



# 2019- Use of Force Summary and Analysis --- Report

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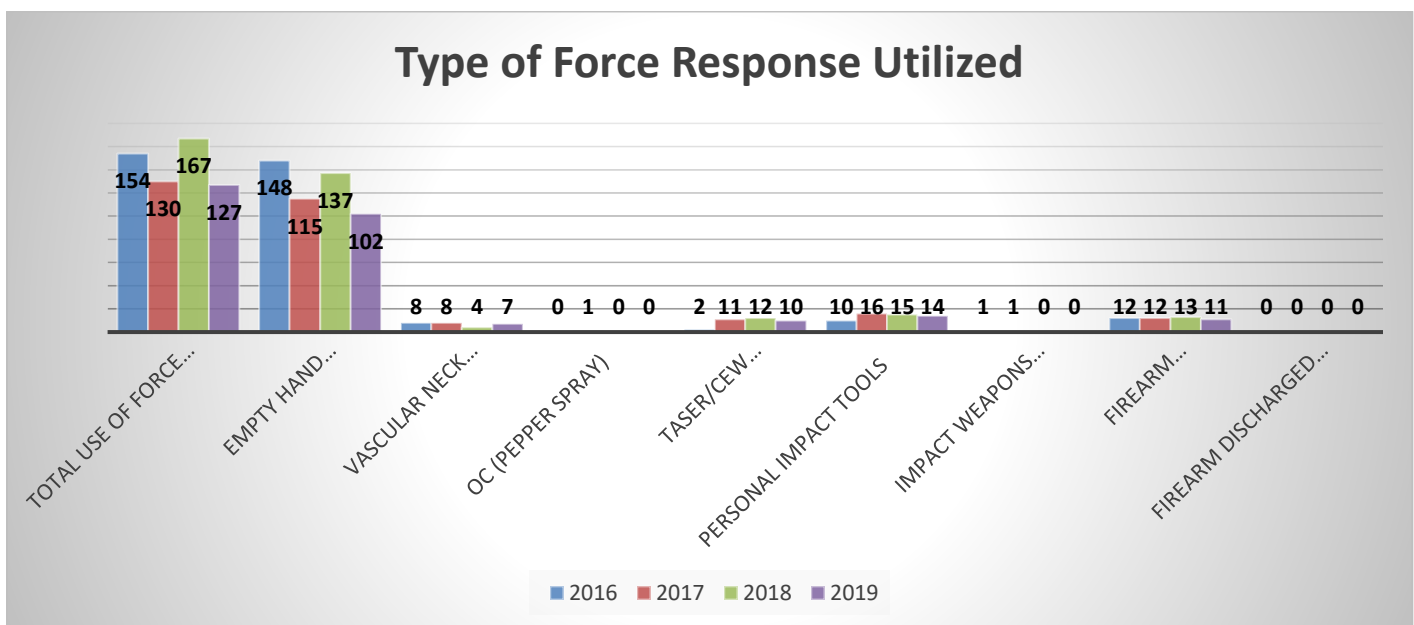
**Bellevue Police Department**      **4/27/2020**

This report summarizes and analyzes the Department's "Use of Force" by its officers during the past year to include statistics, trends and training that occurred. Bellevue police officers responded to 65,664 calls for service in 2019, which means force was employed in .0019% of calls. In 2019, commissioned officers of the Bellevue Police Department used some type of force option in 127 different incidents compared to 167 in 2018. This represented a 24 percent decrease in the total number of force incidents from the previous year. The average number of force incidents per year over the last 5 years is 140. The reason for the decrease in overall incidents is not attributed to any specific known factors.

