

A close-up photograph of a police officer's uniform. The officer is wearing a dark blue jacket with a white braided cord (epaulettes) on the shoulder. A silver badge is pinned to the chest, and a patch is visible on the sleeve. The patch features a red hand holding a torch, with the text "FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE" and "VENICE OF AMERICA FLORIDA".

FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

2021



PATRICK LYNN
CHIEF OF POLICE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the women and men, sworn and professional, of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Response to Resistance Report.

As your Chief of Police, I am excited by the opportunities we face as a community and invite our Neighbors to participate in our efforts to keep our city safe.

Fort Lauderdale is the largest city in Broward County and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the State of Florida. Here at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, we are committed to building community, reducing crime, and improving the quality of life for our neighbors and visitors.

We look forward to serving you with respect, integrity, and courage.

Patrick Lynn
Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



It is the goal of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department to build community and strengthen partnerships with our neighbors to reduce crime and nuisances. It is also the Department's mission to provide a safe and orderly environment in the City through professionalism, dedication, and concern for individual dignity. At times, in the course of performing their duties, officers may encounter individuals who need to be detained for investigation or require arrest for a law violation. During these situations, a police officer may encounter resistance ranging from non-compliance to contentious and aggressive behavior.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a residential population of over 182,000 and attracts more than 12 million visitors every year. These numbers continue to grow as the city continues to host popular events such as the Tortuga Music Festival, Riptide Music Festival, and Pride Fort Lauderdale on the Beach.

In 2020 a novel coronavirus, Covid-19, not only severely affected our city but also the entire world. According to the World Health Organization, there have been over 81 million confirmed cases and almost one million deaths in the U.S. In Broward County alone, over 614,000 cases have been confirmed and almost 6,000 people have died.¹



In response to the pandemic, the City of Fort Lauderdale issued an emergency declaration in March 2020 virtually closing all businesses and mandating residents to stay home. The pandemic significantly affected police operations and community engagement initiatives, and the effects continued throughout 2021 even after restrictions were lifted.

This report has been produced in an effort to build trust and provide transparency regarding the activities of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. It outlines the number of incidents involving officers responding to resistance. It includes the responses to resistance and their effectiveness, criminal charges associated and much more.

In 2021, the Office of Internal Affairs conducted an administrative review of 635 response to resistance offense/incident reports compared to 692 reports reviewed in 2020. The decrease of incident reports reviewed is attributed to the continuing effects of the pandemic, which caused a decrease in arrests (-12%). Calls for service increased by 7% and Baker Acts also increased by 7%. DUI arrests increased from 173 in 2020 to 189 in 2021 (9%).

There was one (1) police-involved shooting during the calendar year. This incident is currently under review by the State Attorney's Office (an administrative review cannot take place until the State Attorney's Office issues a finding). Two (2) response to resistance incidents are currently under investigation; one case is under review by the State Attorney's Office and the second case is under review by the Office of Internal Affairs.

Introduction

The information presented in this report is intended to provide a summary of the types of incidents in which officers encountered resistance and their responses. Sworn staff has received extensive in-service training focused on de-escalation, Fair and Impartial Policing, Crisis Intervention (CIT), and Procedural Justice and the Art of Connection. As of December 31, 2021, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department has trained over 430 employees, including sworn and professional staff, in Procedural Justice and the Art of Connecting. Procedural justice refers to the idea of fairness in the processes and actions police take when interacting with members of the community. There are four central components:

- Treat others with respect and dignity
- Give a voice
- Be neutral and transparent as a decision-maker
- Convey trustworthy motives as a decision-maker

Youth focus groups continue to be an integral part of the Department's community outreach efforts. The purpose of the focus groups is to address the issue of overrepresentation of minority youth in Florida's juvenile justice system. They also provide Department staff a better understanding of the many variables to consider during contact with an individual.

Body worn cameras are in use to increase the ability of officers to effectively enforce the law, obtain evidence for criminal prosecutions, and document interactions with the public. The cameras increase departmental transparency and improve conduct by all parties during police/public interactions.

In 2021, calls for service (911 and Non-911) increased to a total of 179,976, and the Office of Internal Affairs conducted 635 administrative reviews of response to resistance incidents. These incidents accounted for 0.4% of all calls for service. In comparison, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported 2% of individuals who had contact with police in the U.S. experienced use of force².

2. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/contacts-between-police-and-public-2018-statistical-tables>



2021 AT-A-GLANCE

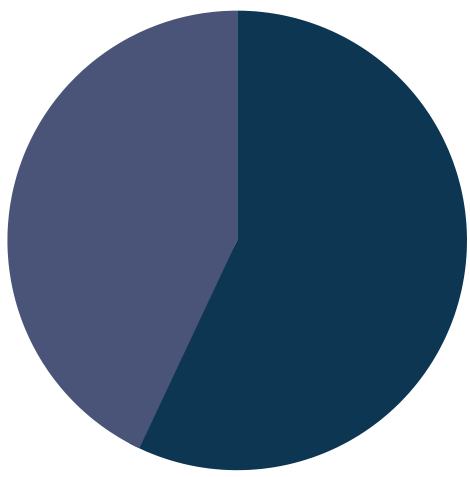
179,976
 Calls for Service
 911 & Non-Emergency

