

City of Burbank
MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2023
To: Chief Michael Albanese
From: Lieutenant Mark Stohl – Internal Affairs Bureau
Subject: Annual Analysis of Assault on Law Enforcement Officers - 2022



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Michael Albanese
NOTED

J.R. 2023

CALEA Standard 4.2.5 requires the Department to complete an evaluation of all assaults on Burbank Police Department (BPD) law enforcement officers to determine trends or patterns with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues.

This is the sixth year the Department has conducted this review to comply with this CALEA standard. It should be noted that an assault on a law enforcement officer does not necessarily result in a use of force by a Department member. Also, in some cases more than one officer or suspect were involved.

Methodology and Data

The unit of analysis for this administrative review is assaulted officers in the line of duty. The *Federal Bureau of Investigation's* definition of *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* (LEOKA) was used. Officers included in this analysis met the following criteria at the time of the incident:

1. Were acting in an official capacity
2. Were duly sworn and had arrest powers
3. Wore/carried badges
4. Carried department-approved firearms/less lethal options/equipment

The data was extracted from the *Tiburón* database.

Summary and Findings

In accordance with CALEA Standard 4.2.5, I reviewed Burbank Police Department assault on law enforcement officer cases for the 2022 calendar year. I discovered there were 43 cases involving assaults on sworn officers in our jurisdiction. This was compared to 37 incidents in 2021, a 17% increase year over year. A total of 59 officers and 43 suspects were involved in the 43 cases.

My review of the LEOKA incidents determined the following:

Day/Time/Location:

- Assaults on officers happened mostly on Tuesday (9 incidents), followed by Thursday (8), Saturday (7) and Sunday (6).
- Assaults were split fairly evenly between day watch (0540 – 1800 hours) and night watch (1740 – 0600 hours) shifts, with 23 during day watch and 20 during night watch.
- Assault cases occurred mostly in the Valley (53%) compared to the Hill (42%) sections of the City. Two cases took place outside of BPD jurisdiction.
- 63 percent of the incidents resulted from a *call for service* (CFS). 37 percent resulted from officer-initiated contacts.
- 93 percent of the assaults took place outdoors.

Officer Characteristics

- The majority of the officers assaulted were males (65%), as compared to females (35%). This is a change from the prior year where 80% of suspects were male and 20% were female.
- 30 percent of the assaults resulted in some type of injury to an officer (cut, scrape, laceration, swelling, bruising, soft tissue joint injury, etc.). One officer suffered broken bones and torn ligaments during one incident. None of the officers were killed.
- Force was used by officers in 42 percent of the incidents. The vast majority of these uses of force involved control holds, takedowns, or strikes with personal weapons. A TASER was utilized in four of the incidents. A 40mm foam baton launcher was used in one incident. No Officer Involved Shootings (OIS) took place during the year.
- Officers were assaulted by being kicked 10 times, assaulted by vehicles six times, had objects thrown at them four times and spat upon three times.

Suspect Characteristics

- 65 percent were males and 35 percent were females
- 35 percent were White
- 23 percent were Black
- 35 percent were Hispanic
- 7 percent were Asian or 'Other'
- The average age of the offenders was 34. The youngest was 19. The oldest was 56.
- 25 percent of the incidents resulted in an injury to the suspect (red marks, laceration, bruising, swelling, fracture, etc.). No incidents resulted in the death or hospitalization of a suspect.
- In 44 percent of the incidents, the suspect was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- In 11 percent of the incidents, the suspect exhibited signs of underlying mental health issues.

Trends or Patterns

Most of the assaults in 2022 occurred when officers were in physical contact with, or attempting to detain a suspect. Many of the incidents involved suspects actively resisting the officers attempts to place them under arrest either by throwing objects, spitting, kicking, or striking the officer with a fist or other body part. Suspect management continues to be a critical component to officer safety when making field contacts. Tactical planning, recognizing behavioral cues, and engaging with adequate resources remain key to managing incidents effectively.

A continuing trend is the apparent presence of mental health issues or drug/alcohol intoxication. These were exhibited by suspects in 55% of the incidents in 2022.

Recommendations

In reviewing the data, I did not identify any substantial deficiencies in officer safety practices that would require modifications to policy or training. The Department's Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) examines use of force incidents in detail on a monthly basis. CIRB provides timely input on policy, training, and equipment recommendations addressing trends or areas of concern.

cc. Police Administrator Courtney Padgett
Administrative Analyst Christine Alles