## 1. Force Incidents/Types of Force Used

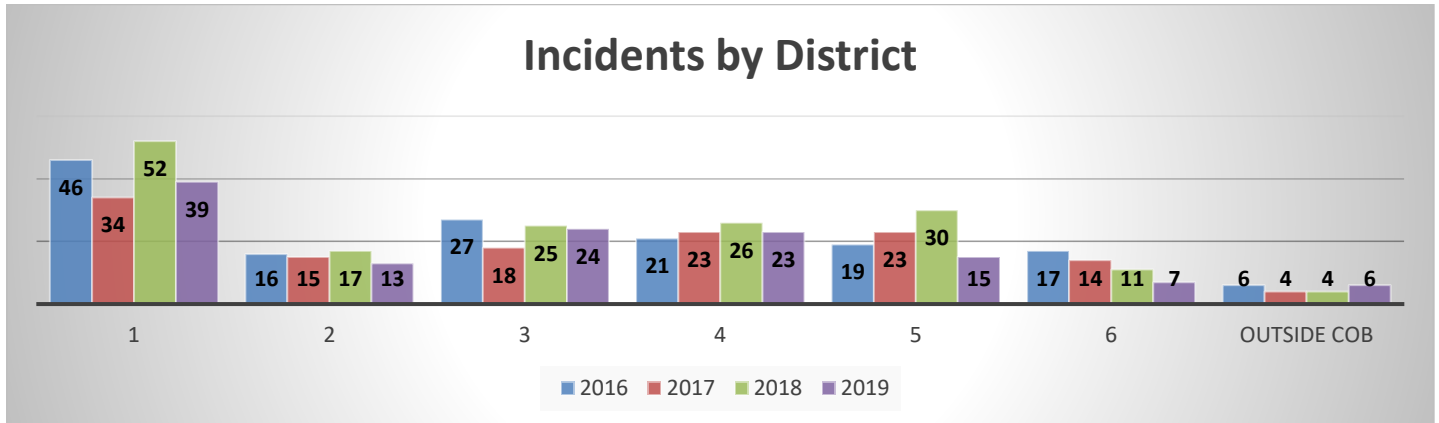
The table below lists the different types of force used by officers and the number of times each type was applied during an incident. It should be noted that in many incidents, more than just one type of force was used during a single incident and often more than one officer involved in an incident responded with some type of reportable force.

Type of Force Response	2016	2017	2018	2019
Empty Hand Control/Restraint	148	115	137	102
Vascular Neck Restraints (VNR)	8	8	4	7
OC (Pepper Spray)	0	1	0	0
Taser/CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapon)	2	11	12	10
Personal Impact Tools	10	16	15	14
Impact Weapons (Baton/Launcher)	1	1	0	0
Firearm Displayed/Directed at Subject	12	12	13	11
Firearm Discharged at Person	0	0	0	0
<b>Total # of Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>127</b>