9,101
 Traffic Stops

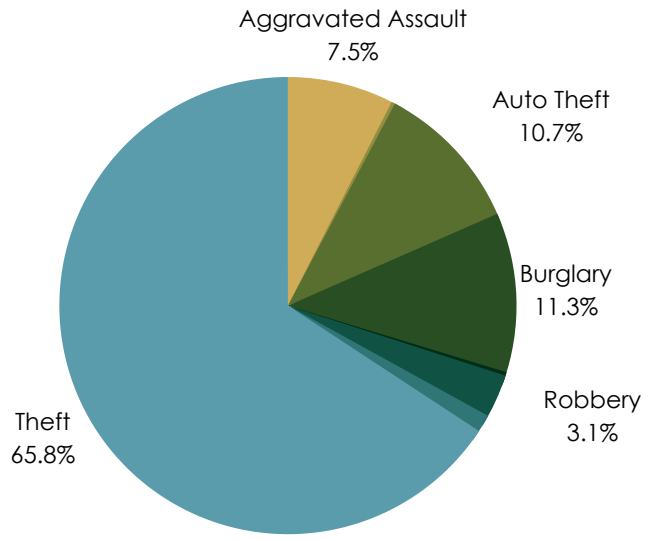
3,057
 Arrests³

1,604
 Baker Acts

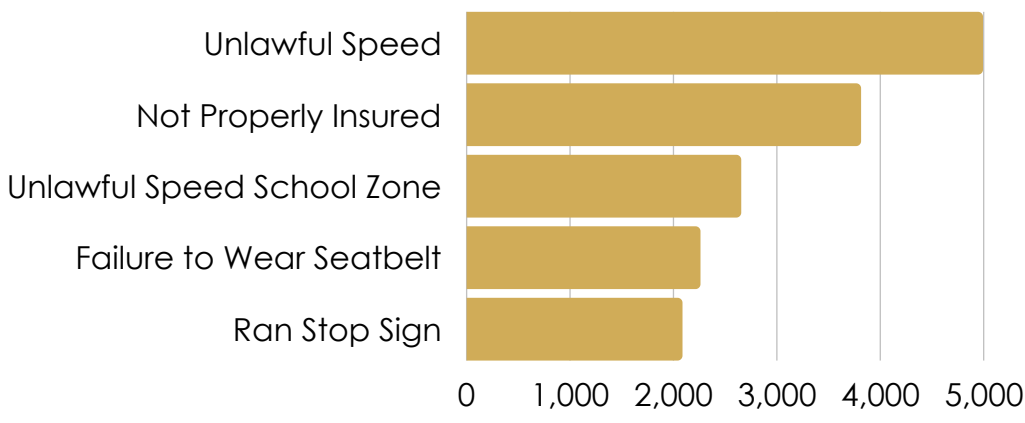
189
 DUI Arrests



Arrest Types



Part 1 Crimes



32,964
Citations

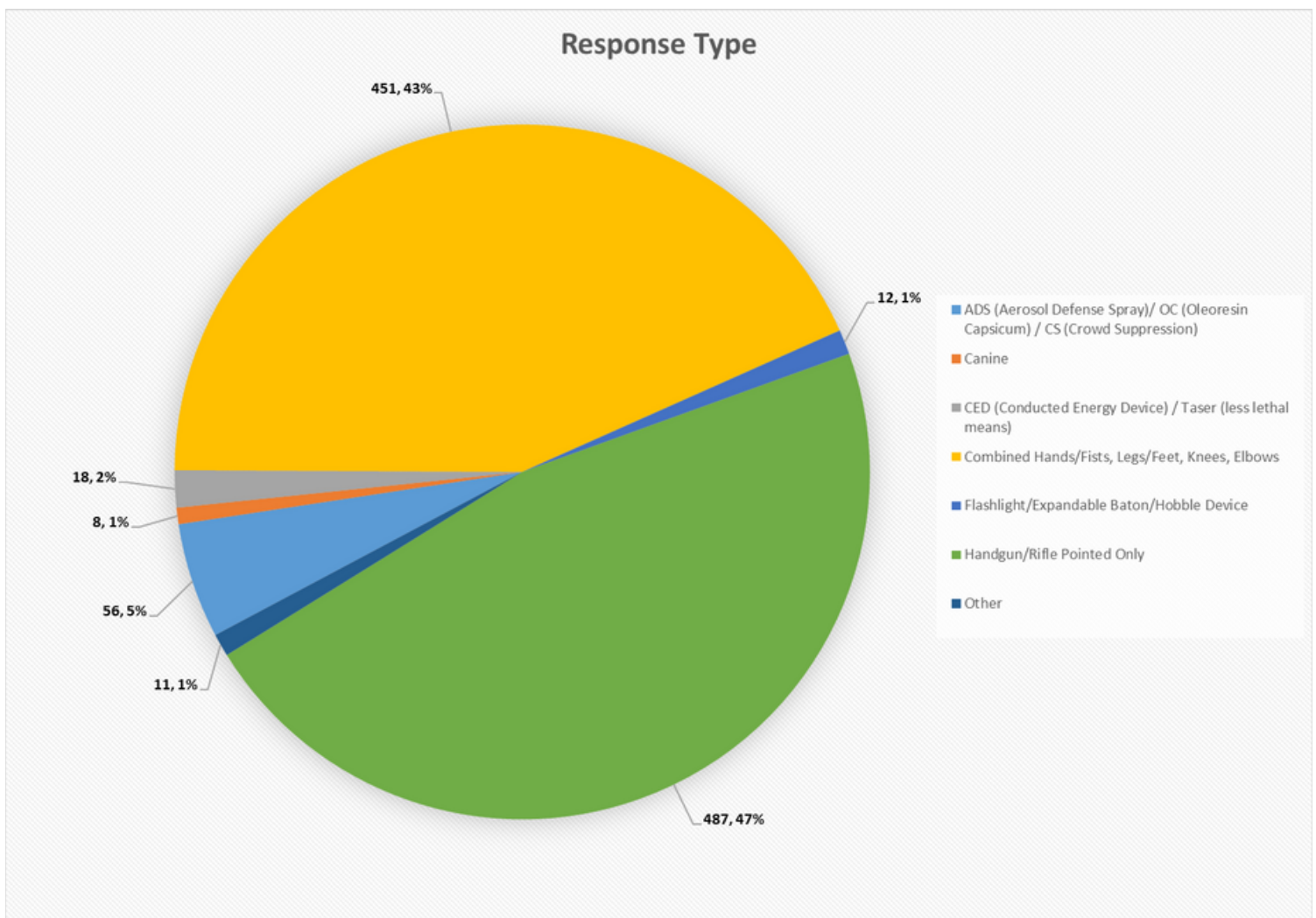
³. Arrests total does not include notice to appear, released on recognizance, and summons.

Utilized Responses

When an officer encounters a situation in which an individual may bring harm to the officer, themselves, or others, the officer may have to use a firearm (handgun/rifle) to bring the subject under control; however, the firearm is pointed only. This type of response was used in 47% of responses reflecting a decrease of 32% from 2020.

A total of 1,043 responses were used by officers when resistance was encountered. The response total decreased 26% from 2020. Hands, fists, legs, feet, knees, or elbows accounted for almost 43% of the responses used throughout 2021.

