



2023 Use of Force Executive Summary

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INTRODUCTION

The Northlake Police Department General Order 3-1 Response to Resistance requires a yearly analysis of procedures involving all Use of Force incidents to determine patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, racial or other biases, and/or recommended policy modification.

To help facilitate this requirement, Northlake Police Department General Order 3-1 requires that a written police report is submitted whenever an employee:

1. Discharges a firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes;
2. Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, death or injury of another person;
3. Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons;
4. Applies weaponless physical force at a level as defined by this agency; or
5. Draws a firearm and directs it at people or a group of people.

Northlake Police Department General Order 3-1 also provides our officers with guidelines on the Use of Force (UOF). This Department recognizes the value of human life, which is immeasurable in our society. It is the policy of this Department that officers shall use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to achieve the officer's lawful objective, while protecting the life of the officer or another person.

COMPARING 2022 TO 2023

The data used in this report compares the year 2022 with 2023. In 2022, officers responded to 24,367 incidents where there is potential contact with citizens. Officers also conducted 8,918 traffic and pedestrian stops for a total of 33,285 potential citizen contacts in 2022. Of those contacts, 287 resulted in custodial arrests. Of those 287 arrests, there were 10 incidents or 3.5% involved a UOF to make an arrest.

In 2023, officers responded to 25,110 incidents where there was contact or potential contact with citizens, plus 7,207 traffic and pedestrian stops for a total of 32,317 potential citizen contacts. This is a decrease in potential contacts of 3% over 2022. Of those contacts, 276 resulted in custodial arrests. Out of those 276 arrests, there were 6 incidents which involved a use of force to make an arrest, or 2% of all arrests involved a UOF. Overall, the Northlake Police Department experienced a slight decrease of 1.5% of UOF incidents per arrest in 2023 compared to 2022.

POLICY

The department policy reflects the requirement of supervisory oversight and command at qualifying UOF incidents. The Deputy Chief of Operations reviews all reports of UOF to determine if there are any issues with policy, training, weapons and equipment violations or any other concerns or issues. The Department strives for improvement through personnel development, policy enhancement and responsiveness to citizens in order to provide effective and efficient police service to all.

POLICY ENHANCEMENT

Upon incident and policy review, there were no amendments found to be necessary during 2023.

SUPERVISORY OVERSIGHT

The UOF analysis indicates the crucial process of supervisory oversight at the UOF incident. Department policy reflects the requirement of supervisory oversight and command at qualifying UOF incidents. This enhancement will potentially lessen the police department's risk exposure, while enhancing process improvement in policy, training, and equipment.

USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS

The Chief of Police reviews practices and procedures of the Department in order to ensure compliance of its policies as it applied to UOF incidents. The Chief of Police or his designee investigates all internal and external complaints of police misconduct. The Deputy Chief of Operations reviews UOF incidents in order to determine if policy was adhered to and appropriate force was utilized. A written finding is submitted to the Police Chief for final approval review.

EXCESSIVE FORCE COMPLAINTS

Table 1

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Complaints	0	1	0	0	0
Outcome	N/A	Exonerated	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 1 illustrates Use of Force Complaints from 2019 through 2023 and the outcome for each complaint. An excessive force complaint will have four outcomes: sustained; not sustained; exonerated; or unfounded.

- **Sustained:** (allegation proven)
- **Not Sustained:** (insufficient evidence exists to clearly prove allegation)
- **Exonerated:** (alleged facts were justified)
- **Unfounded:** (alleged facts did not occur or officer was not involved)

There is no significant trend in the number of UOF citizen complaints as it relates to the number of UOF incidents. There were no Use of Force Complaints in 2023.

2022/2023 USE OF FORCE BY TYPE/COMPARISON

Table 2

Force Used	2022	2023	Change from 2024
Empty Hand Compliance	5	0	-5
Physical Force	2	2	0
Oleoresin Capsicum	0	0	0
Taser	0	0	0
Pointing Firearm	3	4	+1
Deadly	0	0	0

