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City of Burbank
MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2025

To: Deputy Chief Adam Cornils

From: Lieutenant Adam Baumgarten – Internal Affairs Bureau

Subject: Annual Analysis of Assault on Law Enforcement Officers - 2024

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 eighth 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 the use of force by a Department member. Also, in some cases, more than one officer or suspect was 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 *Tiburon* and *VersaTerm* databases.

Summary and Findings

In accordance with CALEA Standard 4.2.5, I reviewed Burbank Police Department assault on law enforcement officer cases for the 2024 calendar year. I discovered there were 46 cases involving assaults or threatened assaults on sworn officers in our jurisdiction. This was compared to 49 incidents in 2023, a 6% decrease year to year.

My review of the LEOKA incidents determined the following:

Day/Time/Location:

- Assaults on officers happened mostly on Thursday (10 incidents), followed by Monday and Saturday (9), Friday (7), Wednesday (5), Tuesday (4) and Sunday (2).
- Assaults occurred more evenly between night watch (1740 – 0600 hours) and day watch (0540 – 1800 hours), with 23 during day watch and 23 during night watch.
- Assault cases occurred more frequently in the Valley (59%) compared to the Hill (41%) sections of the City.
- 87 percent of the incidents resulted from a *call for service* (CFS). 13 percent resulted from officer-initiated contacts.
- 72 percent of the assaults took place outdoors.

Officer Characteristics

- The majority of the officers assaulted were males (94%), as compared to females (4%). This is comparable from the prior year where 95 percent of officers were male and 5 percent were female.
- 19 percent of the assaults resulted in some type of injury to an officer (cut, scrape, laceration, swelling, bruising, soft tissue joint injury, etc.). No officers suffered serious injury or were killed.
- Force was used by officers in 54 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 five of the incidents. A K9 was used in one incident.
- Officers were assaulted by being bitten two times, spat upon 8 times, assaulted by a vehicle one time, kicked six times, struck three times, struck by a laser one time, and threatened with a weapon or act of violence 25 times.

Suspect Characteristics

- 79 percent were males and 21 percent were females
- 36 percent were White
- 25 percent were Black
- 36 percent were Hispanic
- 3 percent were of another race
- The average age of the offenders was 36. The youngest was 17, while the oldest was 74.
- 13 percent of the incidents resulted in an injury to the suspect (red marks, laceration, bruising, swelling, etc.). No one was killed or hospitalized as a result of force.
- In 45 percent of the incidents, the suspect was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- In 7 percent of the incidents, the suspect exhibited signs of underlying mental health issues.

Trends or Patterns

Most of the incidents in 2024 involved threats of violence. The majority of incidents where actual assaultive behavior took place 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 of 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 drug/alcohol intoxication. These were exhibited by suspects in 45 percent of incidents in 2024 and 61 percent of the incidents in 2023. The presence of suspects experiencing underlying mental health issues reduced from 18 percent in 2023 to 7 percent in 2024.

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 every month. CIRB provides timely input on policy, training, and equipment recommendations addressing trends or areas of concern.