The crime rate ⁴for the City of Fort Lauderdale slightly increased to 474.4 per 10,000 people from 465.8 per 10,000 people, and the violent crime rate ⁴ increased by 9% from 2020. Homicides decreased from 38 in 2020 to 26 in 2021 and aggravated assaults increased by 21%, from 546 to 658.

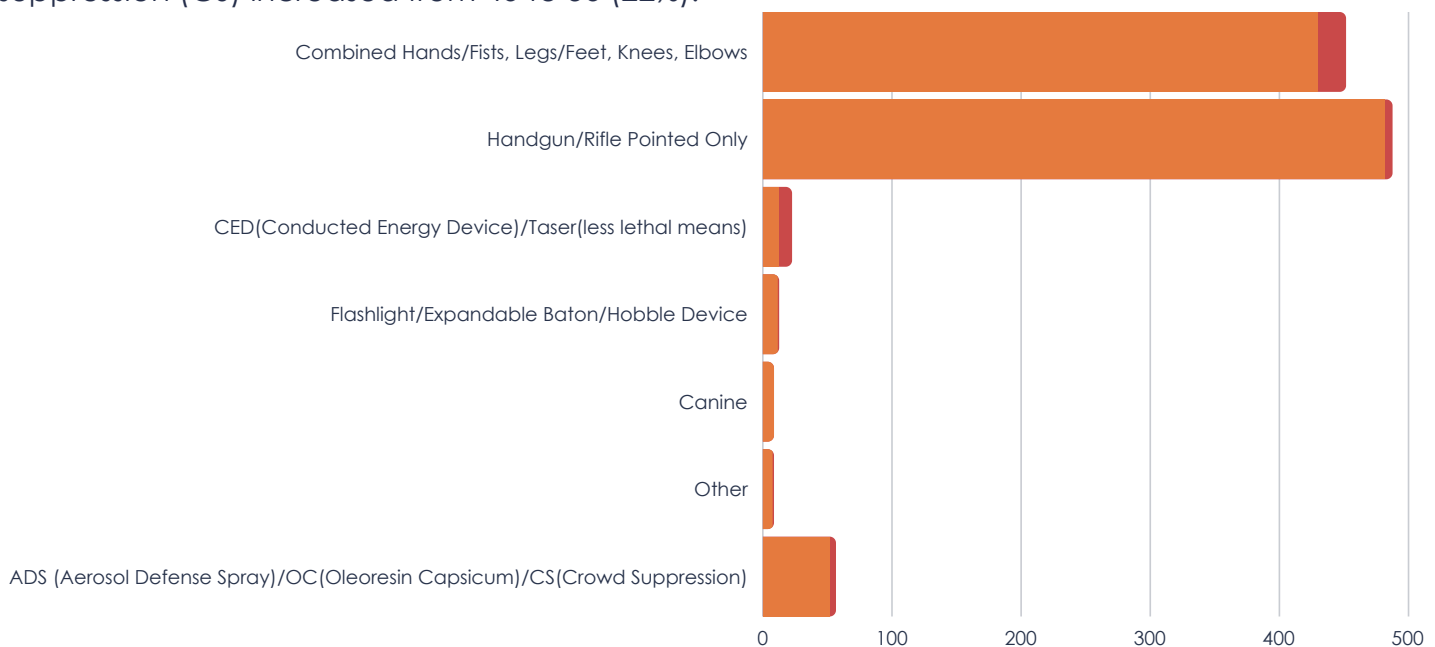


4. Totals based on Records Management System data.

Response to Resistance Efficacy

Throughout the course of an officer's duties, resistance may be encountered in many forms from verbal to physical. While officers are trained to de-escalate these types of situations, they may from time to time need to utilize one or more of the responses mentioned. The use of hands/fists, legs/feet, elbows or knees, proved effective in bringing the subject under control 95% of the time. A total of 487 responses involved the use of a pointed handgun/rifle, which proved effective 97% of the time without the need for additional responses.

Additionally, there was a significant decrease in the use of Conducted Energy Devices (CED)/Taser. When compared to 2020 totals, there was a 38% decrease in the use of this type of response. The use of aerosol defense spray (ADS), oleoresin capsicum (OC) and/or crowd suppression (CS) increased from 46 to 56 (22%).



Method	Effective	Non-Effective
Combined Hands/Fists, Legs/Feet, Knees, Elbows	429	22
Handgun/Rifle Pointed Only	481	6
CED (Conducted Energy Device)/Taser	12	10
Flashlight/Expandable Baton/Hobble Device	11	1
Canine	8	0
Other	7	1
ADS(aerosol defense spray)/OC (Oleoresin Capsicum)	51	5

Citizen Resistance

When considering response to resistance, it is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department officers only respond to the level of resistance with a level of response necessary to effect lawful objectives. Three factors are used to determine if the response level is objectively reasonable:

1. How serious is the suspected offense?
2. Is there a physical threat to the officer or anyone else?
3. Is the individual actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight?

In 2021, the top reason for response was due to a subject's physical resistance encountered by the officer. Thirty eight percent (38%) of subjects physically resisted the officer while suspected felons made up 24% of subjects. Thirty two of the subjects were suspected to have a weapon that could bring harm to the officer or others.

Black subjects made up 68% of subjects that acted with resistance while white subjects made up 22%. Only 4% of subjects were identified as Hispanic.

Males made up 75% while females made up 19%. Subjects between the ages of 25-34 made up the largest percentage (37%) of subjects that displayed some sort of resistance.

Citizen Resistance By Race

	Unknown	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Grand Total
Active Physical	1	0	130	15	0	57	203
Aggravated Physical	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Aggressive Physical	0	0	20	5	0	11	36
Officer Safety	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Passive Physical	1	0	24	2	0	6	33
Presence	0	0	4	2	0	4	10
Suspected Felon	2	0	149	2	1	23	177
Suspected Weapon	0	0	22	0	1	9	32
Unknown	33	1	142	4	0	50	230
Grand Total	37	1	495	30	2	160	725

Citizen Resistance By Sex/Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total
Active Physical	32	170	1	203
Aggravated Physical	1	2	0	3
Aggressive Physical	12	24	0	36
Officer Safety	0	1	0	1
Passive Physical	3	28	2	33
Presence	4	6	0	10
Suspected Felon	29	145	3	177
Suspected Weapon	1	31	0	32
Unknown	59	139	32	230
Grand Total	141	546	38	725

