

2023 Use of Force Highflyer Review

As part of the 2023 Officer Wellness Data Review, the Police Auditor identified three officers who were involved in more than five incidents where they utilized force. No officer was involved in 10 or more incidents. Reviews of the incident reports, supplemental reports, and corresponding body camera footage were conducted for each incident. The analysis revealed that most force incidents occurred during attempts to handcuff subjects. Despite the necessity of force in these instances, officers consistently employed de-escalation techniques and were calm and polite with all subjects. While the Police Auditor did not identify any recurring issues with these force incidents, the following observations were presented to APD leadership.

Low Level Use of Force Incident 1

Body camera footage for this incident was purged and consequently was unavailable for review. It appears the videos associated with this incident were not appropriately tagged to indicate their involvement in a force-related event, leading to their deletion in accordance with the Department's retention schedule, in violation of Policy 450.8. Had the videos been correctly tagged, they would have been retained for three years instead of only one.

- ✓ APD has committed to ensuring departmentwide training on properly tagging all videos involving a use of force into Evidence.com to ensure videos are stored in alignment with the retention schedule.

Low Level Use of Force Incident 2

During this incident, an officer attempted to stop an individual who had just vandalized several vehicles and was fleeing on a bicycle. After giving multiple commands to stop and receiving noncompliance, the officer ended up applying a takedown maneuver to the individual while they were on the bicycle and subsequently took him into custody. Although video of the use of force was captured due to the pre-record feature of the body worn camera, the first 30 seconds of audio were not. This was due to the delayed activation by the officer, in violation of Policy 450.2. Consequently, the officer's verbal interaction was not recorded while he was still in his car.

- ✓ APD has committed to addressing the delayed activation with this officer. Additionally, although the takedown maneuver was justified and in alignment with training, APD will explore what alternatives (if any) an officer has when dealing with persons on a bicycle. At a minimum, APD will ensure taking into consideration the risks to the officer and subject when applying a takedown maneuver from a bicycle. APD will reach out to subject matter experts on this topic to ensure any recommendations are in alignment with best practices and industry standards.

Low Level Use of Force Incident 3

Similar to Low Level Use of Force Incident 2, in this incident, the officer attempted to stop a person for a vehicle code violation on a bicycle. The officer gave multiple commands for the person to stop but they fled and refused to comply. The officer applied a takedown maneuver while the person was on the bicycle. Video of the use of force was captured due to the pre-record feature of the body worn camera. However, the first 30 seconds of audio were not due to the officer's delayed activation, in violation of Policy 450.8.

- ✓ APD addressed the delayed activation with this officer during the force review process. Again, APD will explore alternatives and considerations when applying a takedown maneuver on persons operating a bicycle. Additionally, APD will strategize on recognizing the impact to operations when officers engage in any enforcement actions. The purpose of this is to ensure enforcement actions prioritize crime trends and command intent.

Low Level Use of Force Incident 4

During this incident, an officer was interacting with an uncooperative arrestee who refused to put their feet inside the police car. The officer pushed the arrestee's feet into the vehicle and this, technically and as defined by policy, is a use of force. The officer did not write a supplemental report documenting this action, in violation of Policy 344.2.1.

- ✓ APD will ensure this officer completes the required report and will address this performance issue individually.