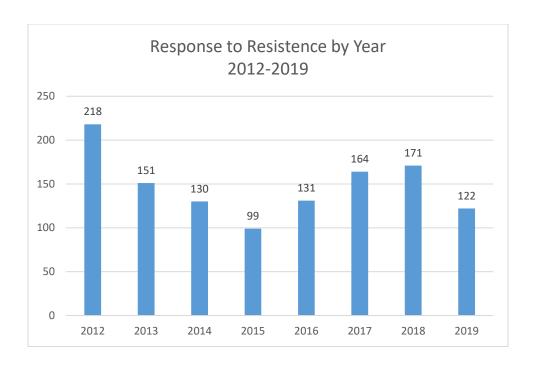
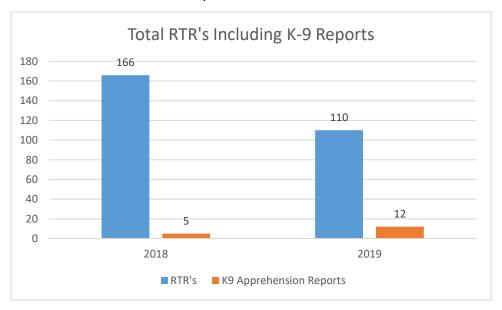
## **Executive Summary**

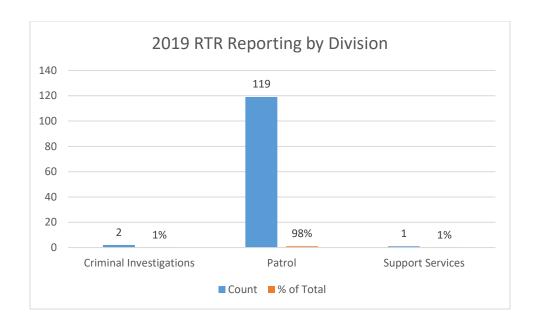
# Annual Response to Resistance Analysis - 2019

In 2019, officers of the Knoxville Police Department engaged in 122 documentable force incidents (including twelve K-9 Apprehension reports). This is a 28% decrease from 171 reports in 2018. It is important to note that overall the low percentage of officers needing to employ force reflects on the training, education, and professionalism of officers at the Knoxville Police Department.



As reflected in the above chart, there was a decrease of forty-nine Response to Resistance Reports (RTR) in 2019 from 2018. As can be seen in the chart, 2019 was the second lowest year for RTR's reported in the last eight years. Of the 122 incidents that required a Response to Resistance Report in 2019, twelve were K-9 Use/Apprehension Reports which resulted in a bite. It is important to note that only those K-9 reports that resulted in a bite or some type of physical contact are included in this analysis.





Patrol has historically accounted for the majority of Response to Resistance Reports, as a function of their daily duties, and any significant changes will be represented in Patrol Division reporting. The Patrol Division accounted for one hundred nineteen of the one hundred twenty two RTR incidents in 2019.

The Support Services Division, which includes the SRO (School Resource Officer) Unit reported one RTR in 2019. It is important to note that because the SRO Unit was reassigned in 2019 to the Patrol Division there were five additional RTR's that in previous years would have been reported under Support Services, but because of this change in 2019 were reported under the Patrol Umbrella. The Criminal Investigative Division (C.I.D.) submitted one Response to Resistance Reports for 2019, a decrease of three from 2018.

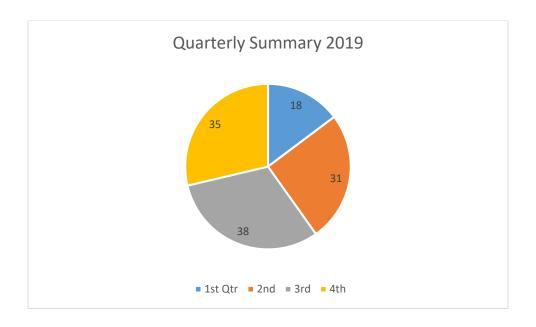
As per Knoxville Police Department General Order 1.6, "Response to Resistance," during the 2019 calendar year any member who applied any type of lethal or less lethal weapon(s) (to include impact weapons and munitions, OC spray and Electronic Control Device) that was actually used (not merely displayed), and/or physical force was applied at the level of empty hand hard or greater, or instances where injury to the subject was visible or apparent, was required to document their actions as well as the subject's precipitating actions, on a Response to Resistance Report.