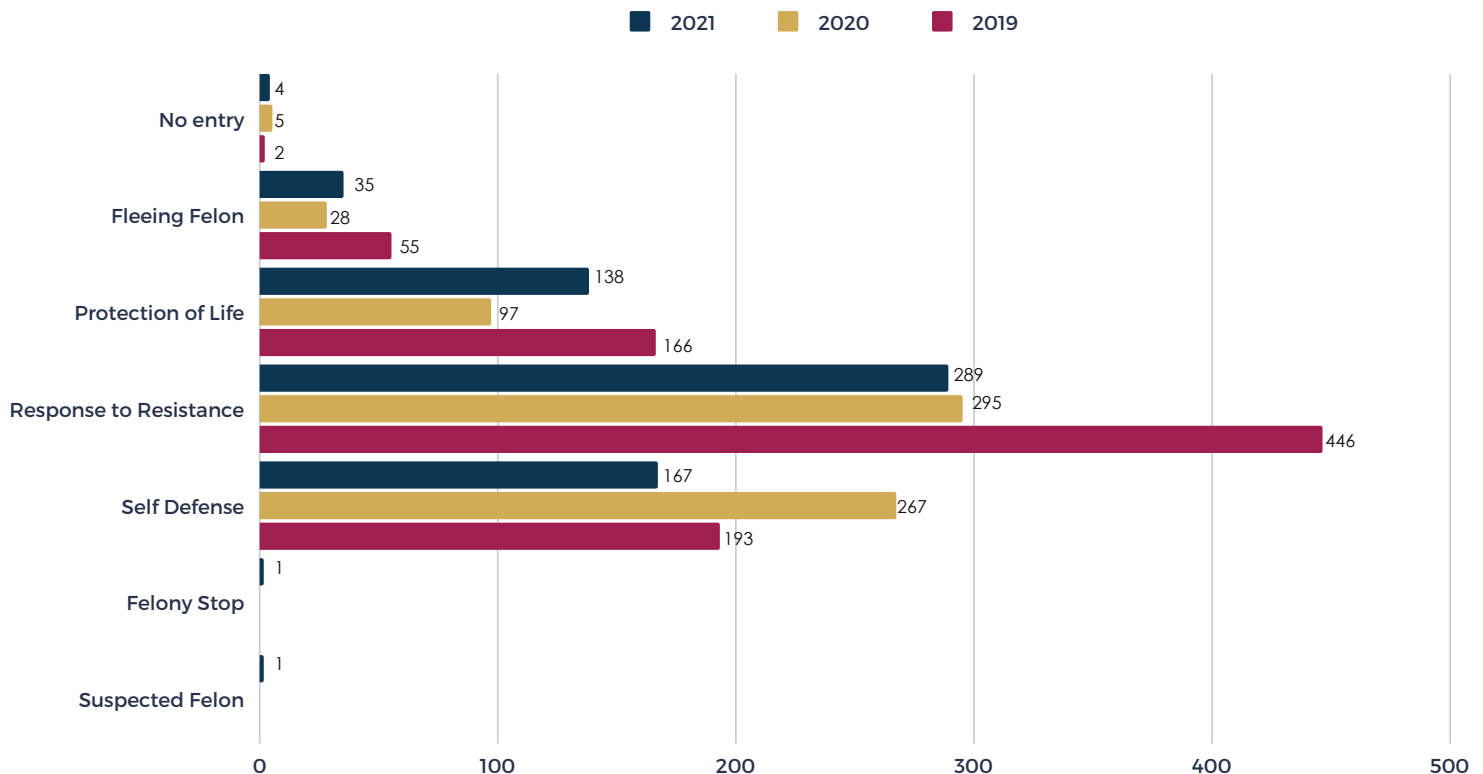
Citizen Resistance By Age

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	NA
Active Physical	6	44	82	32	18	15	1	5
Aggravated Physical	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Aggressive Physical	4	4	16	4	2	3	1	2
Officer Safety	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Passive Physical	0	6	10	10	3	3	0	1
Presence	0	1	3	2	2	0	1	1
Suspected Felon	10	36	66	36	21	5	0	3
Suspected Weapon	2	8	11	7	4	0	0	0
Unknown	18	34	70	44	16	7	1	40
Grand Total	40	135	259	135	66	34	4	52

Reason for Response

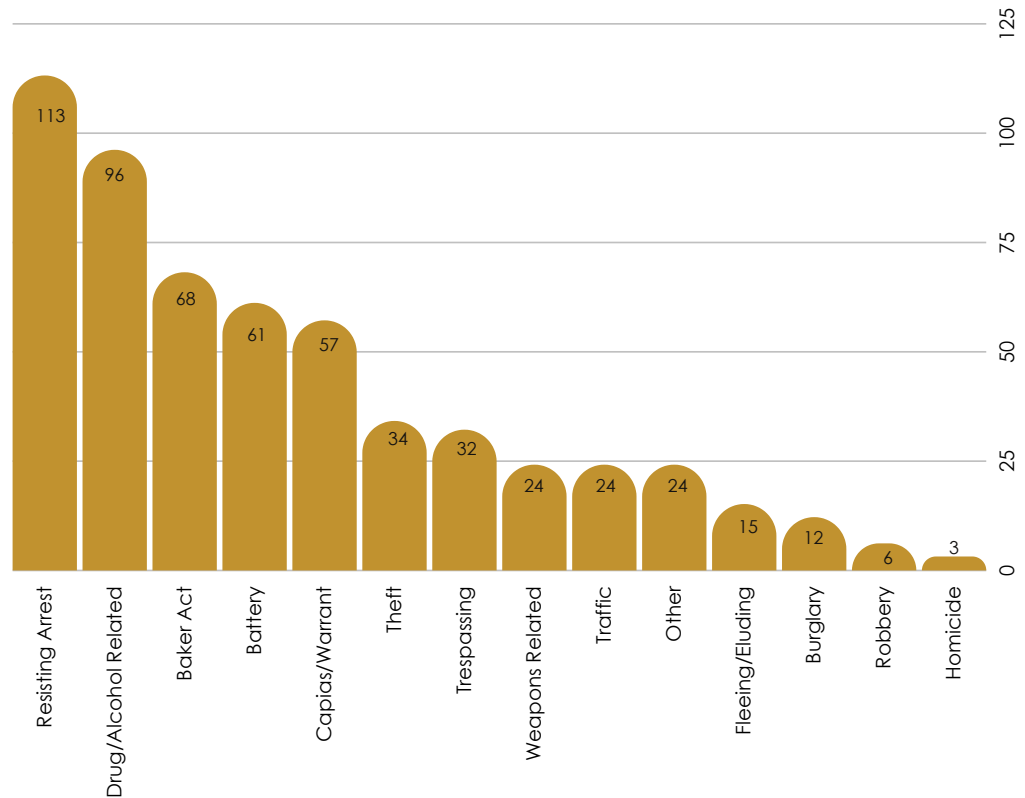
In 2020, the top reason for response was due to a subject's resistance encountered by the officer making up 43% (295) of incidents. In 2021, this remained the top reason for a response to resistance, making up 46% of incidents. In 22% (138) of incidents, a threat to life (protection of life) necessitated the use of an appropriate level of force. These types of incidents increased from 97 in 2020 to 138 in 2021 (43% increase).