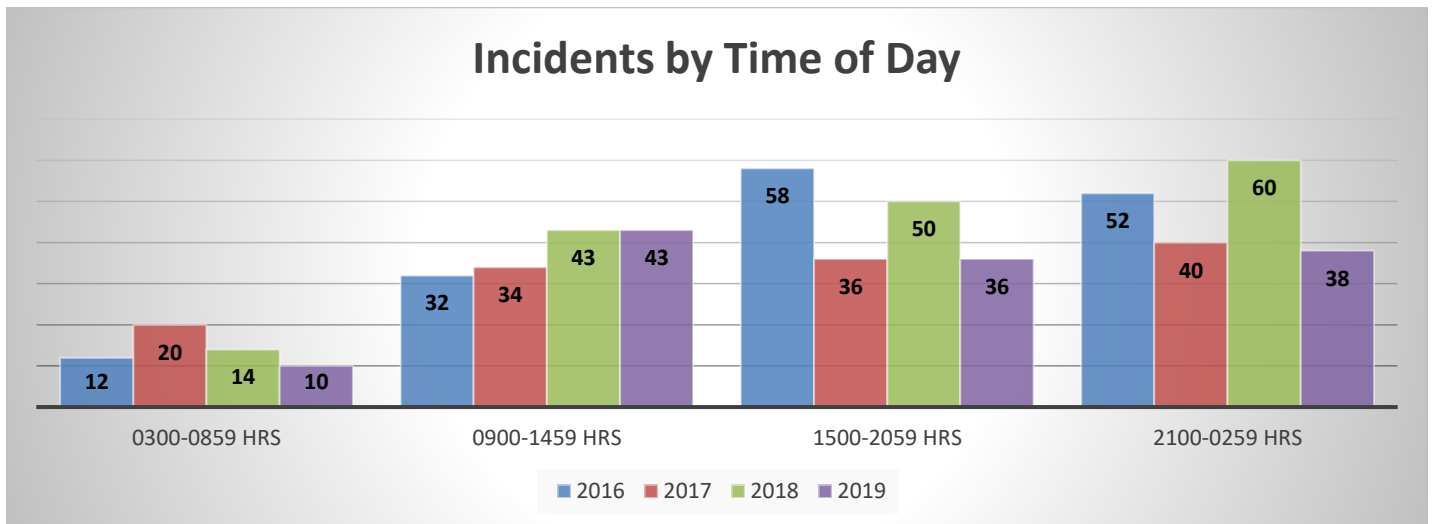
## 2. Force Incidents By District

This table shows the number of force incidents that occurred in each of the six districts over the last four years, with the purple bar displaying 2019 totals. District 1 (Downtown Bellevue) saw an decrease of 25% and District 2 was down 24%. District 5 showed the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest decrease and was down 50%. The other three districts showed minimal changes from 2018 but all were down slightly. The last category is “Other Jurisdictions” and includes incidents where various units or officers were involved in contacts outside of the City of Bellevue (SWAT, Crowd Control, SOG, etc.).



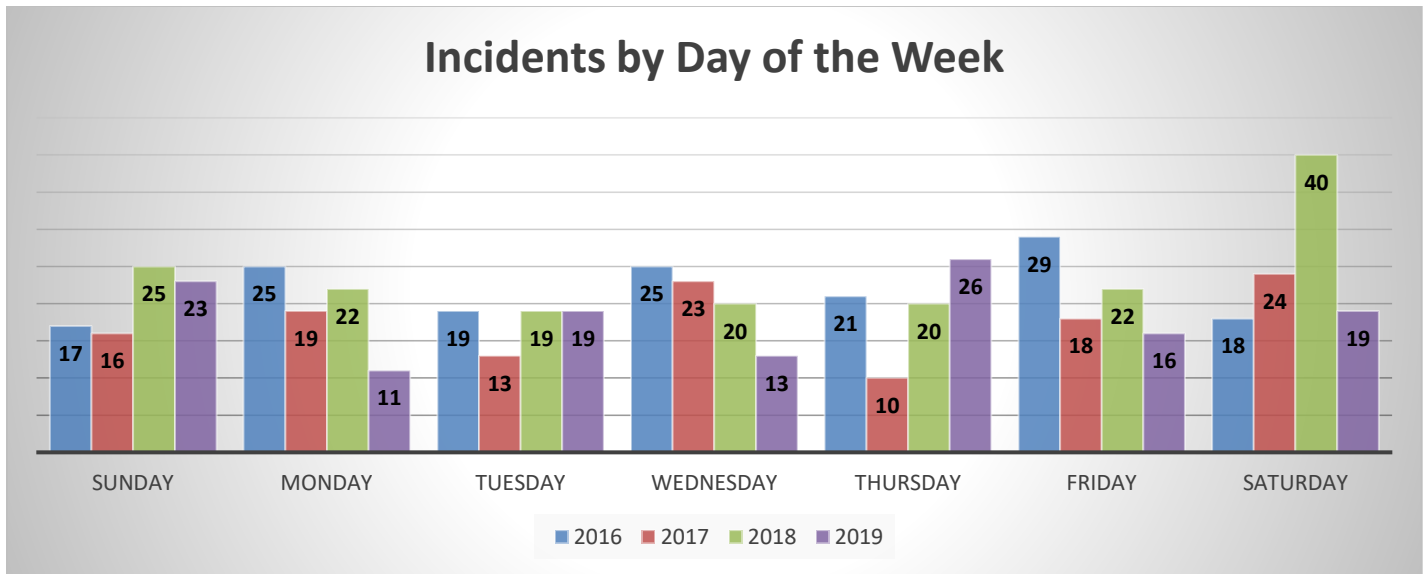
## 3. Force Incidents By Time of Day

This table displays force incidents that occurred during different time periods during the day for each year. The numbers below are fairly consistent with previous years with the highest frequency of incidents being during the hours between 0900 to 1500 followed by 2100 to 0300.