#### RTR'S IN 2019 DECREASED EVEN THOUGH CALLS FOR SERVICE INCREASED

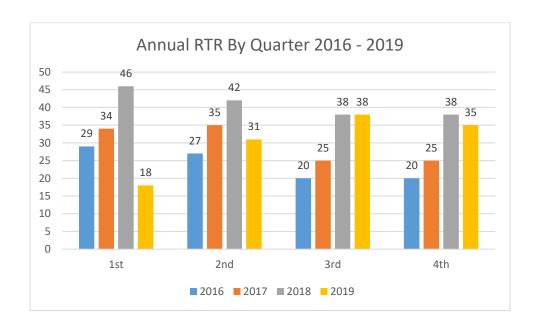
In 2019, the Knoxville Police Department answered 275,121 calls for service compared to 255,173 calls for service in 2018. This is an increase of 19,948 or 7.26% in calls for service, yet both arrests and RTR's showed a decrease in 2019 from 2018.

## 2019 Quarterly Summary

During the 2019 calendar year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter accounted for the highest number of Response to Resistance Reports with thirty eight having been submitted. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was close behind with thirty five reported incidents, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reported thirty one. The 1st quarter reported eighteen incidents.

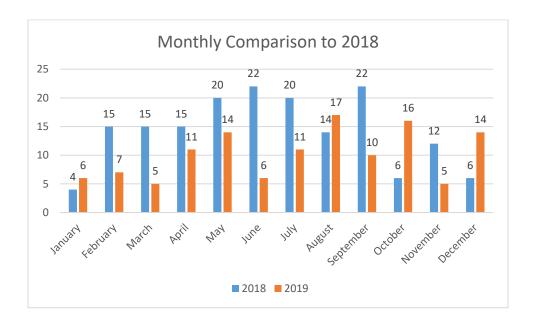


Below is a comparison over the past four years by quarter. While the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter has consistently reflected the highest number of Response to Resistance incidents, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has historically had the fewest incidents



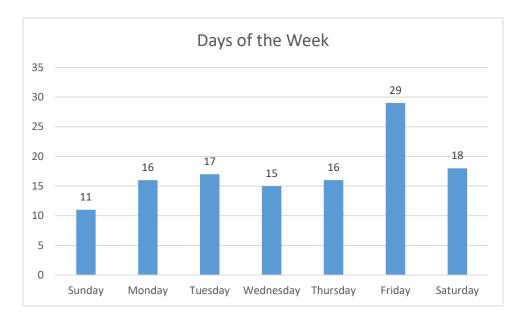
## **2019 Monthly Response to Resistance Reporting**

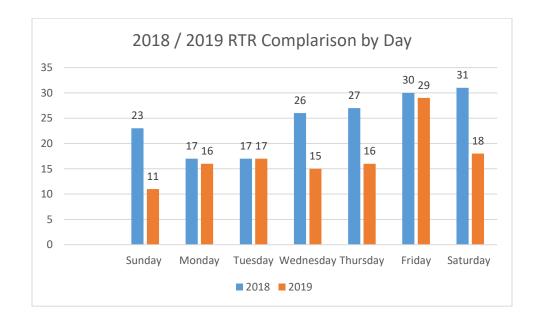
The chart below shows that during the 2019 calendar year, August had the highest number of RTR's with seventeen. October was close behind with sixteen RTR's. In third place both May and December ties with 14 RTR's. In fourth place was April and July with eleven each. September had ten. February had seven. January and June had six. March and November had five.



