



HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Highland Park Police Department Use of Force Incidents for 2020

Between January 1st, 2020 and December 31, 2020, Highland Police Officers answered a total of 16,453 calls for service. Over the course of that time officers used force on 7 individuals.

Of the 7 individuals:

- 3 were African American
- 3 were Caucasian
- 1 was Hispanic
- 6 individuals reside in the Borough of Highland Park
- 1 Individual resides outside of Highland Park

Of those 7 incidents:

- 4 individual exhibited mental health issues
- 2 Individuals were intoxicated

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

- During 3 of these incidents, officers only used force to stop someone from hurting themselves or someone else and there were no criminal charges filed.
- 4 of these incidents occurred while officers were attempting to make an arrest and/or conducting an investigation that resulted in criminal charges being filed.

In regards to the types of force used:

- On all 7 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 spray agent

During these 7 incidents:

- 3 resulted in a minor injury to the individual
- 3 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.