



# BOARDMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Todd Werth, CHIEF OF POLICE

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## **Annual Boardman Police Department Review of Use of Force: 2021**

The duties of a police officer to protect life and property and to apprehend criminals by their very nature may necessarily involve the use of some degree of force. But the force used must be reasonably balanced against the resistance faced in the lawful performance of their duties. Officers of the Boardman Police Department may at times encounter resistance or aggression while engaged in the execution of their lawful duties. Our Officers will respond to resistance or aggression with that degree of force which is necessary and reasonable in accordance with the objective reasonableness standard set by statutes and judicial precedence.

It is the policy of the Boardman Police Department to collect and analyze data related to the use of force, conduct training in the proper application of force, and continually work to identify and address any issues related to the use of force by our department. As part of this ongoing effort, we will adjust our policies and procedures when necessary. This report highlights the results of the 2021 review of the use of force and other enforcement functions.

As part of our efforts to be transparent to the public and incorporate policies, procedures, and methods that are considered best practices in policing, the Boardman Township Police Department adopted the use of body worn cameras (BWC's) for our officers in 2021. The BWC's are issued and worn by every one of our officers during any enforcement function (i.e. patrol, interviews, etc.). In addition to aiding in transparency and accountability, the cameras will facilitate prosecutions and protect officers from unfounded allegations of misconduct.

### **Review of 2021 Data**

The consistent review of department operational data is important. Especially as compared year to year to assess trends, effects of department changes in policy or practices, staffing, etc. Reviewing data is only one part of assessing our operations as there are likely several changing variables that will affect the data. Each call or event that contributes to the data set should also be looked at based on the specific given situation and facts surrounding the event. In addition to the use-of-force events, we will also present data on vehicle pursuits and self-initiated vehicle stops which are important, but potentially volatile, enforcement functions our department utilizes.

### **Use of Force**

Generally, uses of force are events where officers specifically encountered resistance or aggression for someone during an interaction. Use of force may be defined as anything from minimal physical contact by the officer, up to the use of deadly force. The level of force used by the officer is to be reasonable and to the level necessary to gain compliance. While these events typically result in an arrest, not all (in fact most arrests) do not necessarily result in

a use of force. It should be noted that in addition to the minimal number of arrests that result in a use of force incident, the vast majority of thousands of interactions the department has with the public also do not lead to the use of force by our officers.

The results of the 2021 review are attached, with a general overview listed below:

<u>2021 Arrests:</u>	<u>Total: 1144</u>
Incidents w/Resistance/Aggression Encountered:	71 - 6.2% of all arrests
Adults:	68 - 96.7% of uses of force
Juveniles:	3 - 3.2%
Male:	53 - 74.6%
Female:	18 - 25.3.2%
Race (White):	40 - 56.3%
Minority (All):	31 - 43.6%
Use of Taser:	18 - 25.3%

Historical Data:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Arrests:	1144	1352	1529	1755	1819	1671	1824	1832	1939	1757
Uses of Force:	71	57	78	83	66	68	48	60	46	63
% of U. of Force (during all arrests)	6.2%	4.2%	5.1%	4.7%	3.6%	4.0%	2.6%	3.2%	2.3%	3.5%

### **Vehicle Pursuits**

Police vehicle pursuits are a necessary but potentially hazardous law enforcement function. The exposure of innocent citizens, law enforcement officers, and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death is a primary consideration of the department when initiating, continuing, or terminating a pursuit. The department's policy, training, and decision-making on this provide officers with guidance in balancing the safety of the public and themselves against law enforcement's duty to apprehend violators of the law. Every pursuit is documented by the involved officer, reviewed by the chain of command, and forwarded to the Chief of Police. This remains a priority each year for the department's training program.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Number of Pursuits:	12	14	9	10
Pursuits in Policy Compliance:	12	14	8	10
Number of Pursuits Ending in Crash:	1	1	2	0
Number of Pursuits Ending in Injury:	1	1	1	0
Officers:	0	0	0	0
Suspects:	1	0	1	0
Others:	3	1	0	0
Number of Pursuits Terminated:	5	6	4	8
Pursuits By Shift:				
Days:	2	2	2	0
Afternoons:	5	7	2	2
Midnights:	5	5	5	8
Average Length of Pursuits (min/sec):	2/16	2/54	1/34	2/37

Average Distance of Pursuits (miles):	1.5	2.0	1.5	2.0
Average Speed of Pursuits (mph):	46	42	48	50

### **Summary**

Transparency in policing is the basis for establishing and maintaining the trust of the community. It is the Boardman Police Department's policy to continually assess our operations to ensure they are conducted professionally, fairly, and within the confines of applicable law.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-729-2028, or [twerth@boardmantwp.com](mailto:twerth@boardmantwp.com).

Todd D. Werth  
Chief of Police

## Boardman Police Department Response to Resistance/Aggression Analysis 2021

Number of Encounters Resistance/Aggression: 71      % Use of Force During Arrest:  
 Number of Arrests: 1144      6.2%

### Subjects:

<b>Adult Total:</b>	68	<b>Juvenile Total:</b>	3	<b>Time Period (Shift) of Arrests:</b>	
Male:	50	Male:	3	Day Turn (6am – 2pm):	7
Female:	18	Female:	0	Afternoon (2pm – 10pm):	25
White:	37	White:	3	Night Turn (10pm – 6am):	34
Minority:	31	Minority:	0		

### Individuals Actions:

Weapons Used Against Officer:	0
Attempting to Disarm Officer:	0
Life Threatening Weaponless Assault:	0
Striking or Kicking Officer:	14
Wrestling With Officer:	20
Pushing Officer:	18
Pulling Away (or fleeing) From Officer:	64
Refusing to Move (dead weight):	37
Not Responding to Commands:	71
Verbal Danger Cues:	55
Physical danger Cues:	63
Subject Complaint of Injury:	22
Subject Evidence of injury:	24
Subject Injured Prior to Officer:	8
Subject Injured During Arrest:	8
Subject Impaired:	38
Medical Treatment:	35

### Officer Response:

Deadly Force:	0
Baton Techniques:	0
Less Lethal Impact Munitions:	0
Striking Structural Areas:	6
OC Aerosol Agents:	2
Baton Restraints:	0
Taser (Electronic Control):	18
Striking Motor Muscle Groups:	9
Takedowns:	33
Joint Manipulation:	32
PPC:	11
Balance Displacement:	34
Assistance From Other Officers:	62
Verbal or Physical Commands:	71
Officer Presence:	69
Officer Injuries During Arrest:	3

### Departmental Review:

Subject Interviewed by Supervisor:	62
Cooperative Subject During Interview:	42