A total of 35 incidents (6%) were attributed to responses to suspected felons attempting to evade arrest by flight. In 167 incidents (26%), the officer's response was in self-defense. The number of incidents in which self-defense was the reason for an officer's response decreased from 267 in 2020 to 167 in 2021.



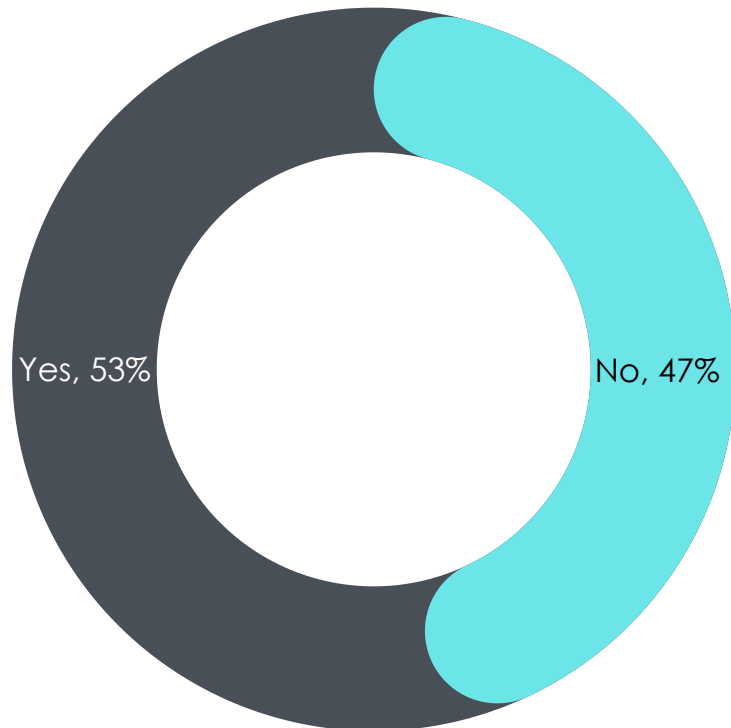
Charges Against Citizens

The graph illustrates the charges filed for the 635 response to resistance incidents generated by officers in 2021. In many of the incidents, multiple charges applied to the individual, while in some, charges were not filed. The most frequent charge was resisting arrest making up 19.8% of all the charges. In 2020, almost ten percent of charges were drug related; however, in 2021 this percentage increased to 17%. Baker acts accounted for almost 12% of incidents.



Citizen Arrested in Conjunction with Response to Resistance

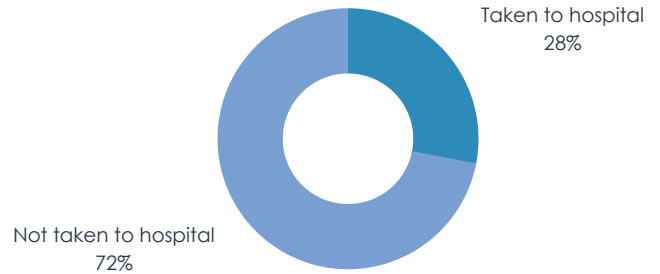
Subjects were arrested in conjunction with the use of force in 339 incidents (53%) while the remaining incidents (296) did not yield an arrest. In these cases, the officer handled the incident with a sense of leniency towards the subject.



