

Gainesville Police Department

2021

Annual Response to Resistance Report



OVERVIEW AND REPORT PURPOSE

In 2014, Chief Tony Jones instituted the “3 C’s” philosophy for the Gainesville Police Department.

The 3 C’s stand for Consistency, Compassion and Constitutional Policing.

These concepts apply to every individual and facet of the Gainesville Police Department, but likely have the most gravity when considered in the framework of incidents involving the response to resistance by police officers.

The United States Constitution and Florida law allow police officers to use force to effect arrests and ensure public order and the safety of citizens and their property.

As a part of following the “3 C’s” it has been implemented that all members of the Department, both sworn and non-sworn, will be attending Procedural Justice training. The Procedural Justice Core principles focus on respect, legitimacy and the concept of fairness in interactions between law enforcement and the community. Procedural Justice training is built into the training program for all new hires during part of their orientation phase of training.

These same principles are utilized in the Department’s Response to Resistance Policy. GPD ensures a high level of transparency both within the agency and for the community as it reviews and explains response to resistance incidents that occur in the course of police work.

Police officers with GPD are directed to respond to resistance based on a member’s perception at the time of the resistance and the danger of that resistance. Officers are encouraged to de-escalate when possible and/or practical and are encouraged to never use more force than is necessary to bring a suspect into control and custody.



Many GPD officers are provided dart firing stun guns commonly referred to by the product name, Taser, and chemical subject control spray, also known as pepper spray. All GPD officers are issued a firearm. The discharge of a firearm constitutes deadly force and is only to be used in life-threatening emergencies.

Some GPD members have received special, extensive and on-going training in specialized weapons such as impact munitions, which fire less than lethal projectiles. GPD currently has 3 Special Response Group teams to include the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, the Negotiations Response Team and the Emergency Services Team. Members of these tactical teams have advanced equipment and training and are prepared to respond to critical incidents where standard police techniques may not be sufficient.

Each time an officer responds to resistance, they are governed by internal policy that is designed with numerous checks and balances:

For each response to resistance, a supervisor will respond to the scene, ensure medical attention is given, if needed, and complete a review of the use of force. The facts of the response to resistance are then reviewed by several layers of supervisors and commanders. The Training and Education Division, responsible for training all officers, also reviews cases to ensure proper tactics are followed and to potentially identify areas of improvement.

The response to resistance review process is triggered any time an officer uses force that causes an injury (whether verified or alleged), strikes an intentional blow, or applies force through use of any weapon. Canine Apprehensions are also included.

In each case reviewed, photographs are taken and a report is completed assessing the response employed, the resistance offered, environmental factors that influenced the scene and the relative factors between the officer and the subject.

During 2020, tactics utilized by law enforcement came to the forefront and were under much scrutiny as a result of several high profile deadly force incidents involving law enforcement. As a result of some of these concerns, a Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing was also issued to ensure that



law enforcement agencies were in compliance with requirements as mandated by the Department of Justice Standards of Certification. The Gainesville Police Department conducted an overall review of Department policy, with an emphasis on the Response to Resistance policies based upon some of these mandates. CALEA also directed some of these same requirements.

Although a majority of recommendations were already part of the existing policy, there were some updates and further clarification made. This included the stressing of the importance of safeguarding human life, establishing communication, utilizing de-escalation techniques, and emphasizing the use of the Crisis Intervention Team when mental health is a contributing factor. The policy was also updated to specifically prohibit the use of “carotid artery restraints and chokeholds” except in deadly force situations. Lastly, a Duty to Intervene policy was established that mandates department members to intervene when they observe another Department member conducting themselves in an unethical or unlawful manner. All of these updates were made in 2020.

This Response to Resistance report contains a summary of each of the uses of force, totaling 65, employed by members of the Gainesville Police Department in 2021.

The report will also explain the current Response to Resistance continuum and offer some explanations on actions that are taken in these encounters.

In addition, although not specifically noted as a response to resistance by Gainesville Police policy, vehicle pursuits will be discussed as they are an important tool that may be employed from time to time to capture dangerous offenders. Pursuits must be carefully considered as they also constitute a great risk to the community.

GAINESVILLE POLICE OVERVIEW

Gainesville, Florida encompasses approximately 63 square miles and has an estimated population of 141,085 as of April 2020. The culture and demographics of Gainesville are most certainly influenced by the two large



colleges in the area; the University of Florida has a current enrollment of over 53,000 students and Santa Fe College adds over 14,000 more students to our area.

In 2021, GPD responded to 93,285 Calls for Service. Officers and staff wrote 18,424 incident and crash reports. There were 1,860 custodial arrests made in 2021. Of those arrests, 1,731 were adults and 129 were juveniles. There were also 130 Gainesville Pre-Arrest Diversion Notices and 22 Notices to Appear issued as well as 1,883 Sworn Complaints completed.

GPD officers used force in response to resistance a total of 65 times in 2021.

Of those 65 incidents, 31 resulted in felony arrests and 20 resulted in misdemeanor charges. Additionally, force was employed three times in cases where a person was being taken into custody for an involuntary health exam (Florida's Baker Act/Marchman Act). Six cases were referred to school discipline in lieu of criminal charges and five cases resulted in no criminal charges.

The Gainesville Police Department had two officer involved shooting incidents in 2021.

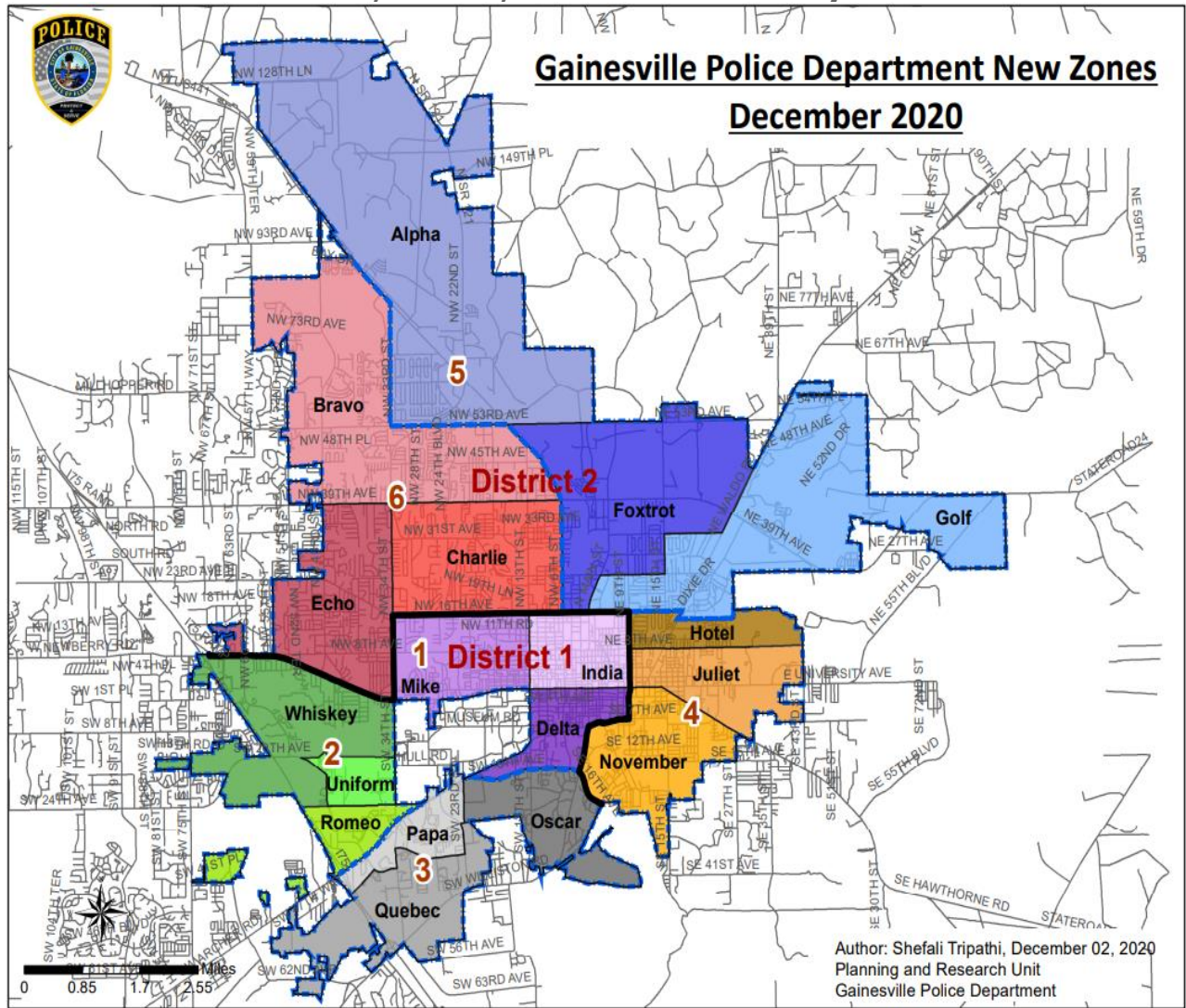
GPD used force in the 2.7% of the arrests made in 2021. (Excludes 14 incidents that did not result in criminal charges).