#### 4. Force Incidents by Day of the Week

This table shows the days of the week and the corresponding number of force incidents that occurred on each day. All but one day of the week showed a decrease in the number of incidents. Thursdays showed an increase of 30%.

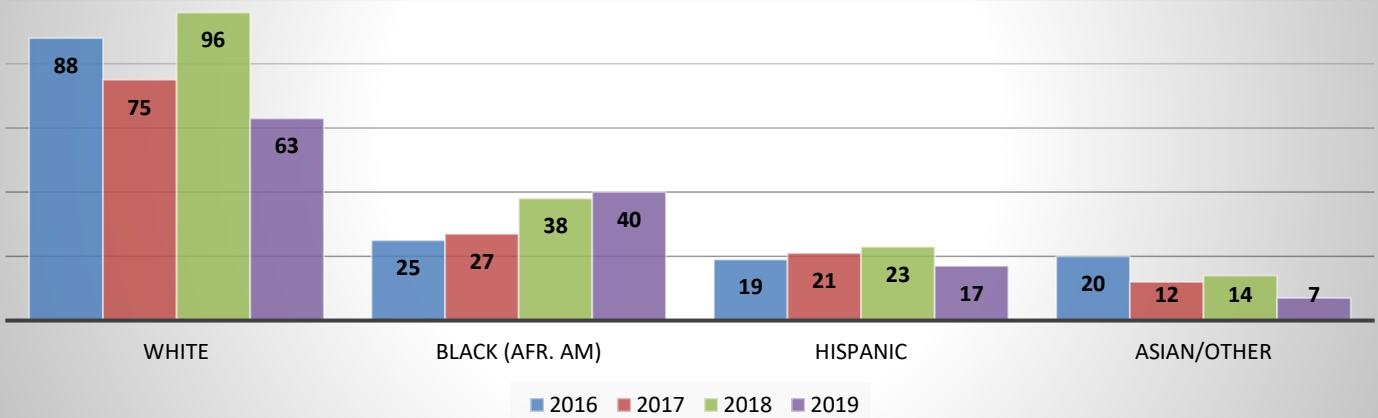


#### 5. Force Incidents By Subject Racial Category

The below table indicates the number subjects that force was used against subjects belonging to each of the different listed racial categories. The percentages displayed next to each of these numbers, represent the percentage of the total of force incidents combined. The numbers in each of the racial categories went down from the previous year except for Black/African Am. This category showed an increase of 2 total force incidents from 38 to 40. This represented a total of 31% of the total force incidents, which was an increase of 9% of the total number of incidents in this category.

Race	2016	2017	2018	2019
White	88 (58%)	75 (56%)	96 (56%)	63 (50%)
Black/African Am.	25 (16%)	27 (20%)	38 (22%)	40 (31%)
Hispanic	19 (12%)	21 (16%)	23 (13%)	17 (13%)
Asian/Other	20 (13%)	12 (9%)	14 (8%)	7 (6%)