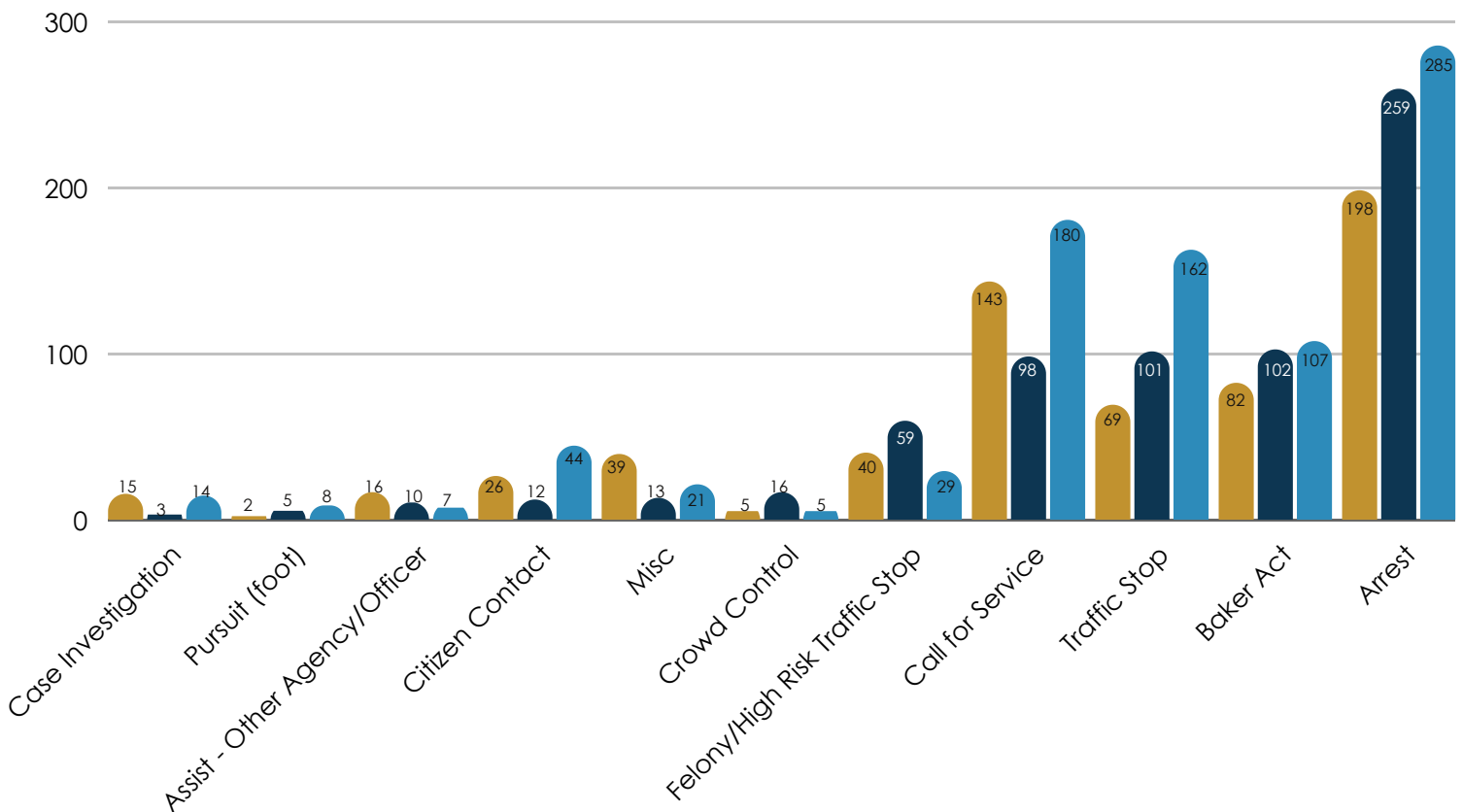
Services Rendered & Injuries

In 178 incidents, the subject was taken to the hospital in conjunction with the response to resistance; however, only 49 incidents reported the subject actually injured during the response. Twenty-four incidents reported officers being injured in conjunction with response to resistance, and in 3 incidents, the officer was taken to a hospital.

Subject taken to hospital



Services being rendered at the time of the response to resistance are illustrated in the graph below. An arrest being made in 31% of the incidents required a response to resistance. In these incidents, the individual displayed a level of resistance during the arrest causing the officer to use an appropriate level of force. In 23% of the incidents, the officer(s) was responding to a call for service when resistance was encountered from an involved individual. Baker acts accounted for 13% of the services being provided when a response to resistance was utilized. Traffic stops, citizen contacts, and felony stops made up 11%, 4%, and 6%, respectively. Miscellaneous responses included searches, pursuits, crowd control, injury preventions, assisting other agencies, and unknown services, which made up a combined 6%.



Calls for Service

The City of Fort Lauderdale is divided into three police districts (1,2,3). According to 2020 population estimates, District 1 houses the largest population, making up 40% of the city's population and made up the highest percentage of calls for service in 2021, while District 3 houses 37% and District 2 houses 23% of the population. District 2 houses the lowest population and accounts for the lowest percentage of calls for service (911 and non-911) within the city's boundary (Fig. 1). The highest density of calls originate in the Downtown Fort Lauderdale area (located in District 3). The areas that do not display any color do not mean that calls for service were not received from these areas; however, the calls for service received from these areas were not statistically significant compared to the rest of the city.

In Figure 2, the density of response to resistance shares similar characteristics to that of calls for service density in Figure 1. A high density of incidents requiring responses to resistance occurred in the downtown area mainly along the areas that host the city's nightlife (clubs and bars). As mentioned above, District 2 has the lowest overall calls for service; however, these calls are concentrated along the southern end of the district (see Fig. 1). When compared to the response to resistance density (Fig. 2), a similarity can be seen between the two maps and the location of the densities.

Fig. 1

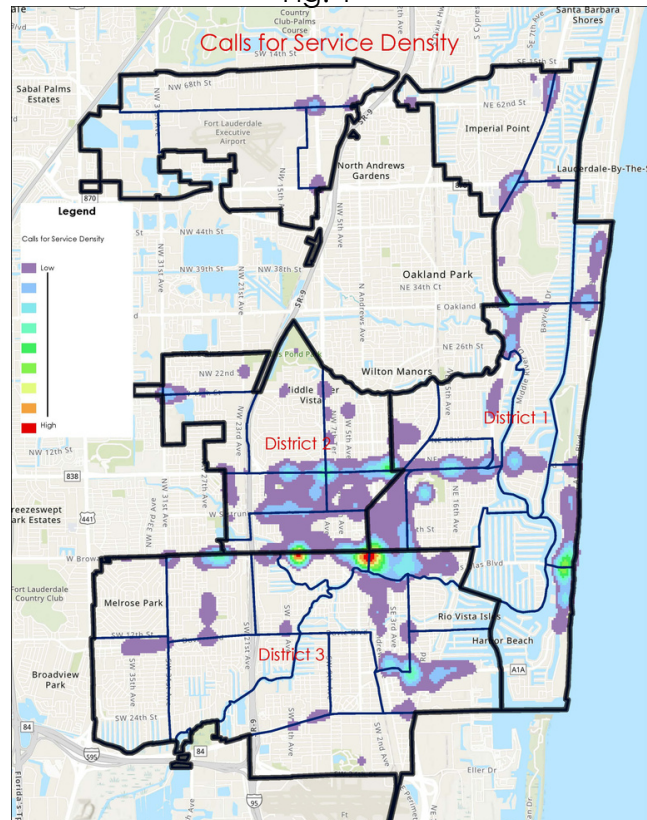
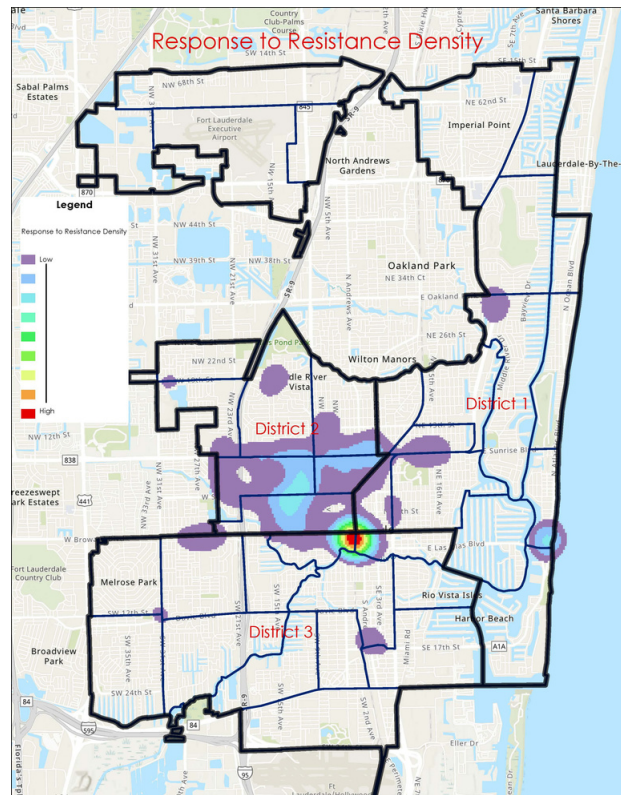


