



VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Memorandum 24-48-01

TO: Chief David Currey
FROM: Lieutenant Daniel Cook
SUBJECT: 2023 Use of Force Report
DATE: January 17, 2024

In 2023, there were four hundred eighty-seven (487) arrests made by the Vero Beach Police Department. Fifteen (15) of those arrests/incidents or 3.08% required some level of force. Seven (7) of those fifteen (15) arrests/incidents required multiple usages of force by two or more officers. Level IV use of force doubled in 2023, but was still very low at 4 total usages. Level V and VI was not used during the year 2023.

Level of Forced Used:	2023	2022	2021
Level 2: Soft, (Empty Hand)	17	3	25
Level 3: Intermediate Weapons (Chemical/ CEW)	5	3	4
Level 4: Physical Control	4	2	4
Level 5: Impact Weapons/K9	0	1	0
Level 6: Deadly Force	0	0	0
Total use of force by officers:	26	9	33
Use of force rate per month	2.08	.75	2.75



Analysis of Incidents/ Medical Concerns

<u>Officers:</u>	2023	2022	2021
Minor Injury and/or Treatment Administered	1	1	4
Hospitalization:	0	0	0
Total:	1	1	4

<u>Suspects:</u>	2023	2022	2021
Minor Injury and/or Treatment Administered	7	1	13
Hospitalization:	0	0	0
Death:	0	0	0
Total:	7	1	13

No visible injury / No Treatment (officers)	23	8	29
No visible injury/ No Treatment (suspects)	19	8	20



Analysis Summary:

In 2023, the number of arrests decreased to four hundred eighty seven (487), down from five hundred-seventy (570) in 2022 or a 14.57% decrease.

In 2023, the number of use of force applications increased to twenty-six (26) versus nine (9) in 2022 or a 65.39% increase.

Twenty six (26) officers used force in 2023 during fifteen (15) separate arrests/incidents. Of these fifteen (15) arrests/incidents, seven (7) arrests involved the use of force by 2 or more officers.

Specifically:

- 8 incidents required the use of force by one officer or 53.33% of the total.
- 7 incidents required the use of force by more than one officer (46.67% of the total).
- 4 of the 15 incidents required the officer to utilize Level IV force.
- 5 of the 15 incidents required the officer to utilize Level III force.
- Of the 15 incidents, officers had to utilize Level II force 17 times.

As compared to 2022 where 9 officers used force during 8 separate incidents specifically,

- 7 incidents required the use of force by one officer (87.5% of the total).
- 1 incident required the use of force by more than one officer (12.5% of the total).

Taser (CEW) Deployments:

- In 2023, there were five (5) CEW deployments for the year. The CEW deployments occurred during a warrant arrest (1) incident, (1) resisting arrest without violence, and (3) during Baker Acts. One (1) of the CEW Baker Act incidents required remedial training.
- In 2022, there were three (3) CEW deployments for the year. The CEW deployments occurred during a DUI (1) incident, (1) battery domestic violence, and a (1) Baker Act.
- In 2021, there were four (4) CEW deployments for the year. The CEW deployments occurred during (2) battery on law enforcement officer incidents and (2) disturbance investigations



Analysis

When compared to 2022, the yearly rate in which force was used increased by 64% in 2023 at 26 usages compared to 9 usages. Comparing 2023 to 2021 shows a 24.25 percent decrease with eight (8) fewer usages than occurred in 2021.

In 2023, there was a rise in Level II force usages at seventeen (17) or an 82.36% increase as compared to three (3) Level II usages occurring in 2022. When comparing 2023 to 2021 there were 8 fewer Level II usages than in 2021 or a 36% decrease.

In 2023 there was an increase of Level III force to five (5) usages (40%) compared to three (3) Level III uses of force occurring in 2022. When comparing years 2023 to 2021, the Level III use of force increased by 25% at five (5) usages compared to four (4).

In 2023 there was an increase of Level IV force to four (4) usages (50%) as compared to two (2) Level IV incidents in 2022. When comparing the years 2023 to 2021 the usages remained the same at four (4).

Level V use of force did decrease by (100%) due to zero (0) usages occurring in 2023, with only one (1) occurring in 2022 and zero (0) occurring during 2021.

Level VI use of force has not been utilized for the past three (3) years.

Review of the total use of force in the year 2023 showed a substantial increase. Overall, a review of the past three (3) years showed that the use of force was still very low, with one incident occurring in 2023 that was not consistent with policy and procedures, and resulted in documented remedial training.

Sources:

VBPD Professional Standards Division UOF Records
VBPD Records Management System (RMS)



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YEC
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