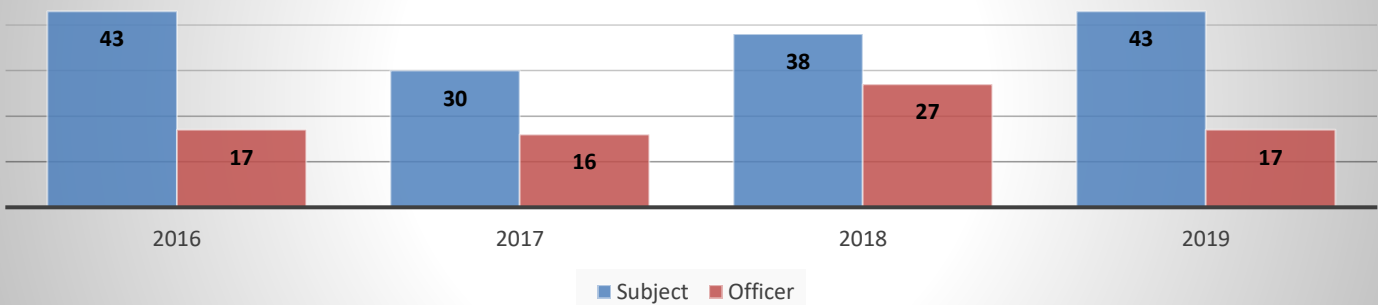
## Force Used on Subjects by Race



### 6. Force Incident Injuries

The below table shows the recorded number of injuries for Officers and for Subjects (resulting from contact with the police caused by the use of force). The numbers show that the overall percentage of injuries to subjects went up 13%. The majority of these injuries were categorized as minor in nature. The numbers of incidents with injuries to Officers decreased 37%, going from 27 incidents to 17 incidents.

## Injuries to Subjects and Officers

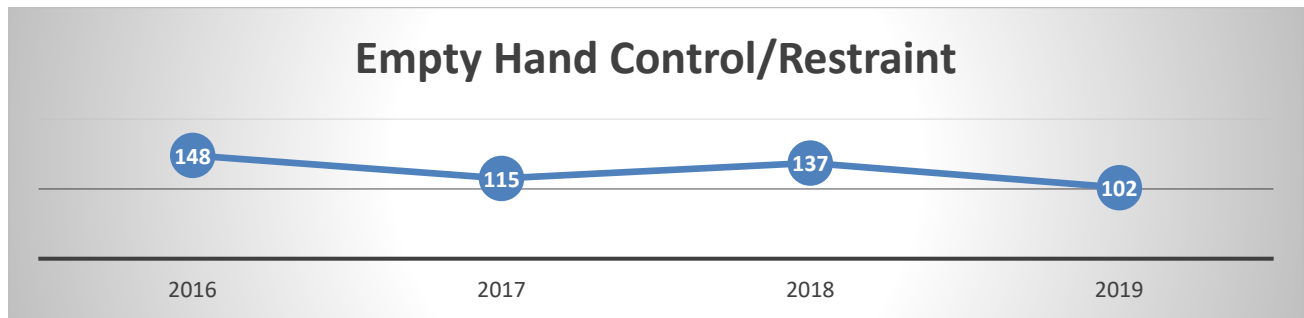


### 7. Individual Force Usage Breakdown

#### A. Low Level Force Tactics

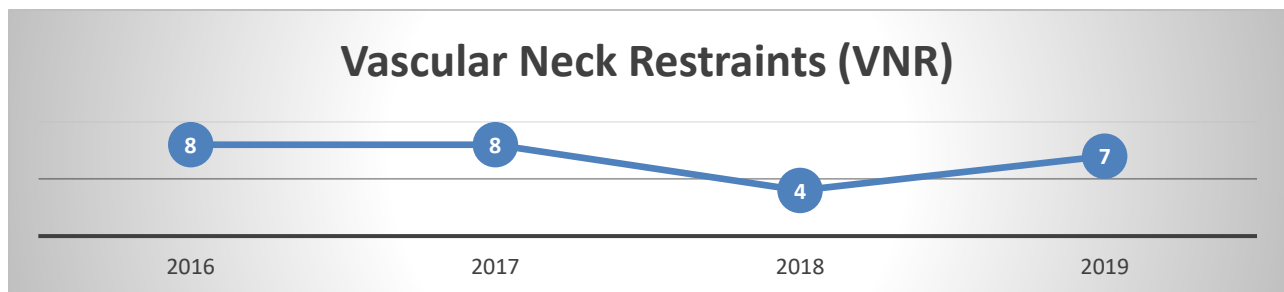
**Empty Hand Control/Restraint-** The number of incidents where Empty Hand Control and Restraint Tactics (control holds, takedowns and other low level physical compliance tactics) were utilized in 2019 was 102 out of a total of 127 incidents. This high percentage is to be expected since when an officer uses some other weapon or tool to counter or overcome various levels of threat and resistance, there is

typically also a need to follow up with some type of “empty hand” or weaponless restraint to finish taking the subject into custody. Instances where this may not happen is when a firearm (or TASER) is displayed to direct or compel a subject during a high risk situation (e.g. Stolen Vehicle, Burglary, Robbery, etc.) and the subject is compliant throughout the arrest process.