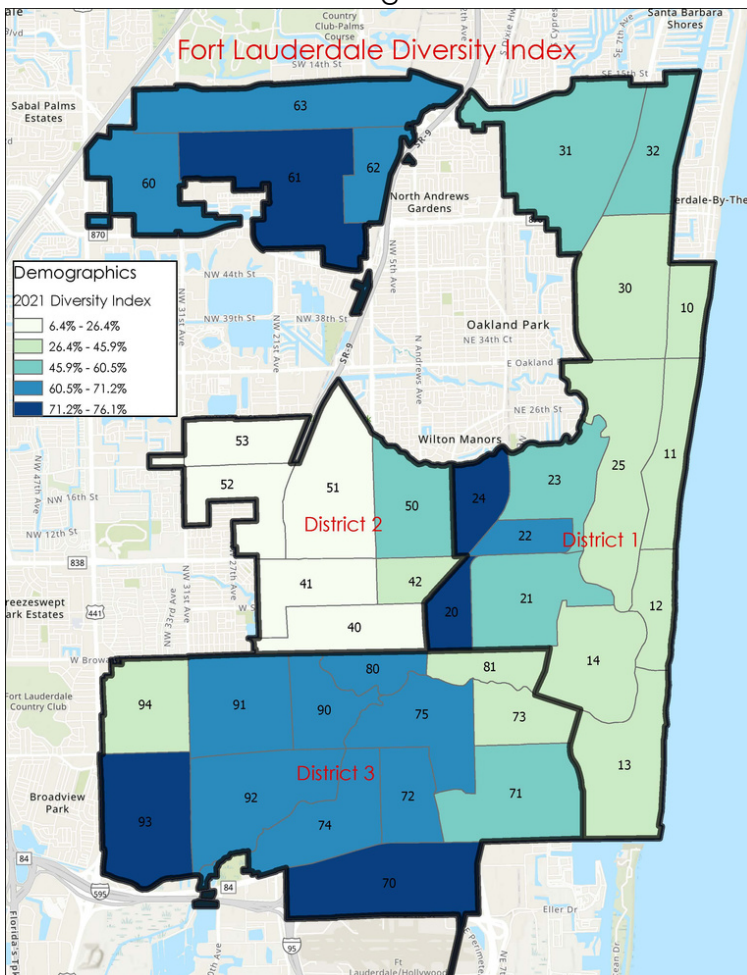
Fig. 2



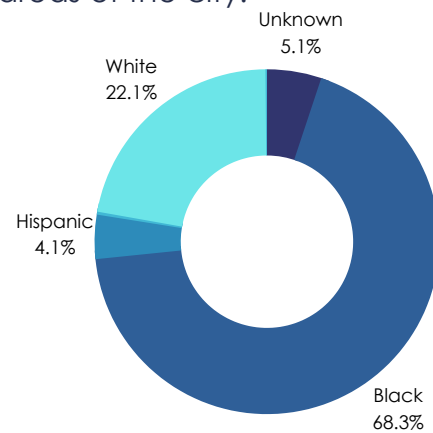
Demographics

Figure 3 illustrates ESRI's Diversity Index⁵ by police zones in the city. The Diversity Index represents the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to a different race or ethnic group. The Index is a continuum that ranges between 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity). District 1 and the south section of District 2 have a lower Diversity Index compared to District 3, in which more police zones have a higher diversity index.

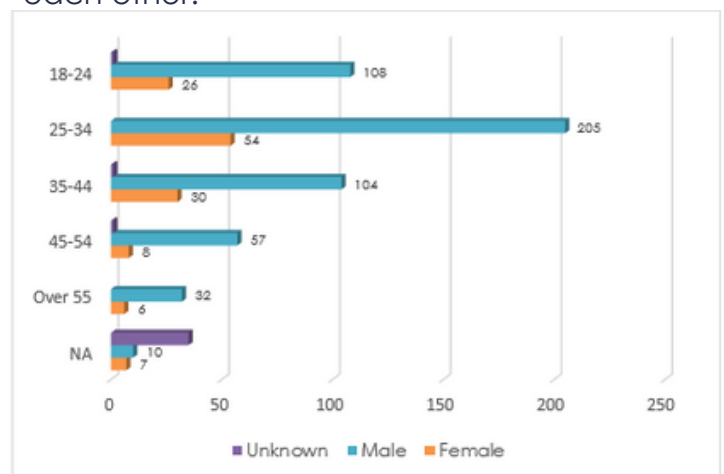
Fig. 3



The pie chart below demonstrates the breakdown of subjects by race that received a response to resistance. Over 68% of subjects were black and 22% were white. A race or ethnicity wasn't captured for 5% of subjects. The overrepresentation of black subjects can be attributed to the locations in which calls for service are received. There are higher densities of calls in predominantly black areas of the city.



Male and female subjects between the ages of 25-34 resisted at a higher rate than other age groups. Age groups between 18-24 and 35-44 resisted at a similar rate to each other.



5. <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=cf9887d5a19469c8255fcdcd173445>

Making a Complaint

How do I make a complaint?

Complaints can be made in person, via telephone, or by e-mail directly to the Office of Internal Affairs (IA) or any Department employee. Complaints concerning discourtesy or inadequate services will generally be forwarded to the employee's command for investigation. The investigation will then be thoroughly reviewed by IA. Complaints concerning unnecessary or excessive force, false arrests, and complaints that are criminal in nature will be retained by IA for investigation. In most situations, a sworn, taped statement will be requested. Be prepared to provide the investigator with witness information and other evidence that documents the complaint. You will be treated professionally and with courtesy.

