David Bianchi
Administrative Bureau

To: Chief William Avery
From: Captain Tad Dionne TD
Date: January 5, 2021
Ref: 2020 Use of Force Analysis Report

Attached is the 2020 Use of Force Analysis Report. I conducted an analysis of all Hudson Police Use of Force incidents.

Total Use of Force Incident(s)

In 2020, there were twenty-four (24) instances where officers were required to use force while conducting their duties. All of the incidents were justified under the Hudson Police Department Policies and Procedures, and New Hampshire State Law. In 2019, there were thirty-three (33) incidents involving the use of force. In 2020, there were eleven (11) instances where the Animal Control Officer(s) or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal. In 2019, there were eight (8) instances where the Animal Control Officer(s) or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal.



**Information regarding the Animal Euthanization is not accounted for in the Use of Force Analysis.

Use of Force Incidents

In 2020, more Use of Force incidents occurred on Monday and Sunday with six (6) and five (5), respectively, than any other day of the week. The next most Use of Force incidents occurred on Thursday with four (4) then Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday with three (3), each. There were (2) Use of Force Incidents on a Wednesday. A Squad (0700-1500) had five (5) Use of Force Incidents, B Squad (1500-2300) had ten (10) Use of Force incidents, and C Squad (2300-0700) had nine (9).

Injuries

In 2020, there was one (1) Use of Force incident resulting in the suspect being injured. In 2019, there were eleven (11) Use of Force incidents resulting in the suspect being injured. The injury was minor in nature and occurred from a Taser drive stun marks. It should be noted, in three other Use of Force incidents, there were documented injuries which occurred prior to the officers arrival and had nothing to do with the officers' use of force. Two of those were minor cuts, and one was head injuries and laceration from an assault by a third party which precipitated the incident.

In 2020, one (1) Hudson Police Officer was injured during a Use of Force Incident. The officer had a protracted wrist injury while trying to handcuff and actively resisting individual. The injury resulted in a loss of work for several weeks. In 2019, the Hudson Police Department had three (3) officers injured during a Use of Force incident. None of the injuries in 2019 resulted in the officers missing work.

Assaults on a Police Officer

In 2020, four (4) Hudson Police Officers were assaulted during the course of gaining compliance from a suspect(s), while in 2019, eighteen (18) Hudson Police Officers were assaulted during the course of gaining compliance from a suspect(s). The assaults in 2020 on the officer(s) consisted of being punched in the face, punched elsewhere, kicked and pushed.

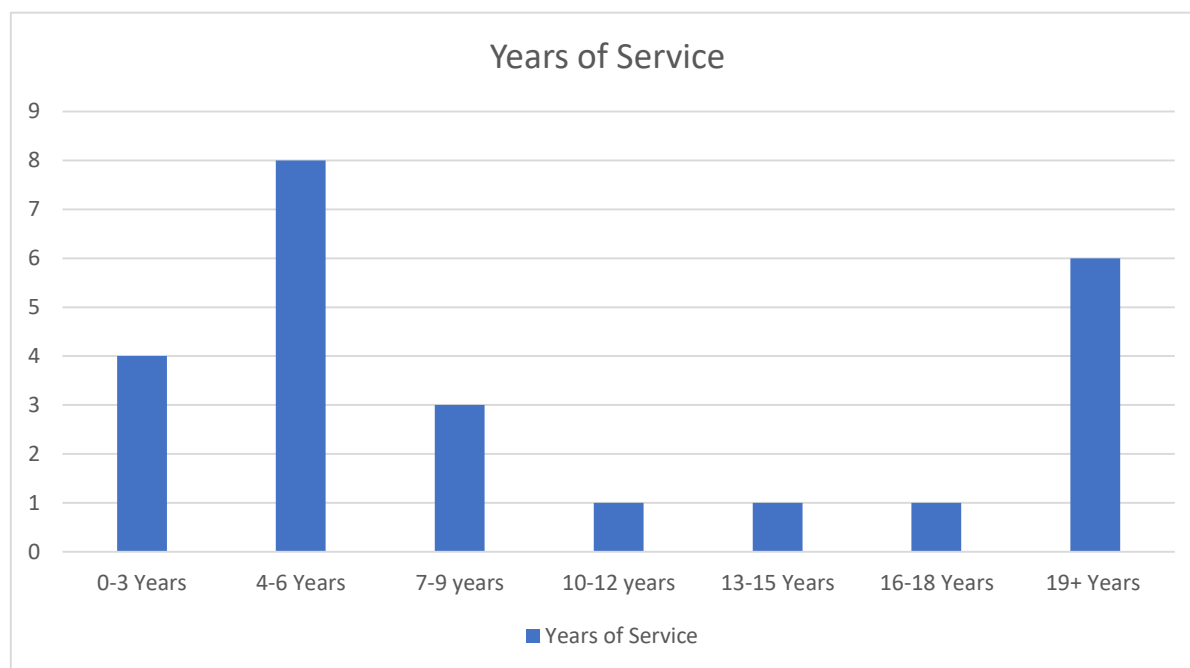
During my analysis of the Use of Force incidents for 2020, it was apparent the officers involved in each Use of Force incident reverted back to their defensive tactics and officer safety techniques. The Hudson Police Department's Defensive Tactic Instructors have done an exceptional job preparing the officers for Use of Force encounters with unruly individuals. The officers also displayed "good

