

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

BERKLEY PUBLIC SAFETY



248-658-3380 | www.berkleypublicsafety.org
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OUR MISSION

The Berkley Public Safety Department is committed to maintaining the safety and quality of life of this community through the delivery of superior police, fire, and EMS services without prejudice or partiality.

We form deep connections with the community to improve the security and quality of life for all residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

OUR VISION

To set the example for Public Safety agencies in regards to training, service, technology advancement, and leadership within our community and maintaining the top safest cities in Michigan.

MOTTO

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to act in the presence of fear.

CORE VALUES

Protection of Life | Protection of Freedom | Protection of Rights | Commitment to the Community | Integrity



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the Berkley Department of Public Safety's (BDPS) 2021 Annual Report. This report is part of our ongoing efforts to increase transparency and keep the public informed on the activities of your Public Safety Department.

In 2021, we saw Berkley Public Safety return to a "new normal" with COVID restrictions lifting and life returning in a similar, but different way.

The service of Public Safety must always adapt to the changes in life, law, and the pursuit of happiness, and we have all come together toward that goal.

Our agency was able to work within the allotted budget to make it one of our safest years. We continue to work on the Michigan Police Accreditation program, hopefully, to be completed in the Spring of 2023.

Our officers saw an increase in traffic and crime, but that is largely due to the business and community beginning to come back out into the world.

With so many people working remotely, there were more and more residents at home. This helped in an increase of "eyes" in the city, something we have always promoted for our residents to keep a look out for suspicious behavior.

We also launched several software platforms including Power DMS, a document management system, and Guardian Tracking, a personnel accountability/early warning system.

The fireside of Public Safety also saw very few "structure" fires but continued along the same general path of calls for service.

Some of the new programs we installed in 2020 have been fully implemented for 2021. We have begun inspecting every building in the city for fire review and the process is moving along nicely.

As we head into 2022, we will continue to keep Berkley, its residents, businesses, and all members safe to travel, shop and enjoy their time here.

We have several officers coaching youth sports in the community, and are involved in many aspects of the town.

We are excited about the future of Berkley and are ready to accept the challenges ahead.



DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Berkley Public Safety began as a Police and Fire Department in 1924.

In 1981, the Departments merged into what is now the Public Safety Department, where the officers are trained in both Police and Fire operations.

Berkley has been named the 6th safest city in 2021 for communities with over 10K residents.

Public Safety continues to strive towards the goal of community service, as well as providing the quickest response time and quality services to all residents and visitors. We must always remember our past so we can move forward in our future.





DEPARTMENT UPDATES



WELCOME OFFICER EVAN BEAUCHAMP

Evan was a former Berkley High School Graduate and completed both the Police and Fire academies, conducting a short stint in Oak Park.

He has joined our Berkley team and is already making a difference!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

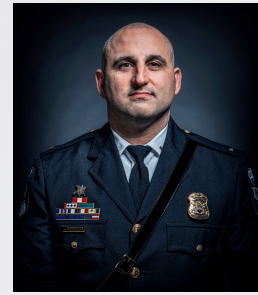
We welcomed Donna Reid-Cronin and Shawn Knight to our Public Safety Dispatch Center team over the past year.

Our Dispatchers work 12-hour shifts and are ready for every regular business question to the most severe emergencies. They typically work as a two-person team and handle calls for the Cities of Berkley, Huntington Woods, and Pleasant Ridge.

They are more than just Dispatchers - they are the calm voice on the other end.



POLICE / PATROL OPERATIONS



The Patrol Division is the uniform presence of the Berkley Public Safety Department. Public Safety Officers (PSO) respond to calls dispatched through our communications center in the public safety building.

We dispatch for Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge while maintaining jail services for those cities, as well as, Lathrup Village.

Challenges we saw in 2021 dealt with the lasting COVID issues within our own department and throughout the community. Officers engaged in numerous patrol functions including community relations within the schools, proactive enforcement of traffic laws, and legal updates to keep our officers in top shape.

Speaking of top shape, the department has begun to work on its fitness room with new equipment and cleanup. The increase in use and training will help each officer be ready for when the next call comes in.