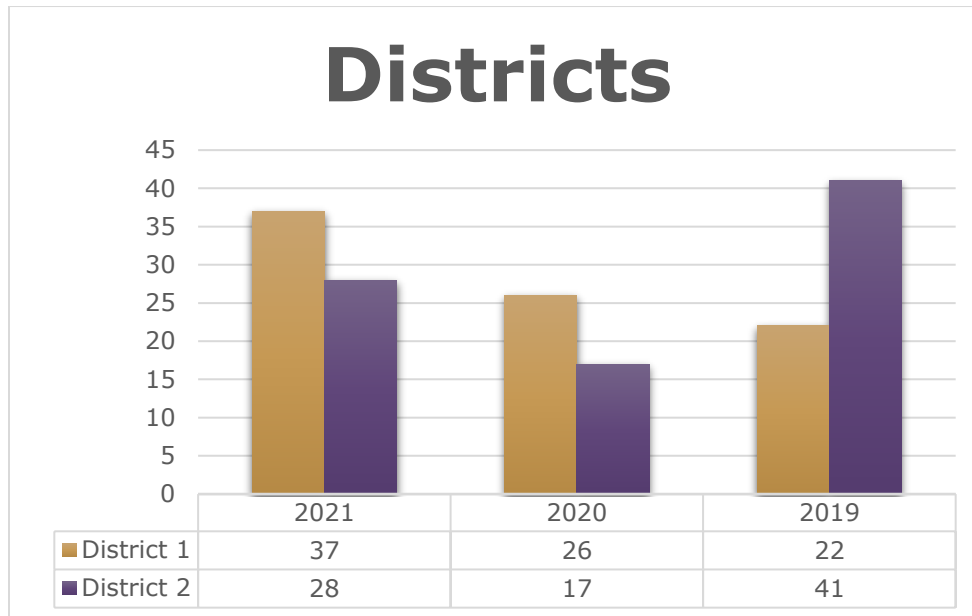
GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL DISTRICTS

The City is broken up into 2 Patrol Districts, 6 Sectors, and 18 Zones.

District, Sector, and Zone Boundary Lines



RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE BY DISTRICT



There were 37 Response to Resistance Incidents in District 1 and 28 Response to Resistance Incidents in District 2.

Of note, GPD sometimes answers calls for service outside of the city assisting other nearby agencies. There were no response to resistance incidents initiated outside of the GPD’s jurisdiction in 2021.

Response to Resistance Incidents by Day of Week

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2021	11	9	10	10	8	8	9

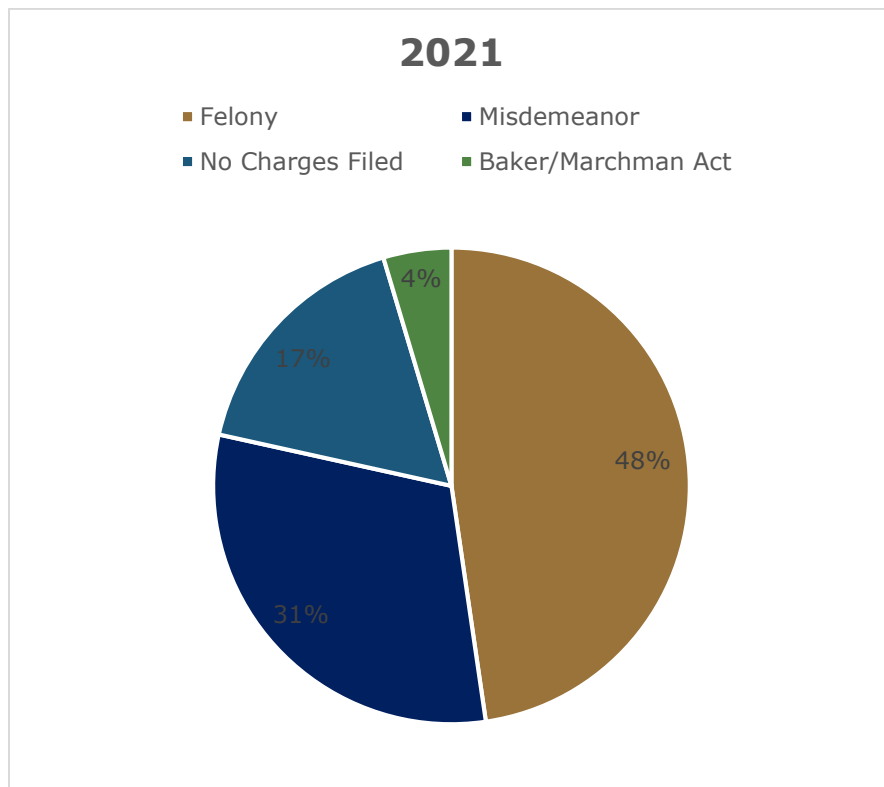
Response to Resistance by Time of Day

	2021	%
0000-0600	24	37%
0600-1200	10	15%
1200-1800	11	17%
1800-2400	20	31%
Total	65	



The Response to Resistance occurred most frequently on Sunday but it is fairly constant throughout the week with 7 being the minimum number of incidents and 11 being the greatest number of incidents. By Time of Day, Response to Resistance occurred most frequently between 0000-0600 hours with 24 and 0600-1200 hours being the least frequent with 10.

