



The Holden Arboretum Police Department  
9500A Sperry Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Sean O'Neil  
Chief of Police  
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Date: 27 January 2021  
To: Jill Koski, CEO  
Re: annual review of Use of Force incidents and Traffic Stops

As a part of our ongoing efforts to become a State certified police department through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services the Holden Arboretum Police Department is required to adhere to certain standards as prescribed by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. Two of these standards are an annual review and report on our Use of Force incidents and Traffic Stops. I have completed both reviews for the calendar year 2020 and my reports are attached below for your information.

#### Use of Force

Prior to my arrival as the new Chief of Police for the Holden Arboretum Police Department, there had not been any review or updating to the department's Use of Force policy in over 14 years (last revision was May of 2005). It was also discovered that during those 14+ years there was not a system in place for reporting and tracking Use of Force incidents involving Holden Arboretum Police Officers. With that in mind a new Use of Force policy and procedures were developed and put into place in February of 2020. All officers were required to read, review and sign for the new policies/procedures and all officers were required to take a written test and pass with a minimal 80% score, which all did.

For the calendar year 2020 the department had just one Use of Force incident. This incident occurred on 03 August at approximately 2210 hours involving Officer Piotrowski and Officer Atkinson. Officers were forced to use soft-empty hand techniques (grabbing the back and arm) on a male they had lawfully detained and was attempting to unlawfully flee the scene. Their soft-empty hand techniques were successful in gaining control of the male and there were not any further incidents after that. No injuries were reported by the detained male or either officer. Prior to using force on the detained male, Officer Piotrowski made numerous attempts to de-escalate the situation prior to going hands on and demonstrated great restraint and patience in dealing with the uncooperative and belligerent male; Officer Piotrowski subsequently received a commendation for his efforts. A review of both officer's statements, the incident report, Use of Force report, and body camera footage was conducted and everything indicated that the officers had acted within the scope of HAPD's Use of Force policy and that the force used to subdue the fleeing male was justified. An after-review of the incident was conducted with both officers as well.

Nothing from the above Use of Force incident, or any other incident in 2020, indicated the need any remedial officer training or Use of Force training for any HAPD Officers. As a matter of best practice, de-escalation training and a Use of Force/Subject control training was provided in the Fall of 2020. It is the department's intent to continue said training on an annual basis to keep in line with these standard best practices. Additional training related to Use of Force and de-escalation techniques will also be looked at for all officers.

There were zero complaints with regards to Use of Force incidents involving HAPD Officers for all of 2020.

#### Traffic Stops

Like Use of Force, prior to my arrival there were not any mechanisms in place for the tracking/review of officer traffic stops, and there had not been any review or updating of the department's Traffic Enforcement policies/procedures since May of 2005. Review of the policies/procedures in place also showed they were vague at best and did not address critical areas such as emergency vehicle operation, vehicle pursuits and basic direction and control procedures. Policies and procedures for these areas were developed and released in



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June and October of 2020, at which time the department began tracking of all traffic stops conducted by HAPD Officers. Because these policies/procedures were not in place prior to such time and data, we were only able to track and log traffic stops conducted after July 31, 2020.

Bearing that in mind, for the period of August through December 2020 there were 13 reported traffic stops. Of those 13 stops...

8 were for violations along the portion of Sperry Road controlled by HF&G

3 for speeding

4 for stop sign violation

1 for suspicious vehicle leaving restricted Arboretum service road

4 were for violations along the portion of Kirtland-Chardon road that the City of Kirtland has given us authorization to conduct traffic enforcement

2 for speed (over 45 on 35mph road)

2 for stop sign violation

1 was for a violation along Mitchell Mills Road

unauthorized golf cart without proper lighting on roadway at night

Of those 13 stops only one resulted in an actual traffic citation being issued. For the remaining stops all were given a verbal warning except for one that was issued a written warning.

A breakdown by gender/race of the subjects stopped revealed the following.

11 of the 13 stops were for operators identified as "white" on their issued license (85%), the other 2 "black" (15%).

8 of the 13 stops were for operators identified as "male" on their issued license, the remainder "female"

There were zero complaints with regards to traffic stops initiated by HAPD Officers for all of 2020.

A digital copy of this annual review/report will be kept on file with the HAPD computer files.