For 2022, we hope to continue to provide fast and safe service to the residents whenever they need us.

Lieutenant Jordan Kobernick

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS



The Fire Division involves fire suppression, fire prevention, and fire education.

In 2021, the department was able to begin the successful inspection of all 400 business properties and rental properties so they are compliant with fire standards.

The Fire Division continues to work towards training and preparation for the upcoming future. The purchase of the "Squad 4" truck will allow our PSOs to get into smaller confined areas, offer additional suppression services, and mutual aid to our neighbors while maintaining appropriate coverage for the City of Berkley.

The biggest and newest change was our Fire Inspector position was made full-time. Since 2013, the City of Berkley only had a part-time Fire Inspector. The addition of a full-time Fire Inspector is part of the division's succession planning goals. The new Fire Inspector is also a Public Safety Officer and is trained in each public safety discipline.

Lieutenant Corey Miller

INVESTIGATIVE OPERATIONS



The Berkley Detective Bureau Division handled 519 new cases in 2021.

The division continued with a high conviction rate per case. The three detectives on call handle the majority of Felony and Misdemeanor investigations, as well as, common issues with juveniles.

The detectives were able to pursue charges on 215 adult cases. They continue to work with residents on how to prevent becoming victims of identity theft and work with domestic violence victims through the CCRT.

Detective Lieutenant Andrew Hadfield

CRIME

SCENE



Part of the Public Safety Department's effort to be transparent is releasing information in regard to our Professional Standards Reviews. These items range from citizen complaints to our internal review of pursuits, cases, and arrests. We also review Use of Force incidents **EVERY TIME** an officer has to respond to an individual who is either resisting arrest or legal compliance. Below is a summary of the statistical investigations towards these. **NOTE:** We do not release the topics, investigative details, or facts of the case in all internal reviews.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REVIEWS

- CITIZEN COMPLAINTS: 3
- PURSUIT REVIEWS: 27
- RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE: 62 (Could be multiple officers per incident)
- INTERNAL REVIEWS: 3

All formal reviews have several outcomes. One complaint or one review of an incident could find several offenses or violations within each. For example, there could be one pursuit that involves five or more policies. One citizen complaint could make several allegations or one incident could involve several officers. The outcomes could be the following:

- **Sustained**—A Department order / policy / procedure was in place and was not followed properly.
- **Exonerated**—The actions were reviewed and did occur, but were legal and within policy.
- **Undetermined**—There is not enough evidence to prove or disprove an allegation or violation of policy.
- **Unfounded**—The complaint / action did not occur as reported.

	Sustained	Exonerated	Undetermined	Unfounded
CITIZEN COMPLAINTS	1	1	0	1
PURSUIT REVIEWS	4	22	1	0
RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE	0	61	1	0
INTERNAL REVIEWS (other)	3	0	0	0

Berkley Public Safety continues to work on improving our officers through training, meeting the standards set within the agency, and our goal of becoming accredited through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) Program. We strive to hold ourselves to the values of competency, integrity, and work ethic to be able to provide the City of Berkley with superior service.



TOP TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

• Parking.....	1837
• Impeding Traffic.....	902
• Speed (All).....	720
• No Proof of Insurance.....	112
• Expired plates.....	108
• Drive While License Suspended.....	91
• Stop Sign.....	54
• Operating While Intoxicated.....	53
• Texting and Driving.....	25

TOTAL = 4,265 Violations

****Not all violations issued are listed, just a majority sample****



12,439 Total Calls for Service in 2021

• Suspicious Circumstances.....	431
• Medicals.....	1036
• Alarms.....	848
• Accidents.....	260
• Parking Complaints.....	206
• Welfare Checks.....	176
	163

FOOT PURSUITS AND USE OF FORCE

There was a total of 12,439 Calls for Service in 2021. Of those, 4,987 were Traffic Stops. Of the Traffic stops, only 27 led to vehicle pursuits, and there were 23 overall incidents with a Use of force/Response to Resistance involving a total of 56 actions (multiple officers on the scene). There was only one (1) foot pursuit.