## 2019 Response to Resistance Reporting by Day of Week

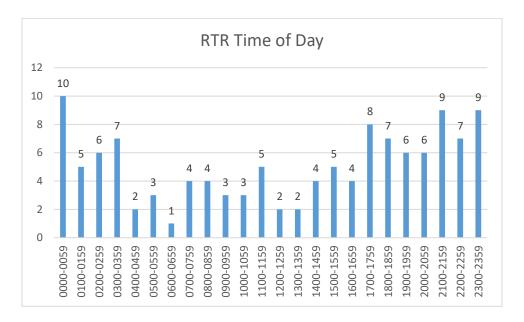
Friday by far had the highest number of RTR's for 2019 with twenty-nine. The second highest number of incidents occurred on Saturday with eighteen. Although one might guess that the weekend days of Friday and Saturday would have more RTR's for 2019 Tuesday followed close behind with seventeen RTR's. Monday and Thursday both had sixteen RTR's. Wednesday had fifteen and Sunday had the lowest with eleven.





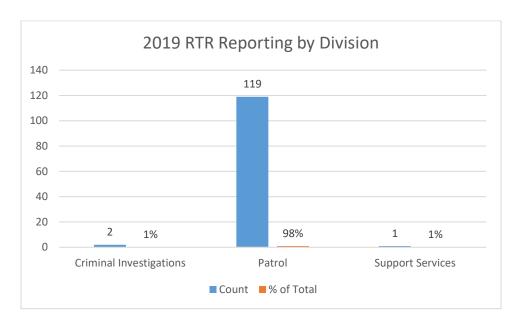
## 2019 Response to Resistance by Time of Day

During 2019, the most active single hour of the day was the hour between 0000 and 0059. This hour accounted for ten RTRs. The most active four hour block of time was the hours between 2100 and 0059. These hours accounted for thirty-five RTRs, or 28 % of the RTRs for the year. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the least active three hours for RTRs were the hours between 0400 and 0659 that accounted for six RTR's. There was not a time frame that didn't have at least one (1) Response to Resistance incidents reported.

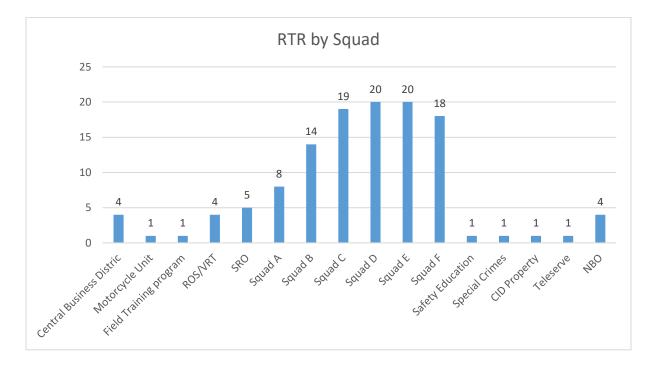


## Response to Resistance Reporting by Division/District/Unit

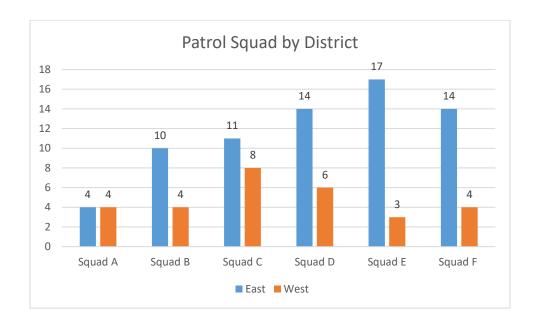
The Patrol Division has historically accounted for the majority of Response to Resistance Reports due to the factors involved in their daily assignments, tasks and duties. The chart below shows that during 2019, the Patrol Division accounted for (119) RTR's, followed by the Support Services Division with one and Criminal Investigative Division with two.



The chart below illustrates the Response to Resistance Reports submitted by Squad / Unit within the Departmental Divisions.



