

Council Business Meeting

May 16, 2017

Title: Ashland Police Department's Annual use of Force Report
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Summary:

Since 2008 the police department has come before Council to provide an annual use of force report. This presentation has grown in scope and now includes use of force, crime and clearance rates and an update on the enhanced law enforcement area (ELEA).

Actions, Options, or Potential Motions:

No action is necessary.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A

Resource Requirements:

N/A

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

47. Keep the Council informed of organizational activity and provide timely information for Council decision-making.

Background and Additional Information:

During 2016 the Police Department used force 29 times. This represents a 93% increase from the previous year. While the decrease in 2015 was noticeable, it appears to have been a variance from the norm, and 2016 marked a return to levels similar to 2014 and 2013. There were six instances of the Taser conducted energy weapon being used in 2016, and one additional instance of it being drawn and presented but not used. There was one use of pepper spray in 2016. There was one instance of a less lethal munition being deployed against a subject (bean bag round from a shotgun) in 2016. There were six instances of officers being injured, with all of the injuries being fairly minor. There were 15 instances of suspects complaining of injury. Of those 15 complaints, 13 were of minor injuries (cuts, scrapes, bruises) and 2 were of pain. 62% of the use of force involved someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol. 66% of the incidents occurred at night. The APD generated 3925 cases in 2016, meaning that 0.73% (<1%) of APD's cases involved a use of force.

During 2016 Ashland officers received a total of 799 hours of use of force training.

Crime rate is based on the number of part one crimes occurring in a jurisdiction. Part one crimes are those that are reported annually to the FBI for inclusion into the Uniform Crime Report. They are homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft and larceny. In 2016 the

Ashland Police Department took 829 reports of part one crimes occurring inside the city. This is up from 2015 when we took 641 reports. For further comparison in 2014 we took 629 and 2013 we took 694. Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. There were 39 violent crimes reported to the Ashland Police Department in 2016, up from 20 reported in 2015. Clearance rates for part one crime remain high at 40%. Clearance rates for violent crime remains very high at 90%.

The Enhanced Law Enforcement Area (ELEA) ordinance has been in effect since August of 2012. The ELEA is roughly defined as downtown Ashland and has recently been modified to include the parking lot at 130 N. Pioneer. In this area we see a concentrated number of complaints and disorderly behavior as this is the focal gathering point for many members of the community. A conviction of three or more qualifying violations (or crimes) in Ashland Municipal Court within a six-month period may result in a person being expelled from the downtown area. The qualifying violations are: scattering rubbish; unnecessary noise; dogs-control required; consumption of alcohol; open container of alcohol; dog license required; or use of marijuana in public. In 2016 there were 150 ELEA violation convictions in the municipal court. There were 17 people expelled from the downtown area and there were eight people charged with persistent violator failure to appear under the city ordinance. The ELEA continues to be a valuable tool to address chronic negative behavior.

Attachments:

None