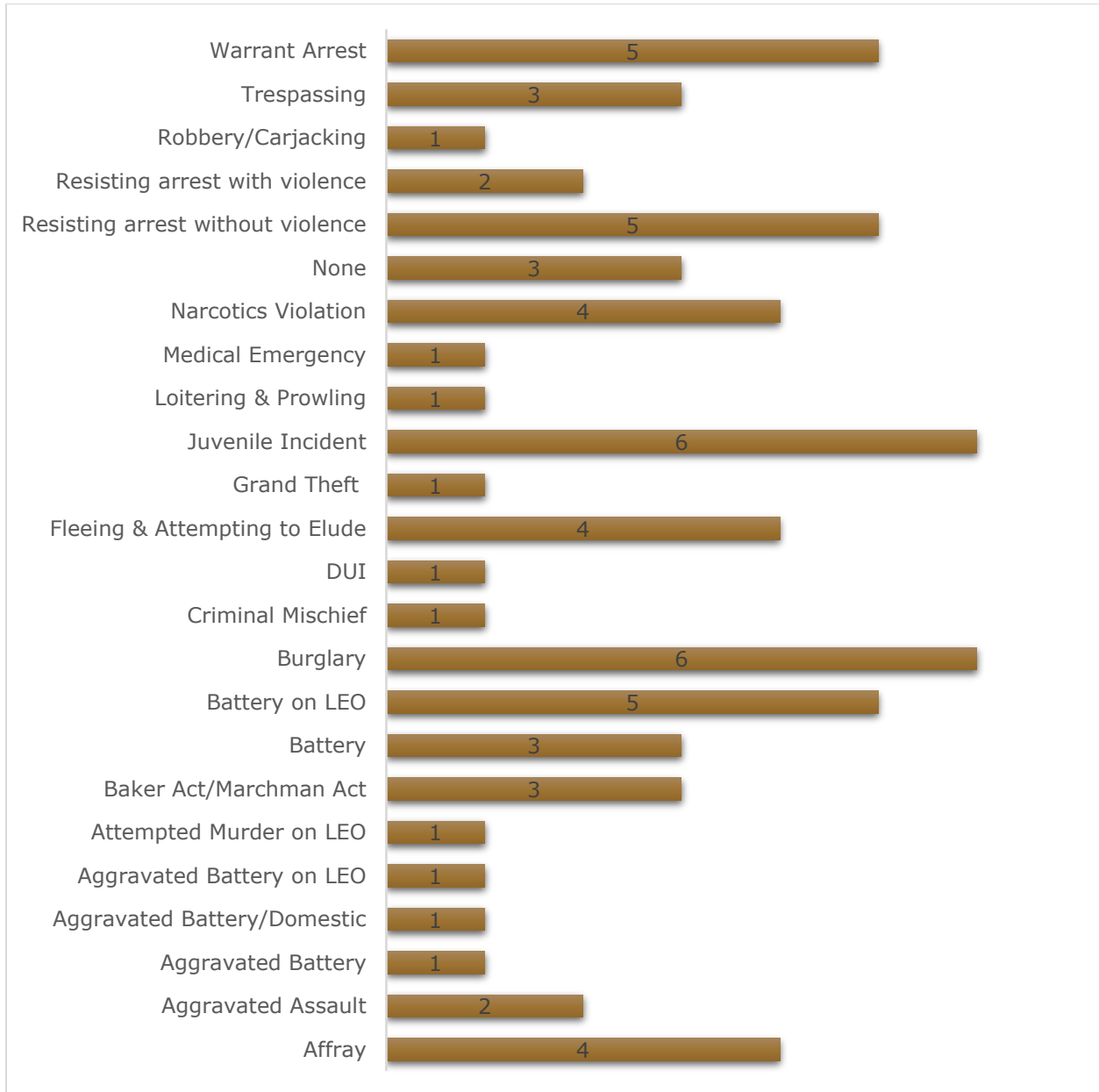
CRIMES COMMITTED BY SUSPECTS IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE INCIDENTS



Fifty-one of the 65 Response to Resistance incidents resulted in arrests. Thirty-one of these arrests were for felony offenses and twenty were for misdemeanor offenses. Three Response to Resistance incidents were subjects that were placed under a Baker or Marchman Act. Six incidents resulted in school discipline in lieu of criminal charges and five incidents resulted in no criminal charges.



Breakdown of Crimes Committed by Suspects during Response to Resistance Incidents



Most subjects were charged with multiple crimes, but the single, highest level of offense is measured.



TYPE OF RESISTANCE AND TYPE OF RESPONSE USED

Subject's resistance can fall into one of four categories:

(listed from least amount to greatest amount of resistance)

- 1) *Passive Resistance*
- 2) *Active Resistance*
- 3) *Aggressive Resistance*
- 4) *Deadly Force Resistance*

The response to resistance continuum used by GPD is based on the State Curriculum and recognizes response as falling in one of three levels that can be utilized by officers:

(listed from least amount to greatest amount of force)

- 1) *Physical Control*
- 2) *Non-Lethal Weapon*
- 3) *Deadly Force*

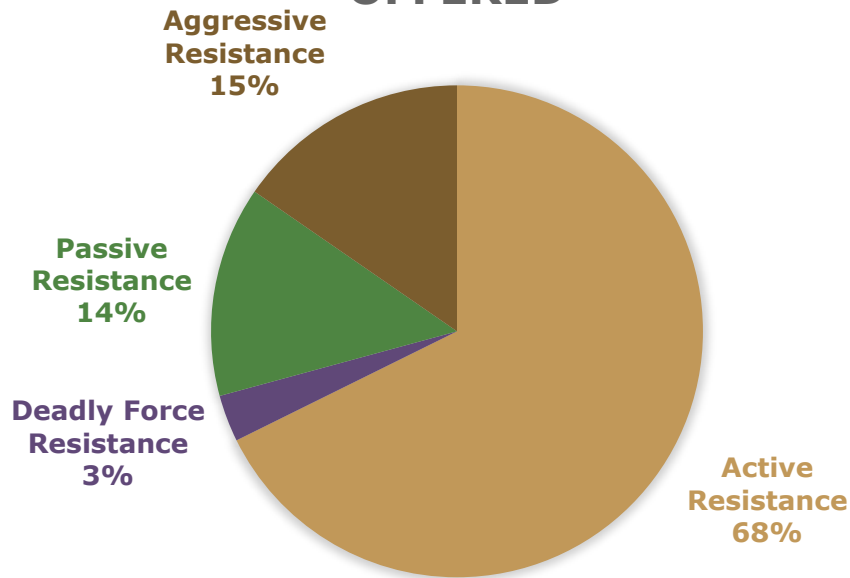
Most subjects will engage in behavior that meets more than one of the resistance categories. Conversely, officers also will generally utilize lower levels of force before escalating to a higher level. This hierarchy is not required if circumstances clearly show that lower levels would be impractical or ineffective.

The charts following show the highest level of force employed by an officer and the highest level of resistance used in each of the 65 Response to Resistance incidents.

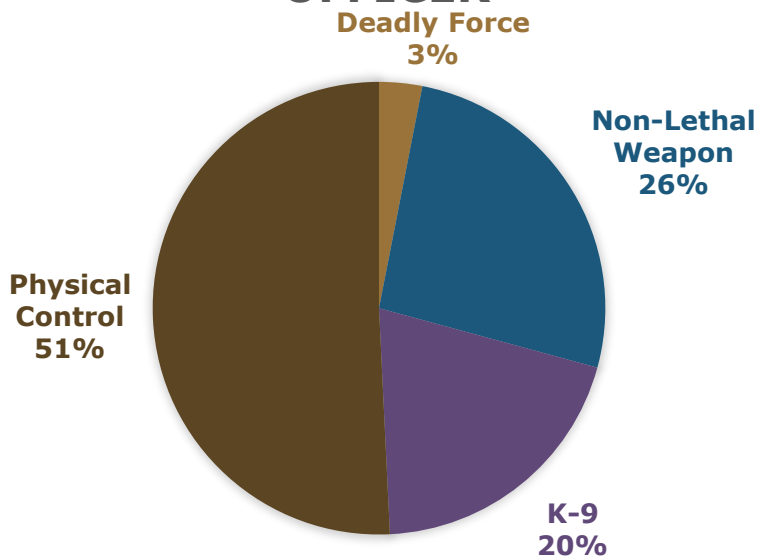
Note that the resistance level and force level do not always match. This is because there are often many other factors to consider when applying force, such as environmental considerations, availability of back up and the relative size and age of the subject.