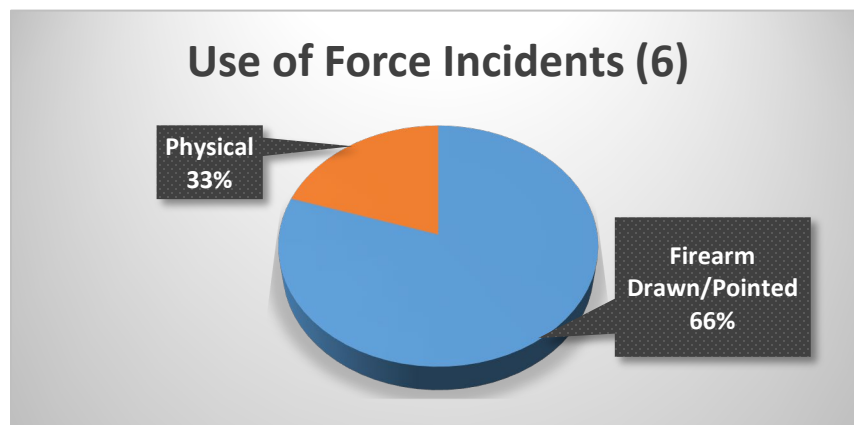


Table 2 identifies the type of force used by Northlake Police Officers by year. Note, this is a raw number and does not necessarily signify the level of force was effective. For example, an arm bar could be deployed, but the outcome did not have the intended result and the

suspect kept actively resisting. This would result in officers using alternative force options.

CALCULATING USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

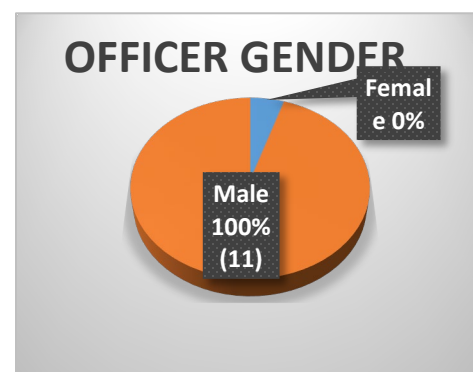
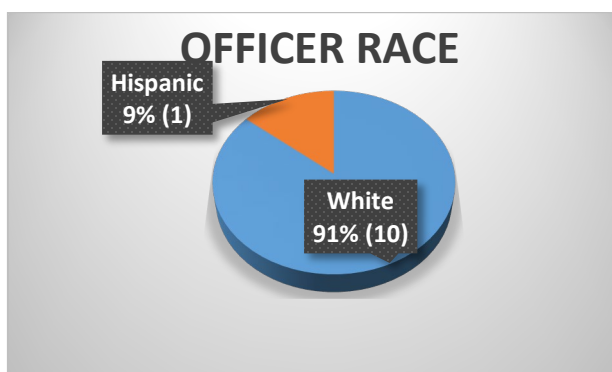
Of those 32,317 citizen contacts in 2023, Northlake Police documented six (6) incidents which involved some UOF beyond the following levels:

- Gripping or Holding;
- Frisking;
- Handcuffing; or
- Escorting

UOF above the aforementioned levels accounted for a very small percentage of our total citizen contacts in 2023. An alternative way to understand this is in 2023; only one (1) in every 5,386 potential citizen contacts resulted in UOF last year. In 2023 there were zero (0) reported injuries associated with Use of Force incidents. In a review, of the low number of injuries as well as the nature of the injuries there are no trends or patterns which can be established based on injuries to any person or employee. A review of the type of encounters, date and time, and age of suspects of the small number of incidents provides no similarities which would identify date or time as commonalities to Use of Force deployments.

Type of Encounter	Date/Time	Offender Age /Sex / Race	Injuries
1) Aggravated Assault	1/11/23 2203 Hrs.	39 / M / H	None
2) Suspicious Gang Activity	6/20/23 2134 Hrs.	14 / M / H	None
3) Criminal Trespass	8/01/23 2204Hrs.	61 / F / W	None
4) Domestic Disturbance	8/01/23 2204 Hrs.	39 / M / H	None
5) Intoxicated Subject	9/10/23 2030 Hrs.	22 / F / B	None
6) Criminal Trespass	9/23/23 0738 Hrs.	28 / M / B	None