decision making” during several incidents throughout the year. In 2019 there was a vast increase in the number of officers assaulted, while the Hudson Police Department observed a large turnover and was down at least 10 officers for more than half the year. In 2020, the Federal Government was placed into a lockdown to Covid-19, however, there were also public unrest due to alleged police brutality in Minnesota which seemed to further fan outrage throughout the nation. This effect was non-existent or minimal in Hudson, NH.

Officers Age and Years of Service

In 2020, the average age of the officers involved in Use of Force incidents was 33.56 years old; while the average age of the Hudson Police Sworn Officers is 36.09 years old.

This is the sixth (6th) year the Hudson Police Department has tracked the years of service of the officers involved in Use of Force situations. For the first time in the last six (6) years, the average age of the officers involved in the Use of Force incidents is more than the average age of all the sworn officers. The average age of the Officers involved in Use of Force Incidents was 9.75 years while the average years of service on the Hudson Police Department is 9.53. Four (4) Use of Force incidents were from police officers who had 0 to 3 years of service. Traditionally, the officers with five (5) or less years of experience are assigned the Patrol Division, and are more apt to be involved in Use of Force situations. This year, however, at least twenty-one (21) Use of Force Incidents involved officers with more than three years of service. Nine (9) Use of Force incidents involved officers with over ten years of service and many were supervisors.