SUBJECT LEVEL OF RESISTANCE OFFERED



LEVEL OF RESPONSE EMPLOYED BY OFFICER



Different weapons and methods fall into different levels on the force continuum and present a different way of looking at the force employed. For example, take downs, tackles, joint manipulation, escorts, knee strikes and

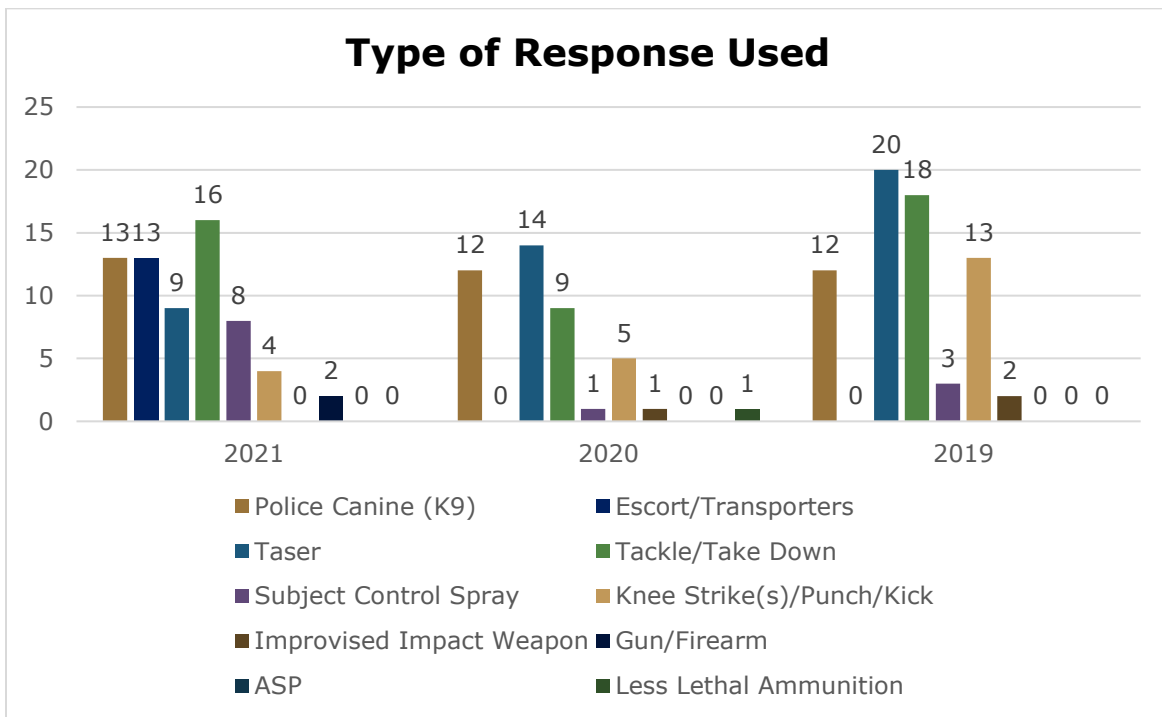


punches fall in the Physical Control category. Taser, ASP Baton, Improvised Weapons, Less Lethal Ammunitions and Chemical Subject Control Spray all fall into the Non-Lethal Weapon category. Police K-9 Apprehensions are included in this analysis but fall into their own category.

A more detailed view of the force officers employed indicates a Take Down or Tackle was the most frequently used response to resistance with 16 occurrences. Police K-9 Apprehensions were used 13 times, a Taser was used 9 times, subject control spray was used 8 times, and strikes and kicks were used 4 times.

There were no instances in which a GPD officer used the expandable ASP batons or an improvised impact weapon, such as a flashlight, in 2021.

There were two incidents involving the use of firearms in 2021.



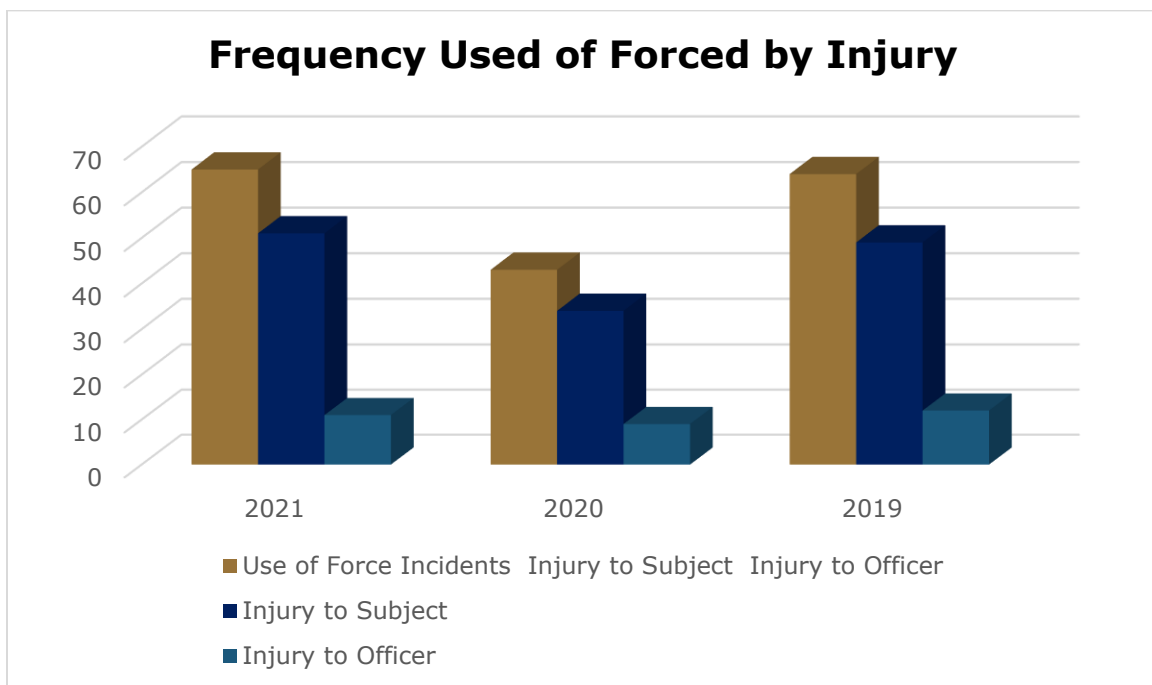
Although more than one response to resistance may be utilized, a single, highest level of response to resistance is measured.