The below chart depicts the number of Response to Resistance Reports submitted by Patrol Squad and District.



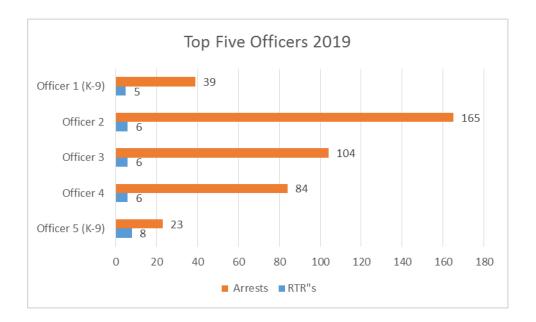
## **2019 SRO Response to Resistance Overview**

School Resource Officers reported Six (6) RTR's in performance of their assigned duties during 2019. All (6) six responses involved a juvenile subject. In all six RTR's neither the subject nor the officer was reported to have any injuries. It should be recognized that School Resource Officers may be required to respond to resistance while taking part in secondary assignments or duties not associated with their responsibilities at a school. Only those responses to resistance that were the direct result of their SRO assignment are represented in this section.



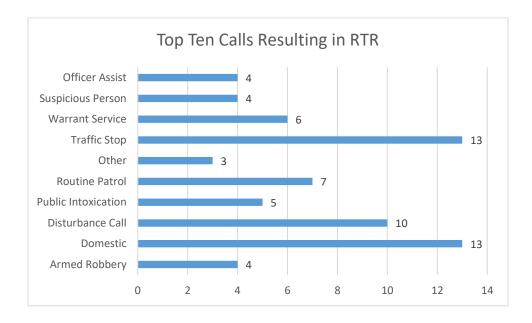
## **Officers Documenting Response to Resistance During 2019**

During 2019 there were a total of 129 Officers that utilized 35 types of documentable force a total of 295 times. Multiple Officers may have employed several types of force on an individual subject. These figures do not capture witnessing Officers that may have observed the force response, but did not engage. The chart below statistically depicts the top (5) officers who employed 25% of force responses in 2019. All of the Officers are assigned to the Patrol Division, working Evening and Night Shifts. Two of the Officers were K-9 Officers.



### **Precipitating Factors to the Force Response**

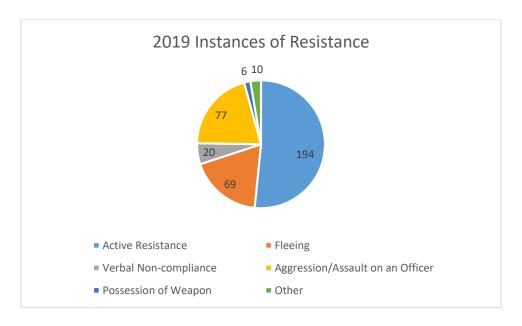
There was a wide variety of factors that caused the application of force by officers in 2019. There were forty-seven different types of calls for service that were being rendered when officers responded with force. The variety of calls demonstrates that any call has the potential to be dangerous. Officers routinely respond to situations and calls without knowing complete facts and circumstances of those calls they are going to. Law enforcement officers approach unknown offenders on traffic stops and often respond to calls equipped with limited information provided by a biased or uninformed third party. Frequently, the details of most calls are not confirmed until an officer(s) has been on scene for an extended period of time or received information first hand.



Domestic disputes, disturbance calls, warrant service, traffic stops, and routine patrol were the top police activities that resulted in the most responses to resistance in 2019.

### Types of Resistance Used by Subjects

Those who resisted the police chose a wide array of non-compliant behaviors and actions that required officers to respond. It is important to note, that many of the reported incidents involved several types of resistance which may have resulted in multiple types of responses by officers. In total, there were 61 types of resistance and 376 instances of those types used by subjects that required a response in 2019.



