VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Memorandum
25-48-01

TO: **Chief David Currey**

FROM: **Lieutenant Daniel Cook**

SUBJECT: **2024 Use of Force Report**

DATE: **January 17, 2025**

In 2024, there were six hundred seventeen (617) arrests made by the Vero Beach Police Department. Nine (9) of those arrests/incidents or 1.45% required some level of force. Three (3) of those nine (9) arrests/incidents required multiple usages of force by two or more officers. Level II, and Level III uses of force were down over the past year. Level IV, Level V, and VI was not used during the year 2024.

Level of Forced Used:	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**
Level 2: Soft, (Empty Hand)	15	17	3
Level 3: Intermediate Weapons (Chemical/ CEW)	4	5	3
Level 4: Physical Control	0	4	2
Level 5: Impact Weapons/K9	0	0	1
Level 6: Deadly Force	0	0	0
Total use of force by officers:	19	26	9
Use of force rate per month	1.58	2.08	.75

P.H.

Analysis of Incidents/ Medical Concerns

Officers:	2024	2023	2022
Minor Injury and/or Treatment Administered	0	1	1
Hospitalization:	0	0	0
Total:		1	1

Suspects:	2024	2023	2022
Minor Injury and/or Treatment Administered	2	7	1
Hospitalization:	0	0	0
Death:	0	0	0
Total:		7	1

No visible injury / No Treatment (officers)	17	23	8
No visible injury/ No Treatment (suspects)	8	19	8

Analysis Summary:

In 2024, the number of arrests increased to 617, up from four hundred eighty seven (487) in 2023, or a 21.07 increase.

Seventeen (17) officers used force in 2024 during eight (9) separate arrests/incidents. Of these nine (9) arrests/incidents, three (3) arrests involved the use of force by 2 or more officers.

Specifically:

- 6 incidents required the use of force by one officer or 66.66% of the total.
- 3 incidents required the use of force by more than one officer (33.33% of the total).
- 3 of the 9 incidents required the officer to utilize Level III force.
- 9 of the 9 incidents required the officer to utilize Level II force.
- Of the 9 incidents, officers had to utilize Level II force 16 times.

As compared to 2023 where 26 officers used force during 15 separate incidents specifically,

- 8 incidents required the use of force by one officer (53.33% of the total).
- 7 incident required the use of force by more than one officer (46.67% of the total).

Taser (CEW) Deployments:

- In 2024, there were three (3) CEW deployments for the year. The CEW deployments occurred during a trespass (1), a fleeing and eluding (1) and a felony warrant arrest (1).
- 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.

When comparing use of force from 2024 to 2023, officers used force 17 fewer times in 2024 versus 26 times in 2023, or a yearly rate decrease of 34% percent.

In 2024, there was a decrease in the use of Level II force of fifteen (15) uses or a 12% decrease as compared to seventeen (17) Level II uses of force occurring in 2023.

In 2024 there was a decrease in the use of Level III force to three (3) uses or a 40% decrease as compared to five (5) Level III uses of force occurring in 2023.

In 2024 there was a decrease in the use of Level IV force of zero (0) uses or a 100% percent as compared four (4) Level IV uses in 2023.

Level V use of force stayed the same due to zero (0) usages occurring in 2024 and 2023.

Level VI use of force has not been utilized for the past two (2) years.

Review of the total use of force in the year 2024 showed a decrease in Level II, Level III, and Level IV uses of force. Overall, a review of the past three (3) years showed that the use of force was still very low, and all uses of force in 2024 were consistent with policy and procedure.

Sources:

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