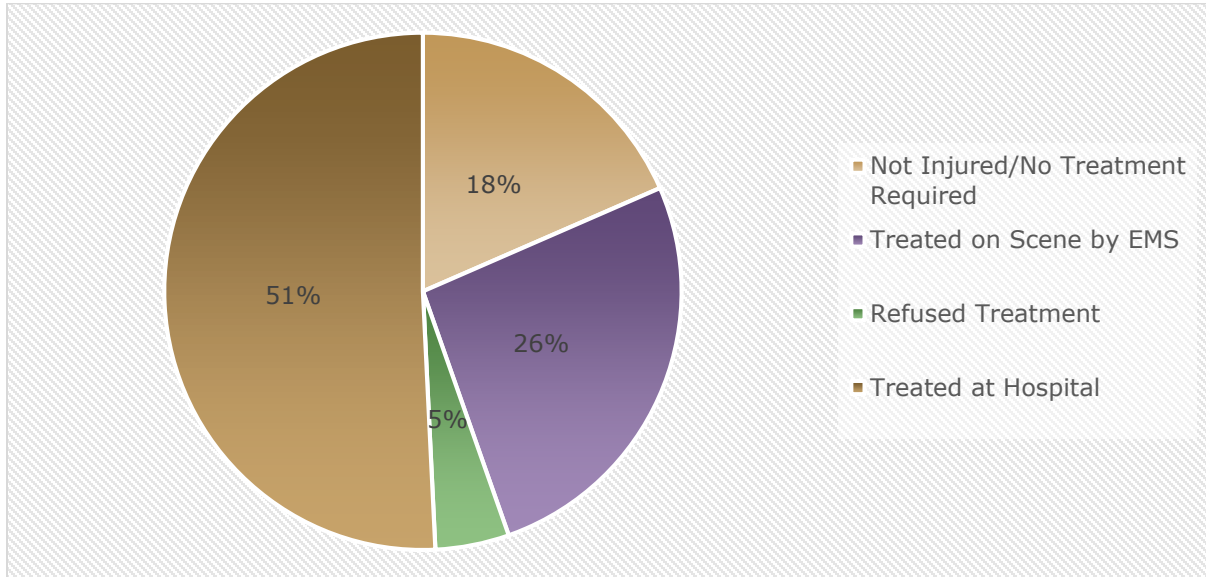
OFFICER AND SUBJECT INJURIES

In 2021, there were 51 subjects who received injury and/or alleged injury in the 65 response to resistance incidents. The rate of injury to subjects involved in response to resistance incidents was 78% in 2021 which is consistent with 2020, where the rate of injury was 77%. Although generally minor in nature, the use of the Taser will always result in an injury as a result of the probes piercing the skin. In all Taser incidents it is required that EMS check on the suspect. In the same regard, medical treatment is always provided in K-9 Apprehension cases.

In 2021, officers were injured in 17% of the response to resistance incidents which is consistent with the 21% rate of injury in 2020 and 18% rate of injury in 2019.



Treatment of Subject Injury in 65 Response to Resistance Cases in 2021



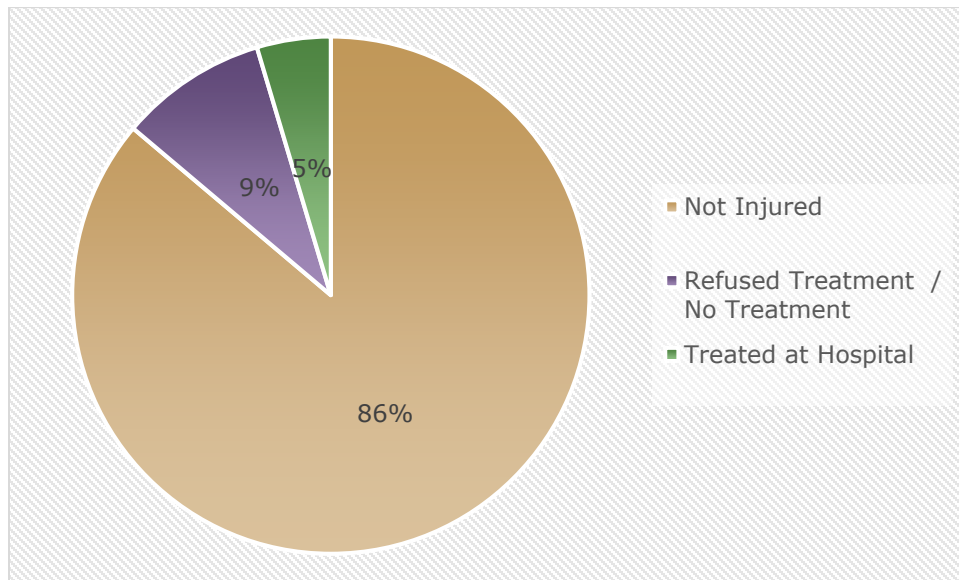
In the 65 Response to Resistance incidents in 2021, 12 subjects sustained no injury or an injury that did not require treatment, 17 people were treated by EMS, three refused treatment, and 33 received treatment at an area hospital emergency room. There were two individuals whose injuries could not be assessed because they fled from the scene.

Please note that hospital treatment is not necessarily indicative of the severity of injuries received during the response to resistance. A trend that has developed over the past few years is seeking precautionary treatment for subjects involved in response to resistance incidents regardless of how minor the injury may seem. There have also been increasing instances of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Department of the Jail requiring subjects to be medically cleared before accepting them as inmates. This clearance almost exclusively come from a hospital. Treatments and/or clearances such as these could be done for minor injuries, individuals that were injured prior to the response to resistance, someone with pre-existing conditions, or someone under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. This is provided for informational purposes only and is not meant to undermine the fact that, unfortunately,



there are subjects whose injuries that are received during a response to resistance require advanced medical treatment due to their severity.

Treatment of Officer Injury in 65 Response to Resistance Cases in 2021



In the 65 Response to Resistance incidents in 2021, 56 Officers sustained no injury, 6 refused or did not require treatment, and 3 received treatment at a hospital.



USE OF TASER

In the last decade, the Conducted Electrical Weapon (brand name Taser) has proven to be a very effective weapon in gaining control of volatile people resisting police in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury to either the subject or the officer.



Tasers were incrementally introduced at GPD beginning in 2008. The table below shows a progression on the use of the Taser at GPD over a 10 year period.

Please note that each time the Taser is used effectively, the subject is injured. However, this injury may only result in the Taser probe injury to the skin.

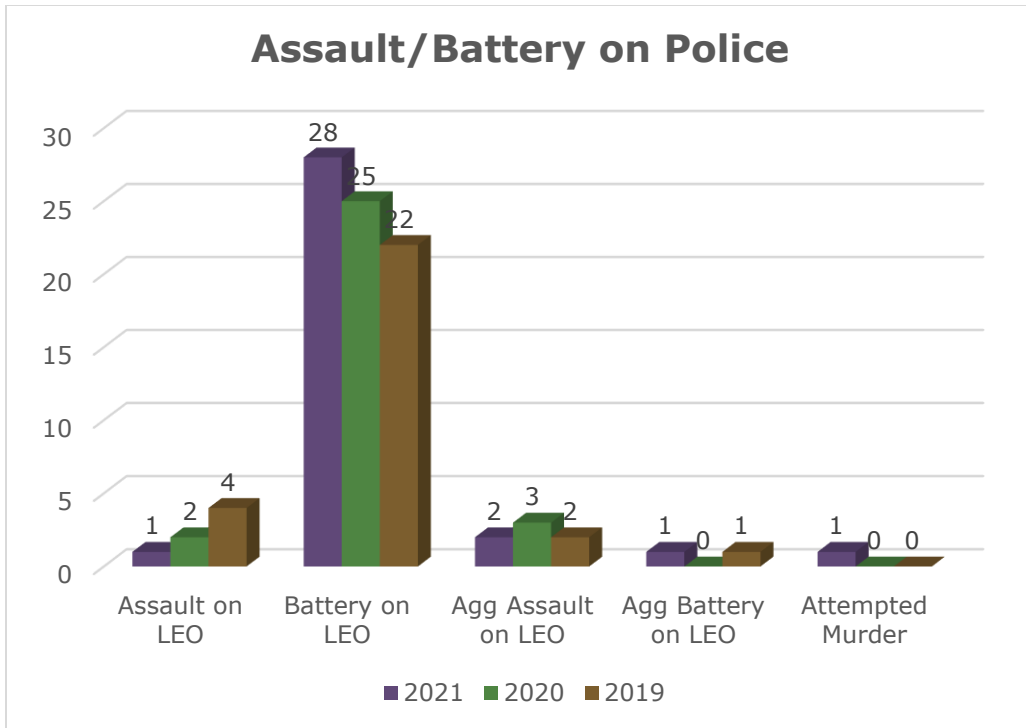
The chart below compares the total number of response to resistance incidents, the total number of incidents in which the Taser was used as the highest level of response, and the total number of injuries to suspects.