The most prominent type of resistance utilized by arrestees was active resistance which accounted for 52 % of all resistance. In 2018 it accounted for almost the same percentage where it was 54%. This type of active, physical resistance included wrestling or pulling away from an officer to avoid being handcuffed and/or to evade arrest. Included in this category are those instances where subjects refused to exit a vehicle upon an officer's command and the officer was required to forcibly extract the subject. It is important to remember that physical resistance can continue after restraints are applied.

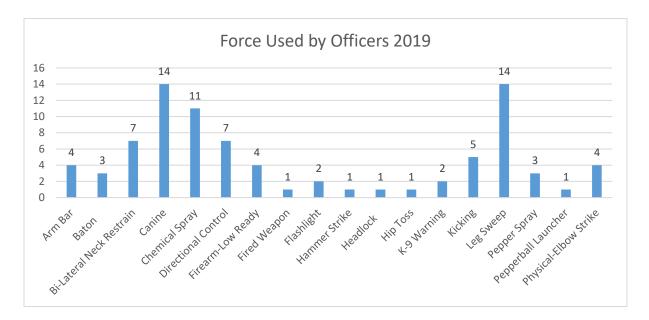
The second most prevalent type of resistance was aggression/assault on officers, which accounted for 20 % of resistance used. Once again this mirrored 2018 where the percentage was 21%. Multiple assaults or assault attempts can be employed during a single response to

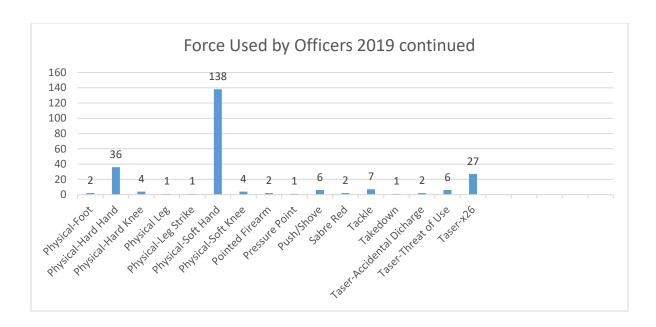
resistance scenario. For instance, a suspect may choose to spit, punch and kick during their attempt to resist arrest. Officers will document all acts of violence employed by the suspect on the Response to Resistance report.

The third most prevalent type of resistance used by subjects in 2019 was fleeing which accounted for 18% of resistance. Fleeing encompasses running or attempting to run or get away which also includes attempted flight by the subject in a vehicle.

### **Response Types Used by Police Officers**

In 2019, officers administered 34 different types of force three hundred twenty five times. The most prominent type of force used by Knoxville Officers in 2019 was soft hand techniques which accounted for 42 % of all responses. In 2018 it was 43%. Soft hand techniques include pain compliance techniques, arm bars, and "come-along" holds. Empty-hand (physical) hard techniques were the second most frequent type of force and accounted for 11% of all responses to resistance. Empty hand hard techniques are represented by strikes, kicks, and movements that cause the assailant to impact the ground. The number of officers using soft hand techniques decreased from (222) in 2018 to (138) in 2019. Officers that used empty hand hard techniques decreased from (64) in 2018 to (36) in 2019. The following graphs give a reflection of the types of force used.



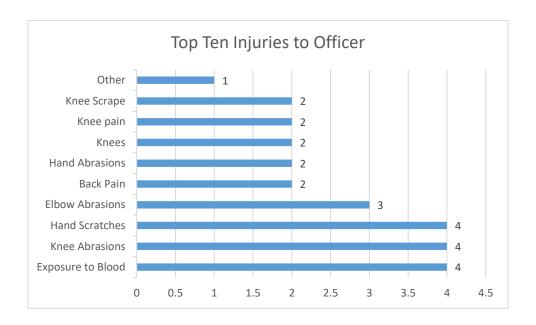


Although they are similar in terms of force continuum, the Taser and pepper spray are not included in the empty-hand hard figures. In 2019, the Taser was deployed (27) times, down from (44) times in 2018. Pepper spray (Chemical spray) was deployed (14) times which is down (7) from 2018, when it was deployed 21 times.

