

# Annual Review of Use of Force & Vehicle Pursuit Incidents

This submission is made in accordance with Sections 7.6 and 7.7 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy (April 2022) ("Use of Force Policy"), and Sections 12.2 and 12.3 of Addendum B to the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy (April 2022) ("Vehicular Pursuit Policy").

**\* Indicates required field**

**County\***

**Monmouth**

**Law Enforcement Agency \***

**Atlantic Highlands Police Department**

**Date of Report \***

**1/3/2025**

**Year of Data Covered in this Report\***

**2024**

**Check the box below to confirm\***

☒ Report has been reviewed by and endorsed by the agency's law enforcement executive.

## Contact Information

**Your Name\***

**Chief Scott H. Reinert**

**Phone Number (Please enter a valid telephone number)\***

**732-778-1247**

**Email (example@example.com) \***

**sreinert@ahnj.com**

**Email Address for Submission to Prosecutor's Office\***

**prureports@mcponj.org**

## **Use of Force Annual Review: Written Report**

### **Section One: BWC/Video Audit**

***Your review must include a brief description of your agency's random and risk-based audit process (e.g., how videos are selected, who reviews the videos, etc.). If your agency did not conduct a risk-based and/or random BWC/video audit in 2024, please indicate how you plan to remedy that in 2025.***

Section One: BWC/Video Audit\*

During each calendar year the amount of use of force incidents are low and therefore it is easiest to conduct an audit on all use of force incidents over the course of the year. I review each case personally and determine if there are any issues after the meaningful review and benchmark reports are filed.

## Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints

*Your analysis must include a review of internal affairs complaints related to use of force incidents and must include the following: 1. number of IA complaints filed; 2. number filed by civilians; 3. number initiated by the agency; 4. numbers sustained; and 5. number still pending.*

### Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints \*

There were no internal affairs complaints in reference to use of force incidents.

### Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Uses of Force

*Section 7.5 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy requires that every use of force must undergo a meaningful command level review. Your annual review should include a brief description of your agency's meaningful review policy. If your agency was not able to conduct a meaningful review of each use of force incident, please explain why you were unable to do so and please indicate how you plan to do so going forward.*

#### Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Uses of Force\*

As per the Atlantic Highlands Police Department General Order, "Every use of force must be reported and receive a meaningful command level review as set forth in a written department general order that includes review by the law enforcement executive. The law enforcement executive shall also conduct an annual review and analysis of the overall use of force by the department". If a supervisor uses force, the next highest-ranking supervisor in that chain of command shall conduct the initial meaningful review which will then be reviewed by command staff. If the Chief of Police uses force, the internal affairs supervisor shall contact the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, who will determine the process for the meaningful command review, which could include prosecutor's office staff. Each use of force in 2024 received a meaningful review completed by front line supervisor and command staff through Guardian Tracking/Benchmark Analytics.

## Section Four: Non-Discriminatory Application of Force

*Your review must include an explanation of how you concluded whether force was applied in a non-discriminatory manner based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Your analysis should include a review of your community's demographics and demographic data from the Use of Force portal. If you conclude that any use of force was applied in a discriminatory manner, please explain what steps you have taken and will take to address this conclusion.*

### Section Four: Non-Discriminatory Application of Force\*

I have reviewed all available analytical reports from the Attorney General's Use of Force Portal, audited body worn cameras in reference to the five use of force incidents and ensured that the use of force applied to all subjects in 2024 were not applied due to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

## Section Five: Overall Review of Use of Force

*Please utilize as much space as needed to conduct a thorough review of your agency's use of force during the preceding calendar year. Your review should evaluate whether force was used in compliance with the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy and your agency's policy. Even if overall use of force was compliant with those policies, your review should include any recommendations for training, equipment, or room for improvement (e.g., additional de-escalation efforts could have been made). Your review must address trends in the number of total force incidents, number and severity of injuries, and levels of force increasing or decreasing over the past three (3) years.*

### Section Five: Overall Review of Use of Force\*

As per the following guidelines in the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy I have reviewed the following criteria: Analytical Reports from the Attorney General's Use of Force Portal, audited body worn cameras and other video on a risk based and randomly selected basis, any internal affairs complaints and completed an analysis of the uses of force to ensure that force is being applied without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identify, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic.