All complaints will be thoroughly examined. There are five possible dispositions:

- Not Sustained – There is insufficient evidence to confirm or refute the complaint.
- Sustained – The allegation is true. The actions of our employee was inconsistent with the agency's policy.
- Exonerated – The allegation is true, however, the action of our employee was justified and/or consistent with the agency's policy.
- Unfounded – The allegation is either false or there is no credible evidence to support it.
- Policy Failure - A finding or conclusion that current policies, procedures, rules or regulations covering the situation were non-existent or inadequate; or the employee followed policy but the investigation reveals policy changes are recommended.

All decisions involving disciplinary action will be made in conjunction with the City's Labor Relations Office and the City Manager's Office. Complaints that involve a possible criminal violation are sent to the Broward County State Attorney's Office for review. Once these processes are complete, select cases are sent to the Citizen's Police Review Board for their review and recommendation



Mailing Address:

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1300 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Email:

InternalAffairs@fortlauderdale.gov

Office Location:

255 NE 3rd Ave
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Complaint Line:

(954)828-6956

Senior Command Staff



Luis Alvarez
Assistant Chief
Investigations



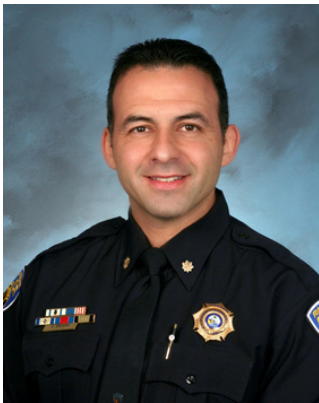
Doug McDougall
Assistant Chief
Support Services



Dana Swisher
Assistant Chief
Operations



Victor London
Major/Executive Officer
Office of the Chief



Eric Brogna
Major
Support Services



Lynette Falzone
Major
Investigations



Rick Maglione
Major
Operations



William Schultz
Major
Operations

City Leadership

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

Heather Moraitis
Commissioner
District 1

Steven Glassman
Commissioner
District 2

Robert McKenzie
Commissioner
District 3

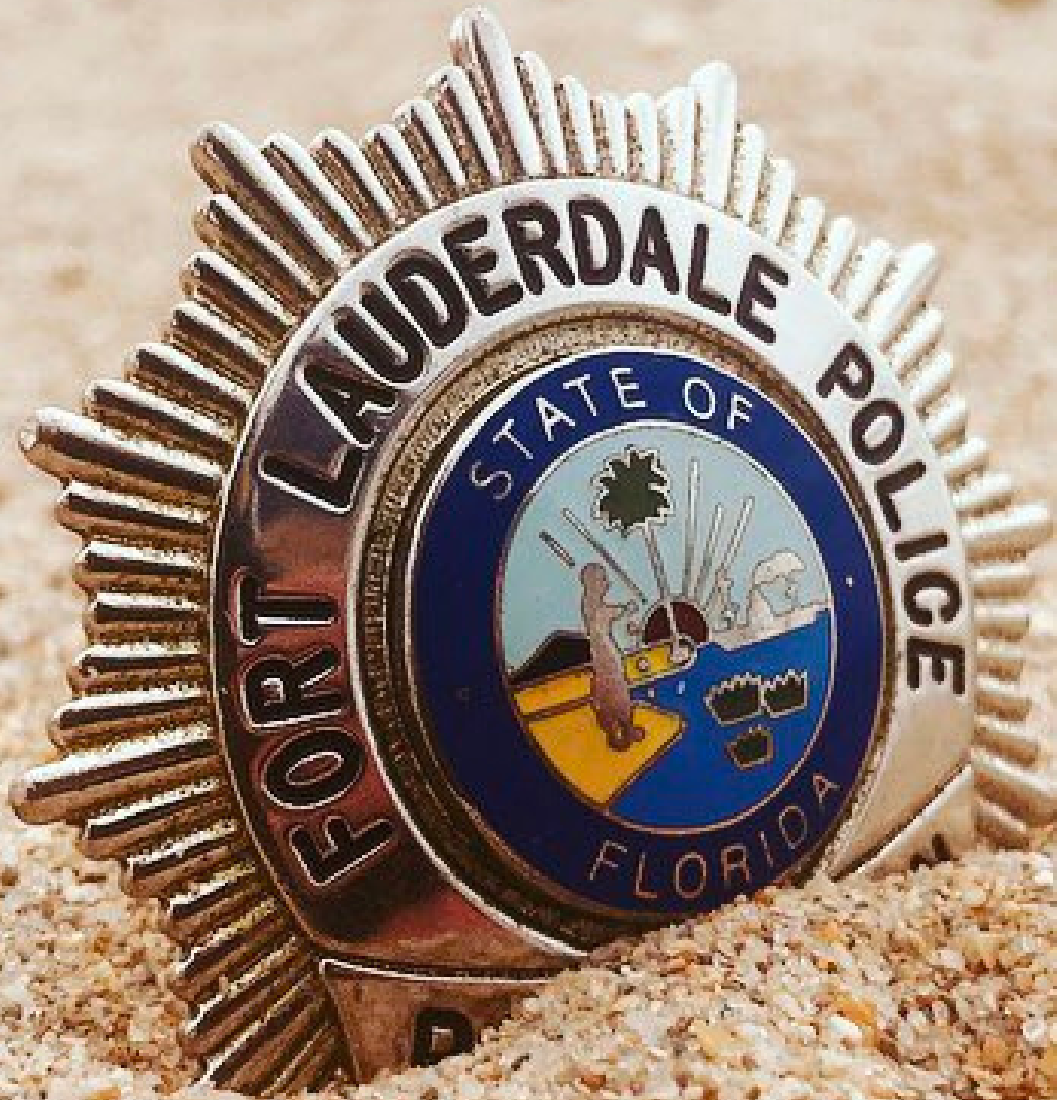
Ben Sorensen
Commissioner
District 4

Chris Lagerbloom
City Manager

Alain E. Boileau
City Attorney

Patrick Reilly
Interim City Auditor

Jeffrey A. Modarelli
City Clerk



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