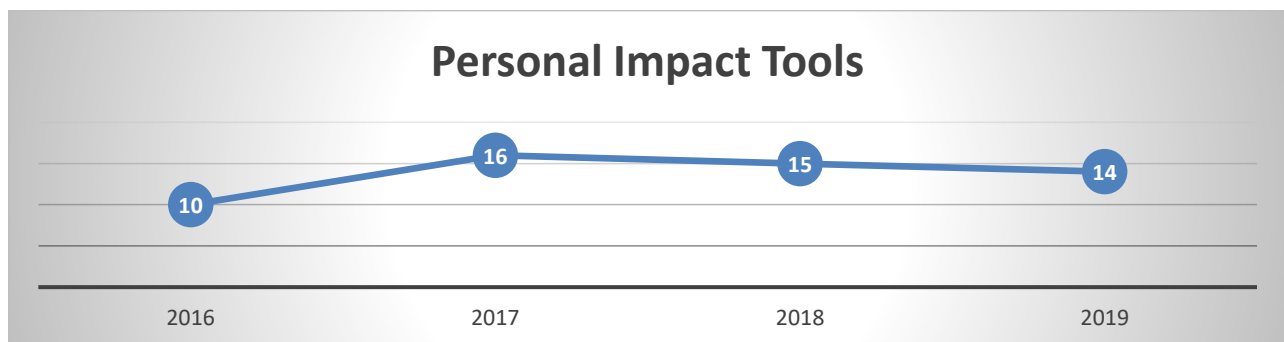


## B. Intermediate/Less-Lethal Force:

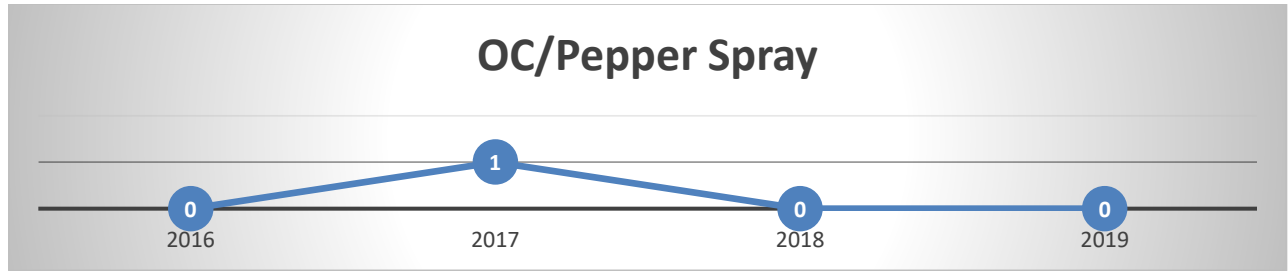
**Vascular Neck Restraints-** There was an increase of Vascular Neck Restraint applications in 2019 with a total of seven applications. Out of the seven applications, only three resulted in the subject being rendered unconscious and only two of these incidents resulted in any type of injury- both being minor abrasions to the subject not related to the neck. This once again highlights the overall effectiveness of this technique in getting aggressive subjects to stop resisting and submitting to the officer with a low risk of injury to both the subject and the officer. Please note that as of June 2020, the Vascular Neck Restraint is approved only in situations where deadly force is authorized.