OFFICER INVOLVED ANALYSIS



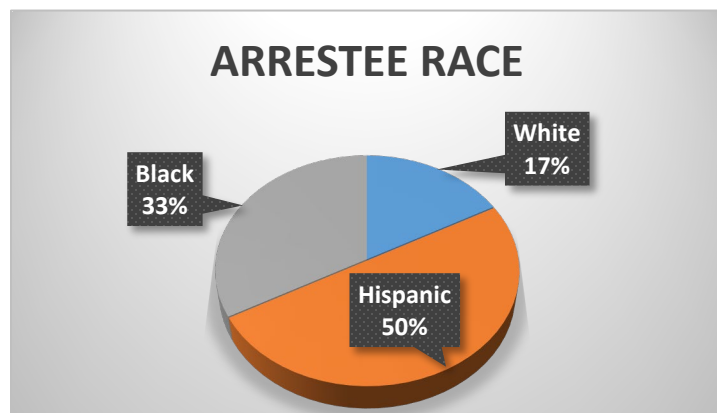
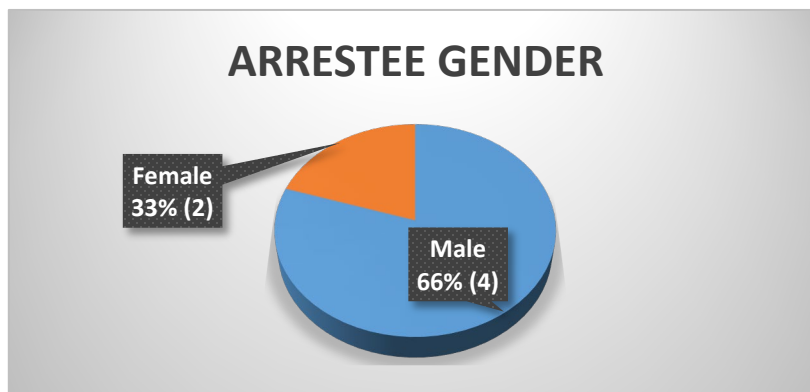
The 2023 UOF incidents involved, eleven (11) different officers. During 2023, there were multiple officers involved in more than one (1) incident. There were no officers involved in two (2) or more incidents together. Of the officers involved eleven (11) were male, zero (0) were Female and all but one (1) Hispanic officer were white. Previous years' analysis shows that there have been variances (+/-) in this area. Review of the arrest reports of the officers involved in multiple incidents concludes the officers were acting within the guidance policies and expectations of the department. Analysis has also found all officer involvement to be well documented and fully supervised. Analysis shows that the number of arrests has decreased and the number of UOF incidents related to arrest has also decreased. At this time, there is no statistical evidence supporting a department trend.

OFFENDER ANALYSIS

Of the 6 incidents where there was UOF during the year 2023 all of the male offenders were between the ages of 14 and 39 while the two female offenders were between 22 and 61. It is the policy of this Department that no

member will engage in discriminatory profiling of any person who comes to the attention of the Department for any reason. Police action will not be taken or denied based solely on race, gender, creed, age, sexual preference, position of influence in the community, religion, economic status, cultural group, or other identifiable groups. This Department

keeps statistical information on race, gender, and age. Other categories are recorded only if applicable. The 2023 data does not suggest any trends specific to protected class individuals and is reflective to area demographics. The Northlake Police Training systems currently provide sufficient exposure to these topics.



TRAINING

The Northlake Police Department recognizes that the proper application of force is one of the most important functions of Law Enforcement and that the only way to achieve proficiency is through training. To achieve this, the department utilizes four different training methods:

1. In-House Training – Includes hands-on live action and scenario-based training in both lethal and less-lethal provided by Northlake Police Officers and/or other officers that are certified in their area of expertise.
2. Formal Classroom Training – Includes formal training provided by outside recognized experts in their fields.
3. Web-Based Training – Internet based training provided by an accredited law enforcement training agency.
4. Roll-Call Training – Includes training materials provided in roll call by Supervisors and Instructors for review and discussion.

In 2023, in the area of Use of Force, Northlake Police Officers received 565 hours of In-House Web-Based, Roll Call, or Field-Based training.

TRANSPARENCY

Use of Force and Citizen Complaints will continue to be posted on the city webpage and in the police lobby for public viewing.

CONCLUSION

The 2023 UOF Analysis is an effort the Department has undertaken to ensure compliance, transparency, and process improvement. The analysis is a building block for our Department to improve and at the same time enhance our strengths. Frequency of UOF incidents have remained relatively level throughout the years and the review of the 2023 UOF reports has not identified statistical evidence which warrants additional training. The small number of complaints concerning use of force should be considered indicative of the commitment of our officers to follow the policies and procedures of the Department, which define the appropriate UOF. The Department has maintained a proactive approach to training and post incident supervision and reporting.

In order to maintain the levels of excellence, we must continue to monitor all use of force incidents and should take appropriate action should any trends or tendencies be identified. This report would suggest competent and trained personnel in the UOF policy may be a contributing factor