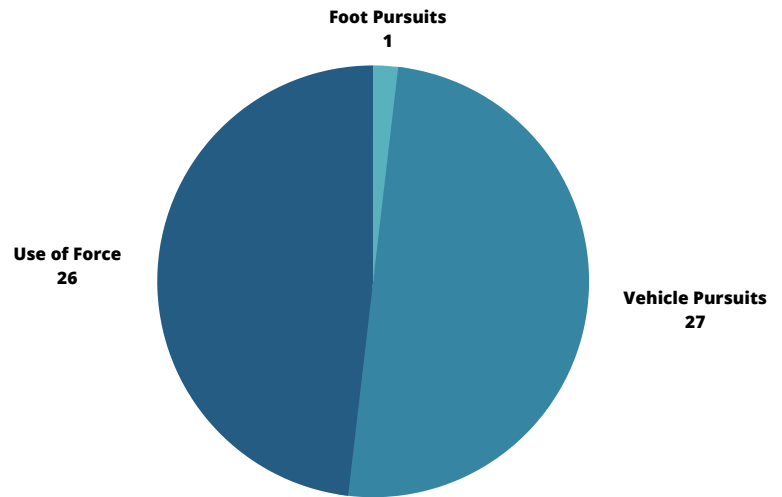
During the foot pursuit this year, the suspect was wanted for a Felony OWI. There was no known reason that he could be armed at the time, but he fled before a search had occurred. Officers knew whom they were pursuing and his flight risk was high, due to his own level of intoxication (later determined to be .109 BAC), as well as, entering neighboring properties.


His decision to avoid the Felony OWI and possible prison time could likely cause him to become violent. The suspect also would pose a risk if he were to get back into a motor vehicle, or was not apprehended that night while continuing to drive around while intoxicated. The time of day was around 2:40 AM, disturbing the peace of the neighborhood, and fortunately, the weather was clear. The officer began a foot pursuit with a supervisor on the scene as well.

The two created a safer environment, with numerous responding officers from nearby closing in. Officers knew the area and were able to quickly set up a perimeter.

Once the suspect was located, use of force was issued with a Taser, but not deployed, showing good training and knowledge of Use of Force / Response to Resistance tactics.

All conducted themselves well, but of note was the subject control. Upon the initial review, it was recommended that the officer receive Subject Control training.





VEHICLE PURSUITS OVERVIEW

Berkley Public Safety continues to safeguard the community. At times, suspects in criminal cases will “Flee” causing officers to pursue them through streets, alleys, and highways and during any weather.

Public Safety ensures that officers are using sound tactics, following the procedure, and working to minimize potential injury or improve future vehicle pursuits through thorough reviews of all pursuits involving our personnel.

These reviews are an important part of the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee standards, including standard 3.5.2, which encompasses the reasons for the pursuit, the area, the suspect(s) to be apprehended, and the actions taken by officers. Similar annual reviews are completed for Response to Resistance, Foot Pursuits, and the department's overall Annual Review.

In 2021, BDPS engaged in 23 vehicle pursuits, which is similar to yearly averages. BDPS usually averages between 20-40 vehicle pursuits per year, with some assisting other agencies, and are normally the result of drivers in stolen motor vehicles, wanted for previous offenses, or currently committing other crimes.

The following pages include information in regard to the vehicle pursuits that occurred, the statistics, and information from these events.

VEHICLE PURSUITS IN 2021

NUMBER OF PURSUITS / TIME FRAME

Berkley Public Safety was involved in 23 Vehicle Pursuits in 2021.

Of those, six (6) were able to be stopped and placed under arrest. The majority of them occurred in July (5), but there is no known cause for the increase or lack of pursuits.

Berkley had recently updated their General Orders in regard to the continuance of pursuits.

For the safety of the officers and the public, pursuits are considered hazardous and there must have been a serious incident to continue a pursuit at excessive speeds and outside of the City of Berkley.

