



Chandler Police Department – PSS Memo No. 23-0023

Date: March 21, 2024
To: Melissa Deanda, Interim Chief of Police
Thru: Michael Prendergast, PSS Lieutenant
Aaron Lowe, PSS Sergeant
From: Jeffrey Fox, PSS Detective
Subject: Use of Force Review, 4th Quarter 2023

Procedure

- Please sign below acknowledging your review of the report.
- Forward through the chain of command and return to the Professional Standards Section.

Signature

Date

PSS Sergeant

PSS Lieutenant

Assistant Chief

Chief of Police

Professional Standards Section shall maintain inspection files and reports.

Background

The Chandler Police Department recognizes the current Arizona statutory law dictating that “no unnecessary or unreasonable force shall be used in making an arrest, and the person arrested shall not be subjected to any greater restraint than necessary for his detention.”¹ The Chandler Police Department stipulates officers must adhere to their training unless the situation justifies a deviation from that training.²

The Chandler Police Department began to utilize the Use of Force Review Board in 2008 to ensure the proper documentation of all applications of force, evaluate those applications for adherence to established policy, and determine any additional training needs.³ The board meets monthly to evaluate the prior month’s incidents, and quarterly reviews are prepared to share information and findings with the Citizen Review Panel.

This analysis contains use of force statistics for the fourth quarter of 2023 to identify prevalent trends or deficiencies per the current CALEA standard.⁴ In addition to an internal comparative analysis, this report will illustrate training issues that emerged throughout the quarter, as well as the number and general nature of injuries sustained by personnel and suspects.

2023 Fourth Quarter Review

The Chandler Police Department logged 2224 arrests during the fourth quarter of 2023, yielding a total of twenty five (25) incidents resulting in a use of force by Chandler Police Officers to effect an arrest or detain a subject under reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

All reportable incidents were reviewed by the Use of Force Review Board. This board meets monthly to determine if the applications of force are justified in accordance with the policies of the Chandler Police Department.

The following tables document the twenty five (25) incidents reviewed by the board for the months of October, November, and December of 2023. It includes the types of force used and dispositions. In some incidents there were multiple applications of force used by various officers. For this reason, there were thirty-one (31) distinct applications of force.

¹ ARS § 13-3881.B

² CPD G.O. E-01.200.B.3

³ CPD G.O. E-01.400.E.1

⁴ CALEA 1.3.13

Type of Force Used Fourth Quarter 2023

Force Used	Applications	Additional Details
Low Level Force	13	Take downs, pressure points, Hard hands, bolo wrap, etc.
Intermediate Force	18	K9 bite, fist strikes, knee strikes, kicks, less lethal, CEW, impact push, etc.
Total	31	

Total Force Used Fourth Quarter 2023

Total Arrests	Force Used	Percentage
2224	25	1.12 %

Use of Force Demographics by Race/Gender/Age

Number	Race	Gender	Age Range	Average Age	%
7	White	Male	17-56	30	28%
2	White	Female	21-43	32	8%
3	Black	Male	16-32	24	12%
1	Black	Female	21	21	4%
9	Hispanic	Male	17-52	27	36%
1	Hispanic	Female	17	17	4%
1	Native American	Male	38	38	4%
1	Native American	Female	16	16	4%

(25 total subjects in use of force incidents)

Policy Violations/Reviews

In the fourth quarter of 2023 there was one (1) use of force incident referred to Internal Affairs. The outcome of this case has not been decided at this time.

Training Issues

In the fourth quarter of 2023 there was one (1) training issue identified by the Use of Force Board. The training issue is related to the policy violation currently being reviewed by internal affairs.

Injuries

In the fourth quarter of 2023, three (3) officers were injured during use of force incidents. The injuries sustained by officers were mostly minor in nature, generally consisting of

sprains, abrasions, cuts, or bruising. Most of the officers' injuries appeared to stem from body-to-body contact, takedown techniques, and struggling to handcuff suspects on hard surfaces or from direct assaults on the officers themselves.

Twenty-three (23) suspects were injured or complained of injury during the use of force incidents. Most of these injuries were minor in nature, consisting of lacerations, abrasions, contusions, complaints of pain, and CEW puncture wounds.

Injured officers and suspects received medical attention when requested. Medical treatment was either provided on scene or at a hospital for more extensive care or evaluation.

Total Injuries When Force Used Fourth Quarter 2023

Suspects/Detainees	Officers	Total
23	3	26

Emotionally Disturbed/Impaired

Eighteen (18) subjects involved in use of force incidents were found to be emotionally disturbed, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or a combination of impairments.

Conclusion

The reported types of use of force incidents during the fourth quarter of 2023 indicate officers used the appropriate level of force to effect the arrest of suspects. This illustrates that the use of force policy, defensive tactics training, board reviews, and overall departmental philosophy are aligned with established case law, statutory regulations, and the principles of community-oriented policing.

