



HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rick Abrams

222 South Fifth Avenue

Highland Park, N.J. 08904

rabrams@hpboro.com

Highland Park Police Department Use of Force Incidents for 2020

Between January 1, 2020 and June 18, 2020, Highland Police Officers answered a total of 7,172 calls for service. Over the course of that time officers used force on 3 individuals.

Of the 3 individuals:

- 1 was African American
- 1 was Caucasian
- 1 was Hispanic

- 2 individuals reside in the Borough of Highland Park
- 1 Individual resides outside of Highland Park

Of those 3 incidents:

- 1 individual exhibited mental health issues
- 2 individuals were intoxicated

None of these incidents originated from traffic stops our officers conducted.

- During 1 of these incidents, officers only used force to stop someone from hurting themselves and there were no criminal charges filed.
- 2 of these incidents occurred while officers were attempting to make an arrest and/or conducted an investigation that resulted in criminal charges being filed.

In regards to the types of force used:

- On all 3 occasions officers used Physical Force* in the form of a compliance hold such as a wrist or arm lock
- During 1 occasion, 1 officer used a leg strike
- During 1 occasion, 1 officer deployed a natural agent spray

During these 3 incidents:

- 1 resulted in a minor injury to the individual
- 0 officers were injured

The use of force is never a routine matter and the Highland Park Police Department takes each of these incidents very seriously. Each use of force incident is reviewed by Police Administration.

* Per NJ AG Guidelines Definition - Physical force involves contact with a subject beyond that which is generally utilized to effect an arrest or other law enforcement objective. Physical force is employed when necessary to overcome a subject's physical resistance to the exertion of the law enforcement officer's authority, or to protect persons or property. Examples include wrestling a resisting subject to the ground, using wrist locks, or arm locks, or other similar methods.