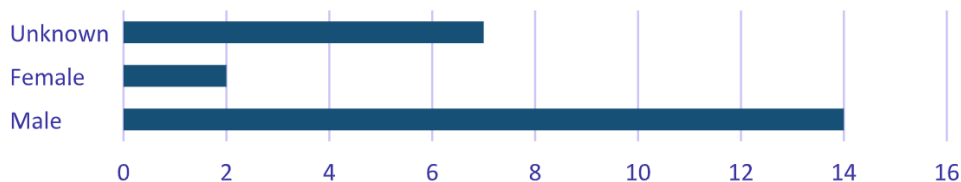




There was a total of 12,439 Calls for Service in 2021. Of those, 4,987 were Traffic Stops. Of the traffic stops, only 23 led to vehicle pursuits, and there were 23 overall incidents of Use of Force / Response to Resistance involving a total of 56 actions (multiple officers on the scene). There was only one (1) foot pursuit.

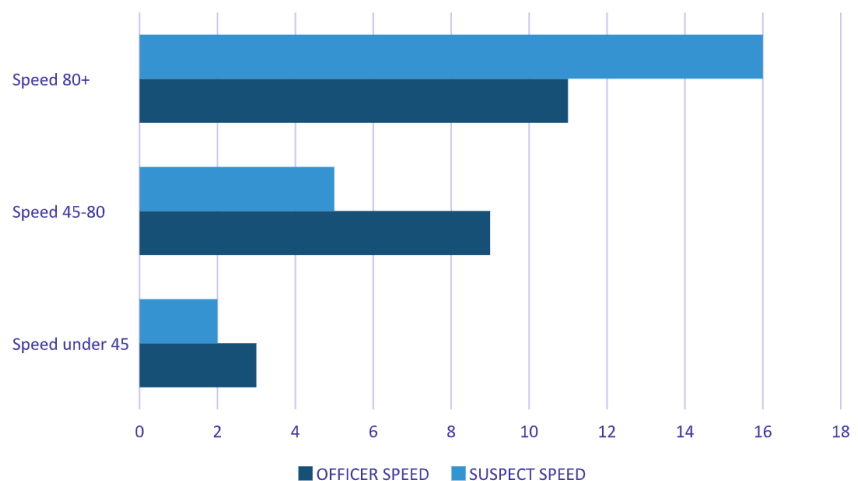
In review, 2 were females, 14 were males, and 7 were unknown.

Total by Gender



Out of the 23 pursuits, 16 of them involved suspects over 80mph, and 2 of them involved less than 45 mph.

Speed is always the main factor in determining whether to continue or terminate a pursuit.



TERMINATING A VEHICLE PURSUIT



One of the other important factors in pursuits is whether officers are making their own determination to terminate a pursuit, or whether they are being told to terminate by a supervisor.

Berkley Public Safety command staff regularly discuss pursuits with officers to make sure we are using sound tactics and judgment. Berkley requires the supervisor to continually monitor pursuits for conditions and to make a determination if the risk of continuing the pursuit begins to outweigh the benefits of capturing the suspect. Officers are required to take factors such as the nature, seriousness of the complaint, time of day, traffic conditions, weather, and vehicle speeds into consideration when deciding to continue.

In 2021, Berkley officers terminated their own pursuits 11 times, with seven (7) being terminated by their supervisor. One vehicle crashed, and four (4) stopped on their own at some point in the pursuit. Officers also attempted to deploy spike strips two (2) times during the year, with one being successful and leading to the capture of the suspect in another city.

