



HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Highland Park Police Department Use of Force Incidents for 2022

Between January 1st, 2022, and December 31, 2022, Highland Police Officers answered a total of 29,977 calls for service. Over the course of that time, officers used force on seven individuals.

Regarding the seven individuals:

- Three were Black males
- One was a Caucasian male
- One was a Hispanic male
- One was a Caucasian juvenile male
- One was a Black juvenile male
- Four individuals reside within the Borough of Highland Park

Of those seven incidents:

- Three individuals exhibited mental health issues
- Six of these incidents occurred while officers attempted to make an arrest and/or conduct an investigation that resulted in criminal charges being filed

In regards to the force used:

- One of these incidents occurred when one officer used Enhanced Mechanical Force by deploying a CED (Taser) to stop an individual from harming themselves - this individual was not charged with a crime
- On one occasion, one officer used Mechanical Force in the deployment of OC (pepper) spray and three officers used Physical Force* by using their arms to hold a subject, who was attempting to escape from police custody following an arrest - this individual was charged with aggravated assault on an officer, resisting arrest, endangering the welfare of a child, and criminal restraint
- On one occasion, two officers used Physical Force* by using their arms to hold a subject who attempted to pull away from officers after being placed under arrest
- On four occasions officers used Physical Force* by using a takedown to prevent a suspect from fleeing

Origins of initial police contact:

- All incidents were initiated by calls from the public at large requesting the police department to respond resulting in officers being dispatched to investigate
- None of these incidents originated from traffic stops

During these seven incidents:

- Three resulted in a minor injury to the individual but all refused medical attention

- Two officers were injured, one of them required medical attention and was placed on injury leave

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

* 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 (known as a takedown), using wrist or arm locks, or other similar methods.