Year	UOF	Taser Use	Injuries to Suspects
2012	114	45	72
2013	103	36	56
2014	87	18	60
2015	69	22	49
2016	73	23	47
2017	67	22	53
2018	68	28	49
2019	64	20	42
2020	43	14	33
2021	64	9	53

ASSAULT/BATTERY ON POLICE

In 2021, there were 33 total assaults and/or batteries committed against Gainesville Police Officers. While this is a slight increase over previous years, it is fairly consistent with 30 assaults and/or batteries occurring against GPD officers in 2020 and 29 such occurrences in 2019.





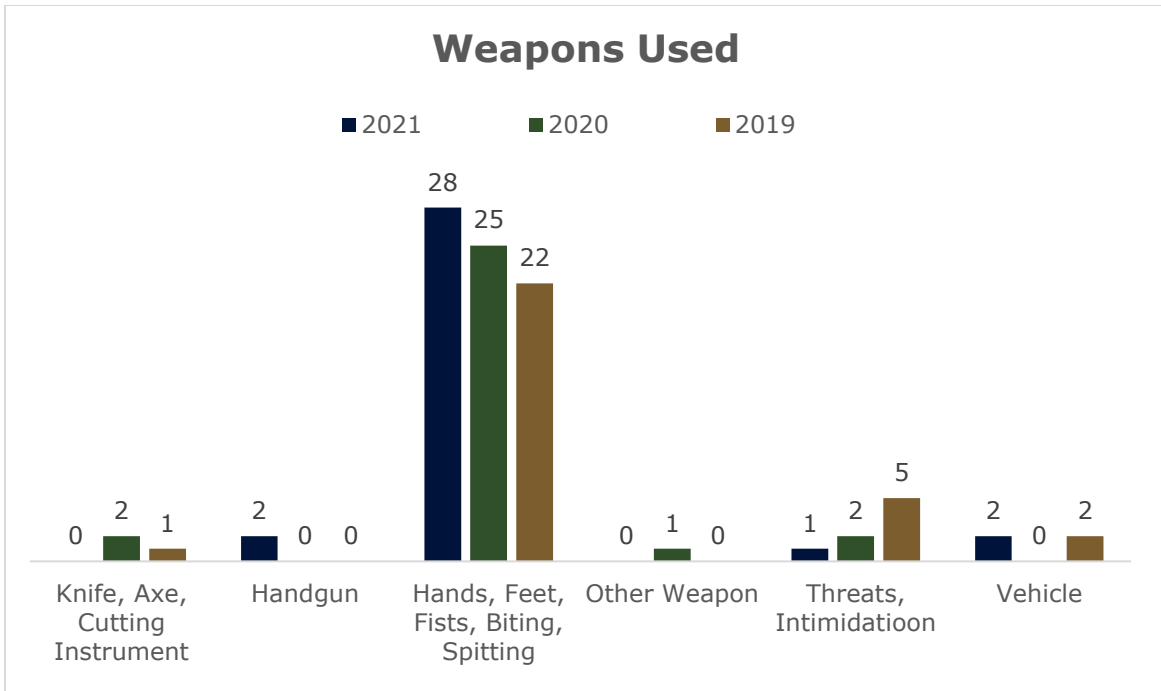
Charges brought against subjects involving assaults and/or batteries against officers vary. Even if the subject was charged with multiple crimes the single, highest level of offense is measured.

Note, in cases where a minor assault occurs against an officer, the officer may use discretion and not charge the offender with the crime against the officer and instead only charge other crime(s) that may have been committed.

Breakdown of Weapons used by Suspects Committing Assault and/or Battery on Police

A break down of the types of weapons used to assault officers over the last three years is displayed in the chart below. Officers are most commonly assaulted and/or battered with “hands, feet, biting and spitting” and the most common charge brought against such suspects is Battery on a Police Officer.





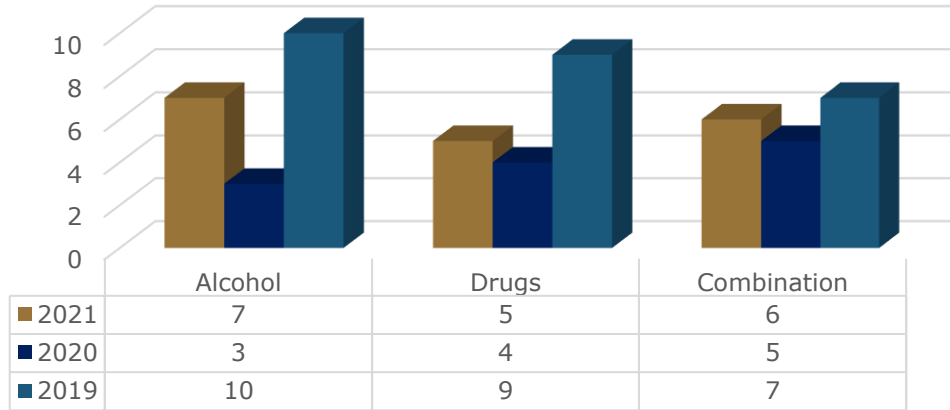
SUBJECTS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Many subjects that are involved in response to resistance incidents are under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both.

In the 65 cases of Response to Resistance in 2021, it is believed that 7 individuals were under the influence of alcohol, 5 were under the influence of drugs, and 6 individuals were under the influence of both.



Response to Resistance involving Persons Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol



While we have attempted to track these stats, it cannot always be positively determined that the subject involved in the response to resistance is or is not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. At times there also may be some other underlying condition(s) that is not readily identifiable or apparent at the time of the encounter.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Gainesville Police Department has been collaborating with other local law enforcement agencies and mental health care providers since 2004 to bring Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to local law enforcement officers.

CIT training covers a wide variety of topics concerning mental health issues to include etiology, medicines, co-occurring issues, stigma, community resources, the Baker Act and de-escalation. GPD continues to strive to de-escalate calls involving those with mental health concerns.

There is no means of tracking how many times an individual that is suffering from mental illness and/or in a mental crisis becomes the subject of a response to resistance which is also often an underlying issue in other criminal cases.



Police are becoming much more adept at recognizing mental health issues, de-escalating when possible, and trying to get persons with mental illness help instead of incarcerating them whenever possible.

Recognizing the impact that mental health has on both law enforcement and the criminal justice system, in 2018 GPD collaborated with Meridian Behavioral Health and implemented a full time Mental Health Co-responder Team made up a GPD Officer and mental health clinician from Meridian. This program has continuously operated since its inception and expanded to 4 full time teams in 2021. Not only do these teams respond to individuals in crisis, they proactively offer assistance and services to those who may need it in our community. Additionally, these teams are also forwarded referrals from other GPD personnel when their services can be utilized. These teams have been overwhelmingly successful in diverting a substantial amount of individuals from the criminal justice system and has had a positive impact on the community as well as the Gainesville Police Department. Of note, none of these teams had a response to resistance incident in 2021 while performing their roles as a Co-responder Team.

In the 65 cases of Response to Resistance in 2021, it is believed that 8 individuals were suffering from a mental health concern and/or experiencing a mental health crisis.

As stated above with subjects under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, while we have attempted to track these stats, it cannot always be positively determined that a subject involved in a response to resistance is suffering from a mental health concern and/or crisis. At times there also may be some other underlying condition(s) that is not readily identifiable or apparent at the time of the encounter.

In the 65 cases of Response to Resistance in 2021, there were a total of 39 individuals in which it could not be positively determined, or it was unknown, if the person was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and/or suffering from a mental health concern/crisis.