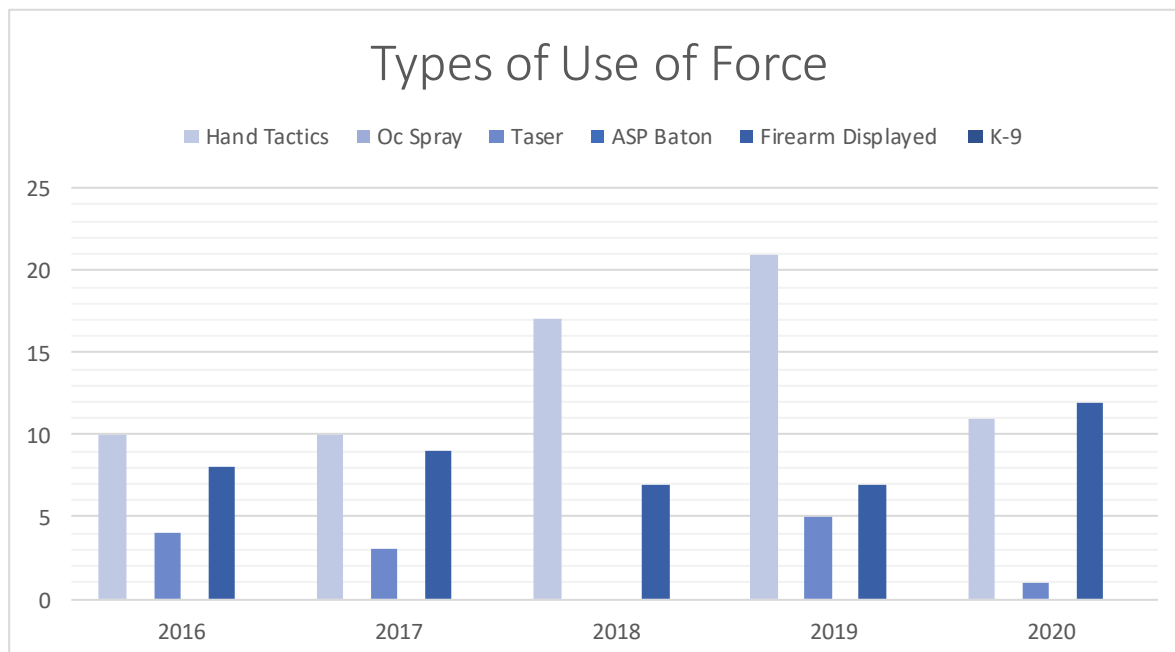
Situation

- The most common initial calls that resulted in a Use of Force incident was officers responding to a disturbance - eight (8). Three (3) involved a motor vehicle pursuit. One (1) was a motor vehicle pursuit from an outside agency when the vehicle stopped in Hudson. Three (3) incidents began with suspicious activity and two during searches when evidence was discovered. There were two (2) incidents when dealing with a highly intoxicated subjects, two (2) dealing with a suicidal subjects, one (1) while initiating a motor vehicle arrest, one (1) to prevent the assault of another, and one (1) where a subject fled on foot from an officer. There were zero (0) school incidents with students, however, school has been remote for several months throughout 2020 due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

- Each incident involving Use of Force there were sufficient police personnel present or additional officers were responding (in close proximity) for backup.
- Nineteen (19) of the Use of Force incidents involved uniform patrol officers. Four (4) of the incidents involved members of the Narcotics Unit and one (1) involved a Police Administrator.
- In each of the twelve (12) cases where the officer(s) displayed a firearm, the officers were justified based on the fact they were investigating a felony, or a crime where a weapon was alleged to be brandished, or alleged suicidal subjects with deadly weapons.

Types of Force Used

The most common types of force used in 2020 were officers using defensive tactic techniques to gain compliance. This occurred on eleven (11) occasions. Officers' displaying their firearms to gain control of a suspect occurred on twelve (12) occasions. In all (12) cases, Officer did not discharge the weapons. Officers deployed their Taser Weapon system one (1) time. ASP, OC and the K-9 was not used to apprehend a suspect.



Suspect Information

Males were involved in Use of Force situation in twenty (20) instances, while four (4) females were involved. The average age of both male and female suspects was 31.75 years old. The oldest person was 61 years old while the youngest was 10 years old. Twenty-one (21) of the subjects were white. Three (3) were black.

Areas of Town

After a careful analysis of all Use of Force reports, I was able to determine that one area/sector is more apt to deal with a Use of Force incident than other areas/sectors. The center of town, which is the most densely populated area, had ten (10) Use of Force Incidents. The Use of Force incidents were, however, geographically spread out throughout Hudson.

Training Issues

I have conducted a careful review of all Use of Force incidents, and I have not identified any areas of concern. All the officers who were involved in a Use of Force incident performed exceptionally and professionally. All incidents of Use of Force followed the Hudson Police Department Policies and Procedures.

During the 2020 Defensive Tactics Class, the Defensive Tactic Instructors focused on several techniques to help the officers with individuals who are non-compliant. The areas of focus included: de-escalation Patterns of Movement, Use of Oleoresin Capsicum, Handcuffing, and Ground Fighting Techniques. Officers are scheduled for Defensive Tactics Training in Fall of 2021 and December of 2020. All Officers at Hudson Police Department completed Biased Base Training and De-escalation Training.

Use of Force Complaints

There were no 2020 complaints generated because of Use of Force.

I have further conducted an annual analysis of Use of Force incidents and our current policies; based upon the review, I did not identify any areas of the policy that needed to be modified. In November of 2020, we added language to Policy 420.1 Use of Force, X. Reporting Use of Force, E. and F. Added to Section E was "Department CISM members" as a resource available. Section F was added entirely as: "The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office will be responsible for all press releases relating to deadly force incident. The Hudson Police Department will be responsible for any press releases regarding the criminal investigation and charges against the suspect(s). The Hudson Police Department will work in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office prior to the release of information".

Summary

The highlights of this analysis are listed below:

- 24 Use of Force Reports
- 2 Suspects received minor injuries
- 1 Officer received minor injuries
- 4 Officers were assaulted
- Average age of Suspects: 31.75 years old
- Average age of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 33.56 years old
- Average age of the Hudson Police Department: 36.09 years old.
- Average years of service of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 9.75 years
- Average years of service of Hudson Officers: 9.53