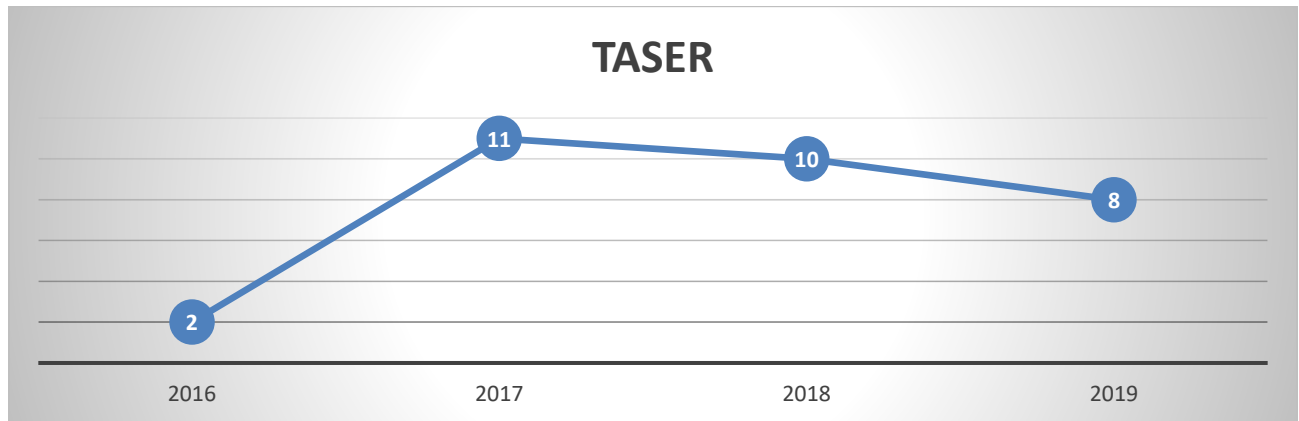
**Personal Impact Tools-** During 2019, officers used a part of their body as an impact tool (i.e. hands, elbows, knees or feet) in 14 different incidents (down one from 2018).



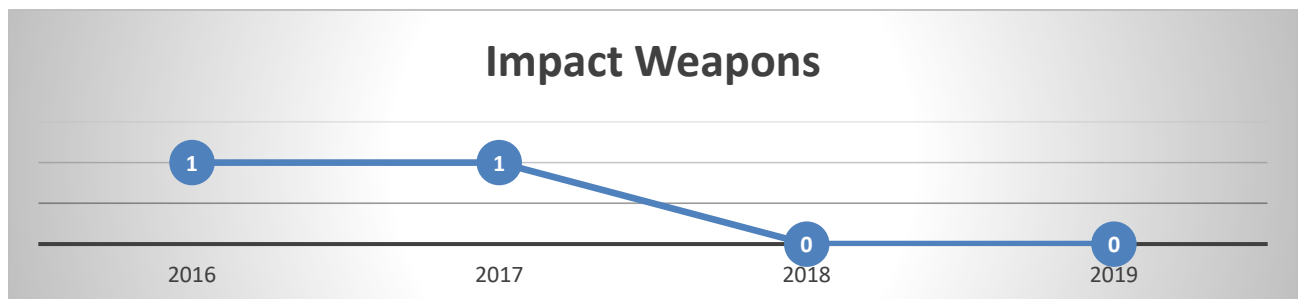
**OC/Pepper Spray-** There were no incidents in which OC/Pepper Spray was used in 2019.



**TASER (CEW)-** The TASER was used as a force option in 8 different force incidents in 2019. This was two less applications from the previous year. All incidents involved the TASER probes being deployed at the subject with two of these incidents where a Drive Stun follow up tactic was used in accordance with training.



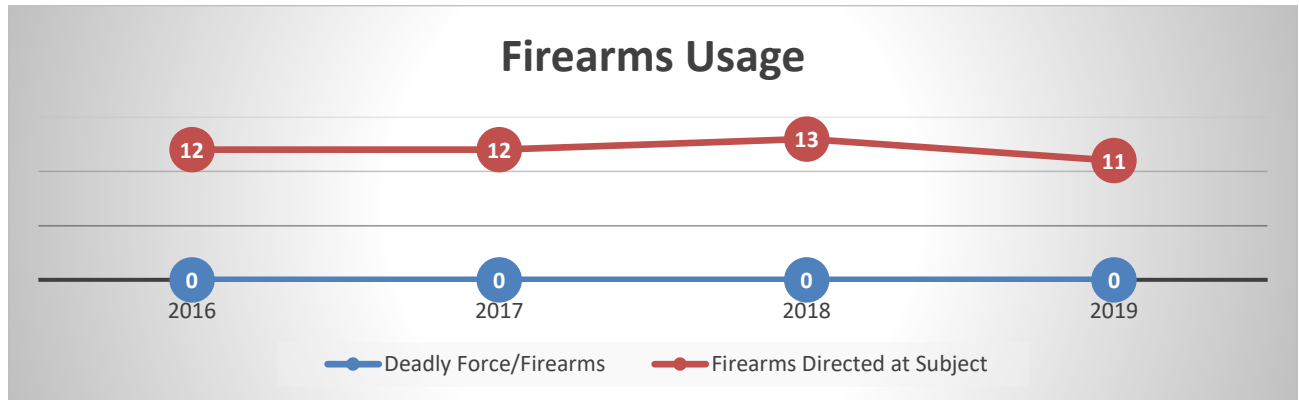
**Impact Weapons-** In 2019 there were no incidents where an officer used a baton, flashlight or other hard impact tool to strike a subject which was the same from 2018.