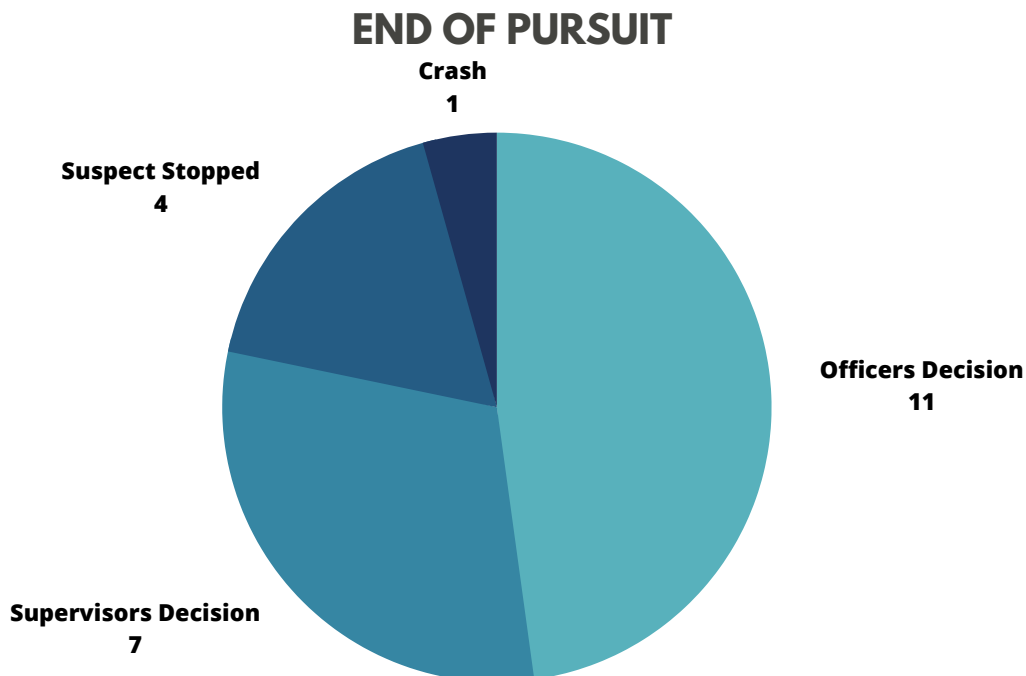
After each pursuit, Public Safety conducts a review by the initial supervisor and by Internal Affairs for compliance with procedures, if any training areas need to be met, or if there is a failure of policy or officer's actions. In each case, they are viewed in the eyes of the officer during the time and are not intended to be viewed with a 20/20 vision after the fact.

Berkley Public Safety understands that the chaotic scene of a pursuit is very quick and fluid, and each incident presents its own challenges.



Of the 23 reviews, policy violations were noted in three (3) of them. These all were involving what is considered a moderate risk pursuit (traffic violation only) where the speeds were determined to be too fast for the conditions / area of the pursuit. This included residential side streets.

One of the pursuits was only on a main road but involved several officers traveling at high rates of speed and involving numerous innocent vehicles. In these reviews, it was determined that the officers were acting in good faith to capture a suspect, but also were traveling too fast. Retraining and review of the procedures were all that were needed to accomplish the goals of continuing training with the officers involved.





RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE: OVERVIEW

For the year 2021, Berkley Public Safety continuously strives to ensure that each and every visitor, resident, and business in Berkley, is welcome and treated with respect. At times, people may come into contact with law enforcement after committing a crime. During those investigations, suspect(s) may decide to perform illegal acts, such as “Resisting Arrest / Obstruction”, fleeing on foot or in a vehicle, and other passive or aggressive actions in resistance to legal orders from law enforcement officers. When these occur, they are known in law enforcement as “Response to Resistance” which is when a suspect may refuse to cooperate with a lawful investigation, obstruct an investigation or order by an officer, or more physical actions such as fleeing, assaulting, or threatening an assault to others.

Berkley Public Safety takes pride in reviewing all “responses to resistance” and working with our certified training officers (CTOs) in the newest tactics, laws, and skills to bring each incident to a safe ending, including annual de-escalation training.

These reviews are an important part of the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee standards, including in standard 3.3.3., to include the reasons for the response to resistance, the area where it occurs, suspects to be apprehended, and actions taken by officers. Similar annual reviews are completed for Vehicle Pursuits, Foot Pursuits, and the department's overall Annual Review.

In 2021, BDPS engaged in 23 “Response to Resistance” incidents, involving 56 actions (several officers may be involved in one incident), which is similar to yearly averages. BDPS usually averages between 20-40 incidents per year, with some involving assisting other agencies, and are normally the result of the suspect(s) refusing arrest or obstructing a criminal investigation.

The following pages include information in regard to the responses to resistance that occurred, the statistics, and information from these events.



RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE CONTACT

Officers on patrol may come into contact with suspicious persons, suspected drunk drivers, those who have outstanding warrants, or no license violations. Officers may also have contact with those who have mental health issues and cause harmful actions to themselves or others, forcing officers to use force to control them, or to provide them the help they need from mental health professionals.