### **Injuries to Officers**

It should be recognized that there is a possibility of injury to officers as they respond to resistance and it is not possible to anticipate every situation that they may face in order to prevent injury. However, officers receive defensive tactics training annually in order to minimize the possibility of injury to themselves and the resisting subject(s). This training is continually updated based upon current trends, research and new information.

During 2019, (26) officers reported (55) types of injuries. The types of injuries are depicted in the chart below:



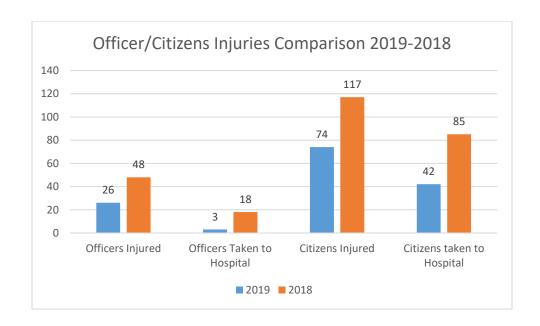
As can be seen above, the noted injuries are largely minor in nature, which again is a direct result of defensive tactics and tactical training received by officers throughout their careers. This is not to minimize the fact that a serious injury can occur at any time regardless of the type and amount of training received as police work is inherently dangerous and the potential for responding to a volatile situation is always a factor. In 2019, injuries to the knees and hands were the most common, along with exposure to blood. Knee injuries, which included more

than knee abrasions, accounted for 23% of the injuries incurred while responding to resistance in 2019. The use of strikes other than those involving the fists has been a continued focus of defensive tactics training to reduce the risk of hand injuries.

During the course of the year, 122 Response to Resistance incidents occurred where (26) Officers were injured. (3) Officers were taken to a medical facility for treatment. During these incidents, there were (74) citizens injured and (42) were taken to a hospital.

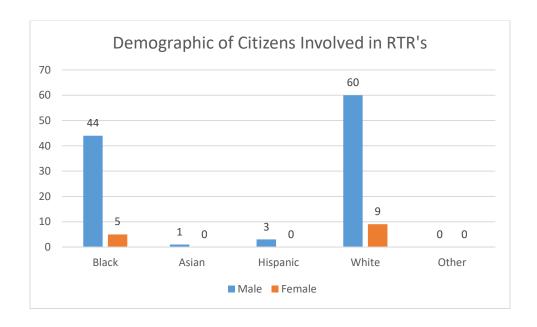
In 2018 (48) Officers were injured. (18) Officers were taken to hospital. In 2018 (117) citizens were injured and (85) were taken to the hospital.

#### 2019 shows a significant decrease in injuries to both Officers and Citizens.

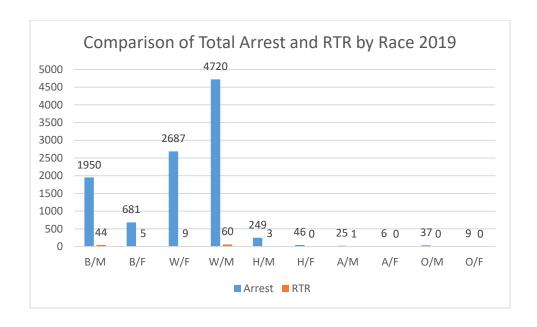


### **Response to Resistance by Subject**

The majority of persons upon whom police responded to resistance with force in 2019 were white males (49%) followed by black males (36%). Black females accounted for (4%) and white females accounted for (7%) There were no Hispanic females involved in responses to resistance and only (3) Hispanic males that accounted for (2%). In 2019 there was (1) Asian male involved in a RTR whereas in 2018 this was (0).



White males represented the majority of those who resisted officers with (60) RTRs a decrease of (22) compared to 2018. There was a decrease of (12) RTRs for black males involved in resistance, while the number of black females involved in resistance decreased by 7 from 2018. There was a decrease of (10) RTRs in the white female category. The number of Hispanic males involved in resistance stayed the same at (3).