During the calendar year of 2024, there were five incidents consisting of eight officers which necessitated the Use of Force. There were no injuries sustained during these use of force incidents. The number of use of force reports completed by this agency decreased from 2023 which had seven incidents with fifteen officers involved. In 2022 there were three incidents where force was used involving six officers. The use of force used by this agency is minimal year over year. Use of Force incidents are not decided by officers, they are decided by members of the public and these numbers are unpredictable year over year.

A meaningful review for each Use of Force incident was conducted by a front-line supervisor and the internal affairs unit supervisor. The meaningful review is a format documented process to determine whether a policy, training, equipment or disciplinary issues need to be addressed.

- 1- Two officers responded to a vehicle parked in a parking lot with a male subject sleeping inside the vehicle. The two officers arrived on location and noticed several alcohol containers in the vehicle with the vehicle running. They struggled to wake the driver up but he eventually woke up and was clearly intoxicated. Officers explained to him what they were there for then asked him to step out of the vehicle. When asked to perform some field sobriety tests he stated no and instructed officers not to touch him as he tried walking away. The Sergeant on scene gave him instructions and again advised him of what they wanted him to do in which he did not comply. The Sergeant then advised the heavily intoxicated subject that he was being placed under arrest. The subject then pushed past the patrol officer and began running away from officers in an attempt to flee. Officers ran after the subject and the Sergeant was able to push the back of the fleeing subject which caused him to fall down into the grass. Officers were able to gain custody of the subject as he continued to resist. The officer picked a grassy area to use force to limit any injuries. The subject was not injured and only one officer used force.
- 2- Two officers responded to a bar for an active fight outside the establishment. The officers spent several minutes attempting to get all parties to vacate the area peacefully. One patron was advised to leave the area several times but stayed in the area. When people began to leave this patron started to become involved in an altercation with other members of the public. One Atlantic Highlands officer placed the male subject on the ground to effect the arrest. There were no injuries and only one office used force.
- 3- Two officers responded to the Catamaran Club for a report of a disorderly female who was not welcome at the private club. She was placed under arrest for an active warrant and trespassing. She was then transported to Police Headquarters without incident. While in the police processing room the Sergeant uncuffed the female to place her on the booking room bench. He spoke with

her several times in a calm manner to have a seat on the bench but the female refused. The Sergeant then grabbed her arm while the Patrolman grabbed her other arm to force her to the bench. Both officers used compliance holds to place her on the bench while she became a active resistor. She was then successfully handcuffed to the bench without incident. During another point in this incident the female was uncuffed again to be searched by a matron. She once again had to be placed in a compliance hold to be handcuffed to the bench again. No one was injured during this incident and proper force was applied by both officers.

- 4- Officers responded to a private business for the same female as incident three trespassing. The female subject was acting irate and and manic. She was asked to collect her belongings and leave the business but refused. She was then advised that she was being placed under arrest but began flailing her arms and retreating. During the incident three officers needed to place hands on the female subject to control her with compliance holds. There were no injuries reported and all three officers were found to have used proper force.
- 5- One officer responded to the area of State Highway 36 for a report of a male juvenile driving a vehicle without a license in a stolen vehicle. The juvenile had run from officers in Highlands and Middletown Township. He was also involved in two hit and run motor vehicle crashes in Middletown Township. While on State Highway 36, the Patrolman observed the vehicle that the juvenile was driving. Moments later he observed the juvenile exit the stolen vehicle and run on foot down State Highway 36 East. The Patrolman exited his vehicle and a foot pursuit was initiated. The Patrolman was able to catch up with the male juvenile in a boat yard where the juvenile had jumped onto a boat. The Patrolman then grabbed the male juvenile and pulled him off of the boat to effect the arrest. No one was injured in this use of force incident and the officer was found to use necessary force to effect the arrest.

I have reviewed all available analytical reports from the Attorney General's Use of Force Portal, audited body worn cameras in reference to the five use of force incidents and ensured that the use of force applied to all subjects in 2024 were not applied due to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. There were no internal affairs complaints in reference to the use of force applied in 2024.

Scott H. Reinert #134  
Chief of Police

## Section Six: Further Action

*Please explain what further action your agency has taken, or will take, to implement any changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment you have deemed appropriate. These actions can include department-wide changes, or changes applicable to specific officers or divisions.*

### Section Six: Further Action \*

In 2023, I mentioned that officers were filling out use of force forms in cases where they were not necessary. This issue in 2024 seems to have been corrected. There are no other changes I recommend in 2024 going forward.