### C. Deadly Force/Firearms

There were again no incidents involving the use of deadly force by any officer in the department in 2019.

There were 11 documented incidents where one or more officers displayed a firearm and pointed it at a subject during a detention and/or arrest.



### 2019 General Use of Force Related

Use of Force/Defensive Tactics Training- In 2019, the Patrol Division switched to a new 1040 schedule from the previous 4/10 schedule. This was a trial schedule that presented some challenges when it came to Use of Force training (DT, TASER, VNR and Firearms Training/Qualifications). Instead of conducting different types of training throughout the year during specific months, most of the training needed to be conducted on the Patrol overlap days which are on Fridays. As a result, each patrol squad received In-Service and other training on six different Fridays throughout the year. As it worked out there were only two Defensive Tactics Training sessions during the year (5 hours total) in addition to the VNR Recertification (4 hours), Taser (4 hours) and Force Scenario Training (5 hours).

TASER Recertification Training- Annual TASER Recert training was conducted between April and July with a makeup session in November due to the 1040 Patrol Schedule. There were a total of 12 sessions conducted with all uniformed personnel (Corporal and below) required to carry and recertify on the TASER. The training was conducted in combination with Qualifications and Defensive Tactics Training as part of a full day of In-Service training for each patrol squad and unit.

VNR Recertification Training- Annual VNR Recert training was conducted between August and December with over 100 commissioned staff being recertified during 12 sessions. This is mandatory training for all uniformed personnel (Sergeant and below) unless an officer is unable to properly perform the techniques due to pre-existing physical limitations.

Force Scenario Training- The department conducted 5 hours of force scenario training during the 2019 Spring In-Service training with a variety of micro scenario training that focused on de-escalation tactics and transitioning up or down in force levels depending on the perceived threat to the officer. This training incorporated a wide spectrum of use of force decision making, from basic control tactics to deadly force in the



DT Room. The training utilized simulated weapons and motor skills against trained role players dressed in protective padded suits.

**BlueTeam Use of Force Review-** In 2019 there was continued improvement in the chain of command review and approvals related to Use of Force and other Administrative review incidents (Complaints, Pursuits, etc.), however there were a significant number of incidents took over two months to make it through the review and approval process. Two of these incidents involved tactics that were deemed to be legally justified and within policy but required some specific training follow up. It was determined that these incidents could have been flagged early on in the review process so that the training corrections could have been conducted in a more timely way. Possible policy changes designed to establish more strict timelines for review and approval at each level are being considered to help prevent these issues from occurring in the future.

### **2020 Use of Force Related**

As a result of the Patrol 1040 schedule being used again during 2020, the challenge to schedule enough Defensive Tactics and Use of Force Training continues. The issue has to do more with instructor availability using this type of schedule that occurs on virtually every Friday (48 out of 52). Additionally in March 2020, the COVID 19 Pandemic had a dramatic effect on in-person, hands on psycho-motor skill instruction and most of the Defensive Tactics Training and Force Scenario Training that was scheduled during Spring In-Service had to be cancelled. This has also effected how we conduct Firearms Qualifications with only two officers being allowed to qualify at a time, thereby lengthening the time it takes to complete these biennial certifications. To assist with this, a Firearms Qualifications Curriculum was created to eliminate some of the in-person contact and paperwork that routinely occurred during this evolution. This includes online testing and acknowledgement of review of firearms policies and procedures.