During 2019, there were 1950 black males arrested compared to 4720 white males. Response to resistance reports were required for (2.2%) of the arrests involving black males compared to (1.2%) involving white males. In comparison, 681 black females were arrested compared to 2687 white females. Response to resistance reports reflect (0.7%) of black female arrests, compared to (0.6%) of white females arrested. Although not included in the 2018 comparison, this year for 2019, Hispanic arrests and RTR's comparisons have been included. In 2019 there were 249 Hispanic males arrested. Response to resistance reports were required in (1.2%) of arrests with Hispanic males. (46) Hispanic females were arrested in 2019. Response for resistance reports were required in none of those arrests, (0%). Asian males' accounted for (25) arrests in 2019 and response to resistance reports were required in one of those arrests. (6) Asian females were arrested in 2019 and no response to resistance reports were required.

Note: In compiling arrest data it is important to note that this is a "fluid" number and changes as the next year progresses. The reason for this is that as the months pass, expungements are filed into the system lowering the number of arrests for previous year. Therefore numbers shown in January of a year, for the previous year, usually will not be the same as if a request for arrests was tallied in July.

#### Firearms Use in 2019

Patrol officers discharged their weapons eleven times outside of training in 2019. Eight incidents involved the approved use of the firearm to destroy an animal. There were three officer involved shootings. This is down from five Officer involved shootings in 2018.

## **Policy and Practice**

There were no significant policy changes to the Response to Resistance policy in 2019. At the time of this report there have been future minor changes recommended to the use of force policy and the code of conduct, but have not been finalized at this point. These changes are minor and the Knoxville Police Department is already on tract with accepted national recommended guidelines in this area.

### **Recommendations Based Upon 2019 Analysis**

As we must continue to be innovative in policy, training and practice when considering response to resistance, the following are recommendations based upon current trends and information contained in this analysis:

- It is recommended that the "BI-Lateral Neck Restraint/Shoulder Pins" be taken out of the "Use of Force Continuum".
- ➤ It is recommended that the following wording be added into the "Use of Force Policy." Employees who are present in a situation and who reasonably believe an officer is using, or about to use, force in violation of this policy, have a duty to intervene the unlawful or inappropriate action. Failure to do so is a violation of the Code of Conduct 1.24.

#### The same recommendations for 2018 continue to be of value for 2019

- Continued focus and training on de-escalation tactics in order to avoid the need to respond to resistance is strongly recommended. Continued improvement of communication skills will lead to legitimacy in the community and reinforce the practice of procedural justice.
- A continued focus on "officer wellness" is also recommended to ensure that officers have the maximum potential to make critical decisions and optimal physical performance when required to respond to resistance.
- Continued expansion of CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) for officers assigned to Patrol and Investigative duties would be beneficial when engaged with the growing segment of society that struggles with mental health issues and comes into contact with the criminal justice system. In 2018 Officers received 3 days of CIT Training during In-Service

Training. It should also be noted all officers receive basic CIT Training in Academy as a recruit.

- While the Taser is the less lethal weapon most often chosen by officers to use, it should be noted that chemical spray has a slightly higher effectiveness rate, which does not require medical attention for probe removal and will shorten the amount of time officers will spend out of service. Again this year, chemical spray continued to be underutilized. Chemical spray (pepper spray) was used a total of fourteen (14) times and was effective around 64%-67% of the time. It should be noted in 2019 Officers were given the option to transition over to a gel spray which has a more unobtrusive affect. The Taser was effective about 52% of the time when deployed in 2019. Although officers are trained to use this as a tool to use when confronted with aggressive suspect(s), they are not using it to its potential.
- Continue to offer Incentives to assist officers in developing their defensive tactics skills. The Training Division has developed the defensive tactic incentive program for participants to earn comp time by participating in these training sessions which will help officers to develop and maintain their skills set. The course will teach empty and hard hand techniques, punches, strikes and other force options.