Anytime an officer receives any resistance, to the point the subject is not compliant, they are required to document the response to resistance they employed. This is done using our Guardian Tracking System so that the department can further analyze where officers are encountering incidents of force and how to better train the officers to notice the warning signs.

SUBSTANCE USE

Out of the 23 Uses of Force / Response to Resistance incidents, a suspect was intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics in 52% of the cases, with another 18% unknown / suspected.

This accounts for 70% of all cases where it is likely that an officer may receive some resistance from suspects when the person is under the influence.

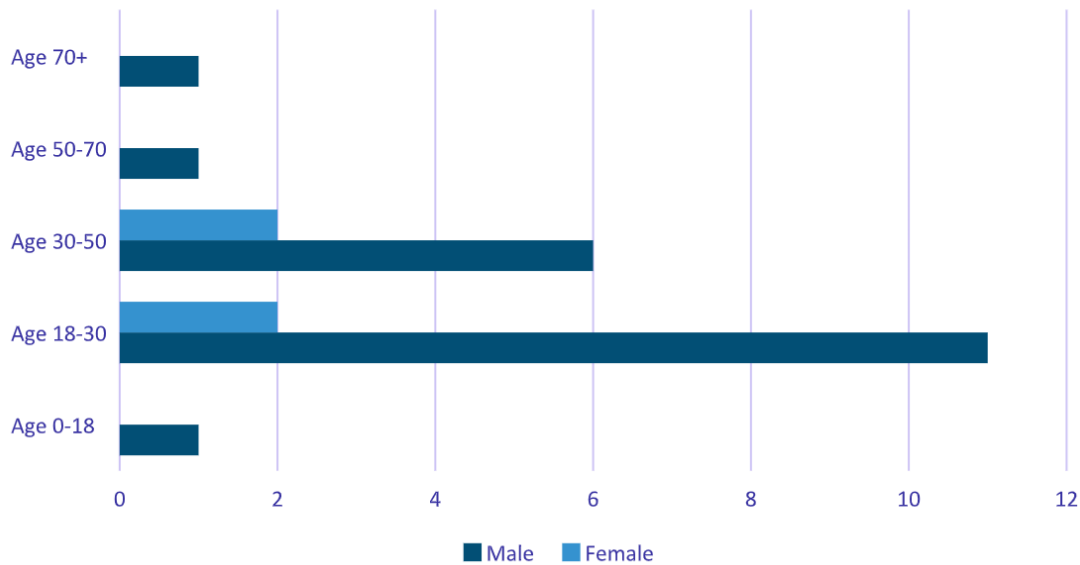
Officers are aware of the dangers of dealing with someone when they are under the influence which has a crucial role in the actions they may encounter.



AGE / SEX / TIME OF DAY

In 2021, officers encountered 19 incidents with males and four (4) with females. The female incident occurred with two (2) between 30-50 and two (2) between 18-30 years of age. For males, there were 11 incidents involving 18-30-year old's, and only six involving 30-50 year olds. There was only one (1) that was under 18, and one (1) over 70 years old. It is common that 18-30-year olds are out more at night, and they tend to have a level of maturity that does not recognize the consequences of actions that older adults do.

When taking into account that most incidents occur at night and 70% occur with substances, the youthful age, substances, and time of night contribute to the continued resistive actions by suspects.





TYPES OF FORCE APPLIED TO THE RESISTANCE

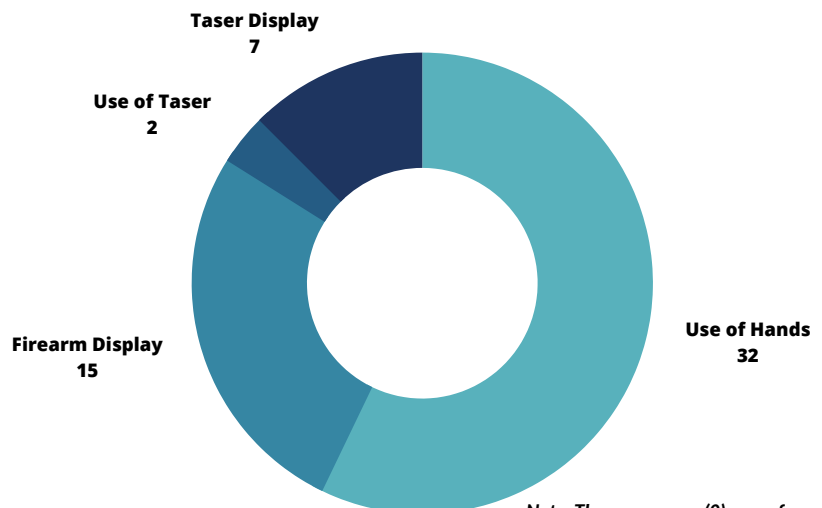
As reported earlier, there were 23 incidents. However, in total, there were 56 Use of Force / Response to Resistance. If two or three officers were involved in one incident, there would be three separate reports as each needs to explain how / why they used force.