OFFICER AND SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

In 2021 members of the Gainesville Police Department arrested 1731 adults and 129 juveniles. Of the adult arrests, 25% were Caucasian men, 50% were African American men, 9% were Caucasian women, and 14% were African American women. This number does not include Gainesville Pre-Arrest Diversions (GPA) or Notices to Appear (NTA). There were 152 NTA's and GPA's issued in 2021.

	Caucasian Male Adults	African American Male Adults	Caucasian Female Adults	African American Female Adults	Caucasian Male Juveniles	African American Male Juveniles	Caucasian Female Juveniles	African American Female Juvenile
Arrested 2021	435	865	153	249	15	88	5	20
RTR 2021	14	37	2	3	2	2	0	3
Arrested 2020	420	799	189	187	11	132	2	16
RTR 2020	15	21	1	2	0	3	0	0
Arrested 2019	539	899	184	218	16	132	9	45
RTR 2019	17	33	3	1	0	4	0	2
Arrested 2018	713	1107	270	277	10	185	7	39
RTR 2018	16	33	2	4	0	6	0	1

In the 65 cases of Response to Resistance involving adults in 2021, 22% of the individuals were Caucasian men, 57% were African American men, 3% were Caucasian women, and 5% were African American females. There were



two response to resistance incident that involved Hispanic males which are not included in the table.

The City of Gainesville population is estimated to be 65% Caucasian, 22% African American, 12% Hispanic, and 7% Asian per the U.S. Census Bureau. The Gainesville Police Department strives to hire police officers to reflect the diversity of the community. Currently, the demographics of sworn members at the Gainesville Police Department is approximately 66% Caucasian, 23% African American, 7% Hispanic, and 1% Asian. Twenty percent of the sworn members are women.

The Gainesville Police Department continues to work on issues related to disproportionate minority contacts through numerous community based programs and well established youth intervention programs. GPD continues to see a necessity to focus on this issue using various diversion and education campaigns.

ALLEGATIONS OF EXCESSIVE OR IMPROPER USE OF FORCE

In 2021, the Gainesville Police Department Internal Affairs Division received four complaints alleging improper or excessive use of force.

All of these complaints were made by citizens and alleged improper or excessive force during the process of making an arrest. In three of the cases, the citizen that filed the complaint was the individual arrested. In the fourth complaint, the relationship between the citizen and individual arrested is unknown. The citizen filing the complaint was not present when the improper or excessive use of force was alleged to have occurred.

All of these complaints have been cleared without a finding of excessive or improper force. In three of the cases, although force was utilized it was determined to be appropriate and justified. In the fourth case, the investigation revealed that not only was there no improper or excessive use of force, there was no use of force at all.



Internal Affairs investigated three complaints of improper or excessive use of force in 2020 and five complaints in 2019 so the number of investigations into this matter remains relatively consistent during a three year comparison.

Note: There are two internal complaints regarding incidents that occurred in 2021 that are still under investigation. It is unknown at this time if these investigations may reveal improper or excessive use of force.

DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

In 2021, there were two officer involved shootings involving GPD members. In one incident, while attempting to apprehend a burglary suspect an officer fired one shot. The suspect was not struck and escaped capture. While this shot was initially believed to be accidental discharge, the internal investigation revealed the officer fired their duty weapon in violation of GPD Policy. They were subsequently disciplined. In the second incident, officers were fired upon while attempting to arrest a suspect that committed an aggravated assault with a firearm. Two officers returned fire striking the suspect. He was treated for his injuries and was arrested for attempted murder along with other felony charges. While the officers involved in this incident have been cleared of any criminal charges by Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the State Attorney's Office, the GPD internal review of this incident is still being conducted.

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE ANALYSIS

Total Response to Resistance incidents by Gainesville Police members increased in 2021 with 65 Response to Resistance Incidents. In 2020 there were 43 Response to Resistance incidents and in 2019 there were 64 incidents. So, the number of Response to Resistance incidents in 2021 is consistent with 2019 and is an increase of approximately 33% compared to 2020.



In 2021, there were 1,860 custodial arrests compared to 1,762 arrests in 2020 and 2,185 in 2019. This equates to a 15% decrease in arrests compared to 2019 and an increase of approximately 5% compared to 2020.

Therefore the data shows that officers responded to resistance in approximately 2.7% of incidents involving arrests in 2021. They responded to resistance in approximately 2.4% incidents involving arrests in 2020 and approximately 2.1% in 2019. Although there is a slight increase in the percentage, it is only in tenths of a percent, and does not readily indicate a disproportionate response to resistance, as every instance of the application of force is based upon the varied resistance levels of the individual.

Geographic Comparison

The geographical boundaries of the Districts, Sectors, and Zones covered and utilized for statistical reporting by the Gainesville Police Department were changed in December 2020. Therefore, the following data will be provided but directly comparing the statistics of 2021 to previous years is moot because the comparison would involve different geographical areas of the city.

Analysis shows District 1 had 37 Response to resistance incidents and 28 response to resistance incidents in District 2. While there are more response to resistance incidents in District 1, comparing percentages show that this is fairly consistent with approximately 57% of the response to resistance incidents occurring in District 1 and approximately 43% occurring in District 2.

The COVID pandemic, likely had a tremendous impact on overall numbers for both arrests and Response to Resistance incidents, as well as geographical locations. During a majority of 2020 there were COVID related restrictions in place. Also in 2020, the overall student population in Gainesville was down, as both the University of Florida and Santa Fe College were using primarily distance learning. In 2021, the COVID related restrictions were being lifted, more gatherings began to take place, sporting



events were occurring, remote working was being utilized with less frequency, etc. Therefore, generally, the numbers for 2019 (Pre-COVID) and 2021 ("Post" COVID) were fairly consistent with the numbers for 2020 (COVID) being lower.

Time and Day Analysis

Forty-four Response to Resistance incidents (68%) took place during evening and night shifts. In contrast, 21 Reponse to Resistance (32%) took place on day shift. This contrast between night shifts and day shift is consistent with the greater number of calls for service and arrests that typically occur during the nighttime hours.

Injury and Medical Treatment Comparison

In 2021, there were 53 individuals (82%) who received treatment or refused treatment for injuries in 65 Response to Resistance incidents. There were 33 subjects (77%) who received treatment or refused treatment for injuries in 43 Response to Resistance incidents in 2020 and 42 subjects (66%) who received treatment or refused treatment for injuries in 64 Response to Resistance incidents in 2019. Although there is an upward trend in this analysis, as stated previously, it is becoming common to provide precautionary treatment and/or get medical clearance prior to transporting an individual that was involved in a Response to Resistance regardless of the absence or denial of injury.

In 2021, the Taser was utilized in 9 Response to Resistance incidents which is five fewer than 2020. Canine apprehensions remained consistent increasing by only one from 12 in 2020 to 13 in 2021. As stated previously, although generally minor in nature, the use of the Taser will always result in an injury due to the probes piercing the skin. EMS is required to assess the subject for injuries in all Taser utilizations and medical treatment is required in all canine apprehension incidents.

In 2021, officers received treatment for injuries in ten Response to Resistance incidents or 15% of the cases. Rates of officers treatment for injuries



remained fairly consistent as there was a treatment rate of 21% in 2020 and 18% in 2019.

Demographic Analysis

A review of the statistical data related to 65 incidents in relation to race and gender revealed that Response to Resistance incidents were more common with males accounting for 83% (54 out of 65) of the cases.

In comparing race, Response to Resistance incidents were more common with African Americans accounting for 69% (45 out of 65) of the cases. However, when race is analyzed in relation to the number of individuals arrested, the percentage of African Americans involved in Response to Resistance incidents is only slightly higher than that of Caucasians. There was a Response to Resistance in 3.7% of all arrests involving African Americans and 3.3% of all arrests involving Caucasians.

Eight of 427 arrests involving females resulted in a Response to Resistance and seven of 128 arrests involving juveniles resulted in a Response to Resistance.

VEHICLE PURSUITS

Although not technically a Response to Resistance, vehicle pursuits are sometimes a necessary means to apprehend offenders. The Gainesville Police Department's policy permits pursuing cars that meet certain criteria.

There are two types of authorized pursuits: Low Risk and High Risk. Low Risk Pursuits are authorized for any crime not specified under the High Risk Pursuit category including traffic offenses and Driving Under the Influence. Additionally, the following criteria must be met for for a Low Risk Pursuit to be authorized: the violator does not accelerate or take evasive action and the driving behavior does not place the public in any undue danger. Pursuits are authorized for the following crimes: Murder or Attempted Murder, Aggravated Battery with serious bodily injury, Drive-by Shootings, Robbery with a Firearm, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, and Kidnapping.



GPD policy mandates that all pursuits be reviewed and analyzed by a supervisor to ensure incidents are within compliance of Department Policy. All GPD officers receive pursuit and driving training.

Synopsis

In 2021, GPD members were involved in 13 incidents that met the vehicle pursuit criteria. This was a slight decrease from 2020 when there was 15 vehicle pursuits and an increase from 2019 when there were nine vehicle pursuits.

In 2021, of the 13 pursuits, seven met the criteria of a Low Risk pursuit, four were considered High Risk, and two were terminated prior to a pursuit occurring. Two of the high risk pursuits were initiated for forcible felonies and one was initiated due to the driver's reckless behavior prior to law enforcement involvement. The fourth high risk pursuit was initiated for a traffic violation.

There were two pursuits that ended in a single vehicle crash, one in which the vehicle crashed after the pursuit was terminated, and one in which the suspect vehicle was involved in a minor crash with another vehicle while fleeing. This crash was so minor that the other party either did not realize they were struck or just did not bother to officially report the crash. Eight pursuits ended with the suspect driver stopping on their own. There were no incidents that resulted in stop sticks being deployed or the utilization of the Precision Mobilization Technique (PIT).

In eight of the 13 pursuits, the officer whom initiated the pursuit or one of the other officers involved had a vehicle equipped with an in-car video system. In two instances, the vehicle was equipped with an in-car camera but the system was malfunctioning. In all 13 pursuits, there was body worn camera footage from the officer whom initiated the pursuit or one of the other involved officers. Video footage is beneficial when completing pursuit reviews as it assists in confirming compliance with policy while also identifying potential areas of improvement.

Of the 13 pursuits that took place during 2021, ten were found to be within GPD Policy, two were terminated by the initiating officer, and one was



terminated by the shift commander. Although one of these pursuits met the criteria to be authorized, it was terminated out of concern for the safety of the public. One pursuit was found to be in violation of GPD Policy and the involved officer received discipline.

Below is a breakdown of vehicle pursuits by category:

Low Risk Category (Seven Incidents)

It was determined that all seven of the Low Risk pursuits were within GPD policy. It was also determined that in all seven of these Low Risk pursuits the driver either never violated any additional laws or committed minor infractions such as traveling 5 MPH over the posted speed limit.

In a majority of the Low Risk pursuits, a traffic violation was the initial reason the officer attempted to effect a traffic stop. All seven of the Low Risk pursuits ended with the driver stopping the vehicle and in four of the cases, the driver fled on foot.

High Risk Category (Four Incidents)

The first incident involved officers being dispatched to the report of “people are shooting and killer.” Upon arrival, it was determined to be an armed robbery and that the suspects were in possession of a shotgun. After locating the suspect vehicle parked, officers attempted to make contact with the driver who subsequently fled in the vehicle. An authorized pursuit was then initiated and continued for approximately 3 miles, mainly on Williston Road. The pursuit ended with the suspect vehicle being involved in a single vehicle crash. Subsequently, both occupants of the vehicle were arrested. A handgun was located in the vehicle and the shotgun was located along the route of the pursuit. The vehicle occupants were charged with multiple felonies including aggravated assault with a firearm, armed robbery, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and aggravated fleeing and eluding.

In the second incident, GPD received reports that the suspect vehicle was traveling 80-100 MPH, had already crashed, and was continuing to drive recklessly. Responding officers located vehicle debris in the roadway and



observed the vehicle travelling in the wrong direction into oncoming traffic. Prior to any law enforcement involvement, the vehicle was also observed running a red light. After briefly losing sight of the vehicle, an officer located it and attempted to effect a traffic stop. The vehicle refused to stop and an authorized pursuit was initiated. The pursuit continued for approximately 1 mile and ended when the suspect vehicle stopped. The driver attempted to flee on foot but was caught and arrested. He was charged with fleeing and attempting to elude, reckless driving, and resisting without violence.

The third incident involved a suspect that had just threatened his ex-girlfriend and her associate, with a firearm. It was also discovered that this same suspect pointed a gun at the same victim the day prior. In that incident, he also fired the gun in front of her. The incident from the previous day had not been reported because the victim was afraid of the suspect. Officers observed the suspect getting into the driver's seat of a vehicle in a nearby parking lot. Officers attempted to pull the vehicle over, but it refused to stop. A pursuit was authorized and continued for approximately 1.5 miles. The pursuit was terminated by the involved officers as it approached an area that was congested with traffic and pedestrians near the University of Florida campus. Once the pursuit was terminated, the suspect resumed a normal driving pattern. It was determined that after the termination of the pursuit the suspect vehicle did strike another vehicle. However, the other driver did not stop or report this crash. The suspect in this case was charged with multiple felonies including aggravated assault with a firearm and fleeing and eluding.

The fourth incident involved a suspect that committed a traffic violation. When the officer attempted to pull the violator over, the suspect travelled through an occupied parking lot, sped up, and continued to flee. The vehicle crashed into a fence and the suspect unsuccessfully attempted to flee on foot. He was charged with fleeing and attempting to elude, driving on a suspended license, and leaving the scene of a crash. An internal investigation determined this pursuit was in violation of GPD Policy and the officer was disciplined.

Pursuits Terminated

Three pursuits were terminated in 2021.



As stated above, although authorized, one pursuit was terminated by the involved officers due to the risk being created by the suspects actions.

Another termination involved an officer stopping a vehicle that was suspected of being involved in an armed robbery. The vehicle stopped but then fled as the officer approached on foot. While attempting to catch back up to the vehicle, the officer was told a firearm was not used in the crime. Therefore, the officer ceased his efforts as the criteria authorizing a pursuit had not been met.

The third termination occurred before a pursuit was initiated. When an officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation, the vehicle increased speed and ran a stop sign. As directed by the shift lieutenant, the officer ceased their efforts to stop the vehicle because the criteria authorizing a pursuit had not been met.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data in this report, there are no recommended changes to the response to resistance policy or the associated equipment that is currently in use.

However, this report is forwarded to the Training and Education Division so they can also analyze and assess GPD's utilization of response to resistance tactics, de-escalation techniques, and overall engagement of the public. If deemed necessary, they will facilitate specialized training in areas that could improve GPD's service to the community such as communication skills or the improvement of the use/application of certain techniques.

De-escalation and the improvement of communication skills was built into GPD's response to resistance training in 2018 and continued in the 2021 curriculum. Procedural Justice training, whose principles focus on the respect, legitimacy, and fairness in interactions, as well as Critical Intervention training (CIT), utilized for better communication for people in



crisis, continue to be taught and utilized to improve GPD's interactions with the community.