Out of the 56 independent uses, there were 32 that involved the “Use of Hands” where officers had to physically struggle, control, or overpower the resistance to a subject who was intended to be placed under arrest or secured. There were eight (8) incidents (15 uses) of firearm display. These are common in felony incidents that could involve firearms or the suspect potentially could be armed. In these, no shots were ever fired, only used (and approved upon review) to elicit a response. In all of these incidents, the use of force was justified. There were only two (2) Taser uses out of seven (7) Taser Displays. In the incident involving the Firearm Display, the suspects were armed with firearms, and one of the incidents led to a successful capture of a wanted suspect for a drive-by shooting in Detroit the day before.

USE OF FORCE TYPES

Categories for officers to report are:

- Hands-On
- Taser Display
- Taser use
- Firearm Display
- Firearm Use
- K-9 Deployment
- OC/Pepper Spray
- Baton Use
- Less Lethal (Impact Ball)



Note: There were zero (0) uses of Baton, Pepper, or Firearm in 2021.

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE: SUMMARY



In 2021, 23 incidents were documented under “Response to Resistance”, being one of our safest years for such actions. The response to resistance incidents are quick and usually without warning. They are dangerous to the officers and their safety is of the utmost importance from being assaulted. At times, these actions are necessary when officers are here trying to help keep the community safe. Each incident is independently reviewed to make sure that they are legal, within policy, and within training.

At times citizens may complete a citizen complaint after the fact. These complaints, like all citizen complaints, are thoroughly investigated. As mentioned earlier, all uses of force are automatically investigated, regardless if a complaint was made. During these response to resistance incidents, there were some minor injuries suffered by the officers involved. One officer had the suspect spit in their face and a few of the officers were kicked putting arrestees into vehicles.

Where there is a crime, there will be law enforcement. Berkley Public Safety is here to provide safety to the community and hopes to be able to keep up with the highest standards of training and professionalism in all we do. Public Safety command staff will work with CTOs to ensure the department continues conducting safe operations and training in Response to Resistance, De-Escalation, and Taser Training, as well as looking into new devices to assist officers in quickly ending incidents before someone is injured.

With this in mind, Berkley hopes to reduce the number of incidents and if they occur, to make sure they are performed within the departments and State's procedures along with ensuring safety is a priority to all officers and individuals involved.



DE-ESCALATION TRAINING

In addition to Use of Force / Response to Resistance training, one of the most important training the department continuously conducts is “De-Escalation” training. Teaching officers to deal with issues and attempting to get the subject to become compliant without having to use force is crucial.

Making sure that officers use the least amount of force necessary to effect the arrest. The department also has a policy and trains officers to make sure they understand their “Duty to Intervene” and that if they observe another officer using force that is more than necessary, they are required to stop it from occurring and report it to a supervisor.



The Berkley Public Safety Department would like to thank the numerous officers and staff who have helped create and assemble the 2021 Annual Report.

We thank the staff and administration at City Hall, Public Works, the Library, and Parks and Recreation for working together with us for the Berkley community.

We would also like to thank the City Council for their continued support of Public Safety. Most importantly, we would like to thank the businesses and residents of Berkley for their appreciation and partnership as their Public Safety Department.

It is our honor to be here when you need us.

Sincerely,



Director Matt Koehn
Executive Staff Lt. Hadfield, Lt. Miller & Lt. Kobernick
All Berkley Public Safety Officers and Civilians