

# RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE REPORT 2020

FORT LAUDERDALE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## Message from the Interim Chief of Police



On behalf of the women and men, sworn and civilian, 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 the 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  
Interim 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.

**It is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department that officers respond to resistance with only the force necessary to effect lawful objectives.**

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a residential population of over 189,000<sup>1</sup> 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 31 million confirmed cases and over 550,000 deaths in the U.S. In Broward County alone, over 220,000 cases have been confirmed and over 2,700 people have died. 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.

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 2020, the Office of Internal Affairs conducted an administrative review of 692 response to resistance offense/incident reports compared to 862 reports reviewed in 2019. The decrease of incident reports reviewed is attributed to the pandemic, which caused decreases in arrests (-49.4%), calls for service (-6.3%) , and Baker Acts (-4.8%). DUI incidents also decreased from 538 in 2019 to 173 in 2020 (-67.8%).**

All responses were determined to be in compliance with policy except for one excessive force incident. The officer received discipline and remedial training. Additionally, there were three police-involved shootings which are currently under review by the Broward County State Attorney's Office. One resulted in a non-fatal injury to a suspect and the other two resulted in the deaths of the suspects.

1. Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement. <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac/ucr/2020>

# 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), Procedural Justice and the Art of Connection. As of December 31, 2020, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department has trained over 400 employees, including sworn and civilian 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 2020, calls for service decreased to a total of 200,489, and the Office of Internal Affairs conducted administrative reviews of 692 incident reports. These reports accounted for 0.3% 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 force<sup>2</sup>.

2. Source: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6406>.

## 2020 AT A GLANCE



In 2020, **200,489 calls for service<sup>3</sup>** were received. Compared to 2019, there was a **decrease of 6.3%**. Calls for service are calls received by dispatch requiring response by a police officer or a police service aide. A change in calls for service volume does not mean an increase or decrease in crime.

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A total of **21,447 citations<sup>3</sup>** were issued in 2020. Citations **decreased 61.3%** from 2019. The top 5 charges were unlawful speed, improper insurance, unlawful speed in school zone, failure to wear safety belt, and running of stop sign.

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**3,466 arrests<sup>4</sup>** were made in 2020 compared to 7,007 made in 2019 reflecting a **decrease of 50.5%**. The top 5 charges were related to driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol charges, vehicle theft, resisting an officer, battery (domestic violence), and possession of narcotics.

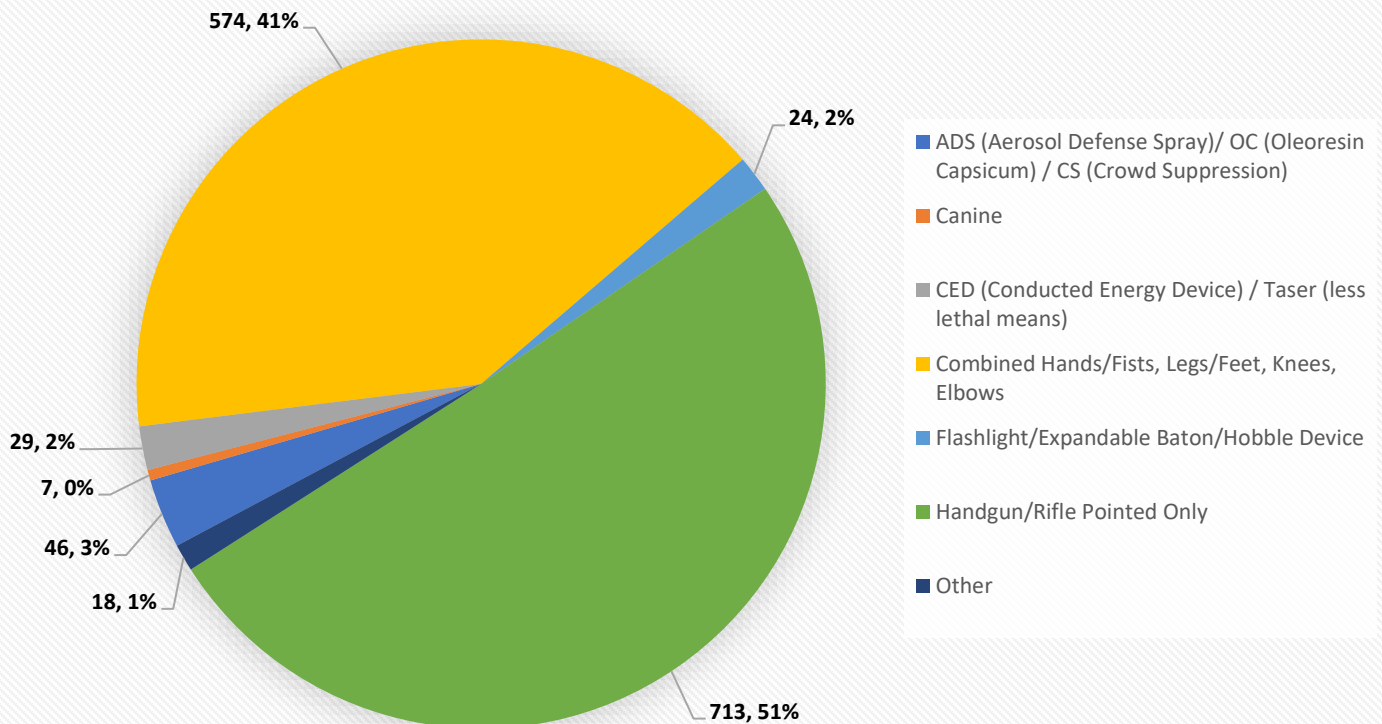
3. Source: Fort Lauderdale Police Records Management System (RMS)

4. Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement. <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac/ucr/2020>

# TYPES OF FORCE USED



A total of 1,411 responses were used by officers when resistance was encountered. The response decreased 8.3% from 2019. Hands, fists, legs, feet, knees, or elbows accounted for almost 41% of the responses used in 2020. 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 50.5% of responses reflecting an increase of 10.7% from 2019. While the City experienced another reduction in the crime rate since 1972 (4,658.8/100,000 pop), the violent crime rate increased by 3.7% from 2019<sup>4</sup>. Homicides spiked from 21 in 2019 to 37 in 2020 and aggravated assaults increased by 23%, from 576 to 709.



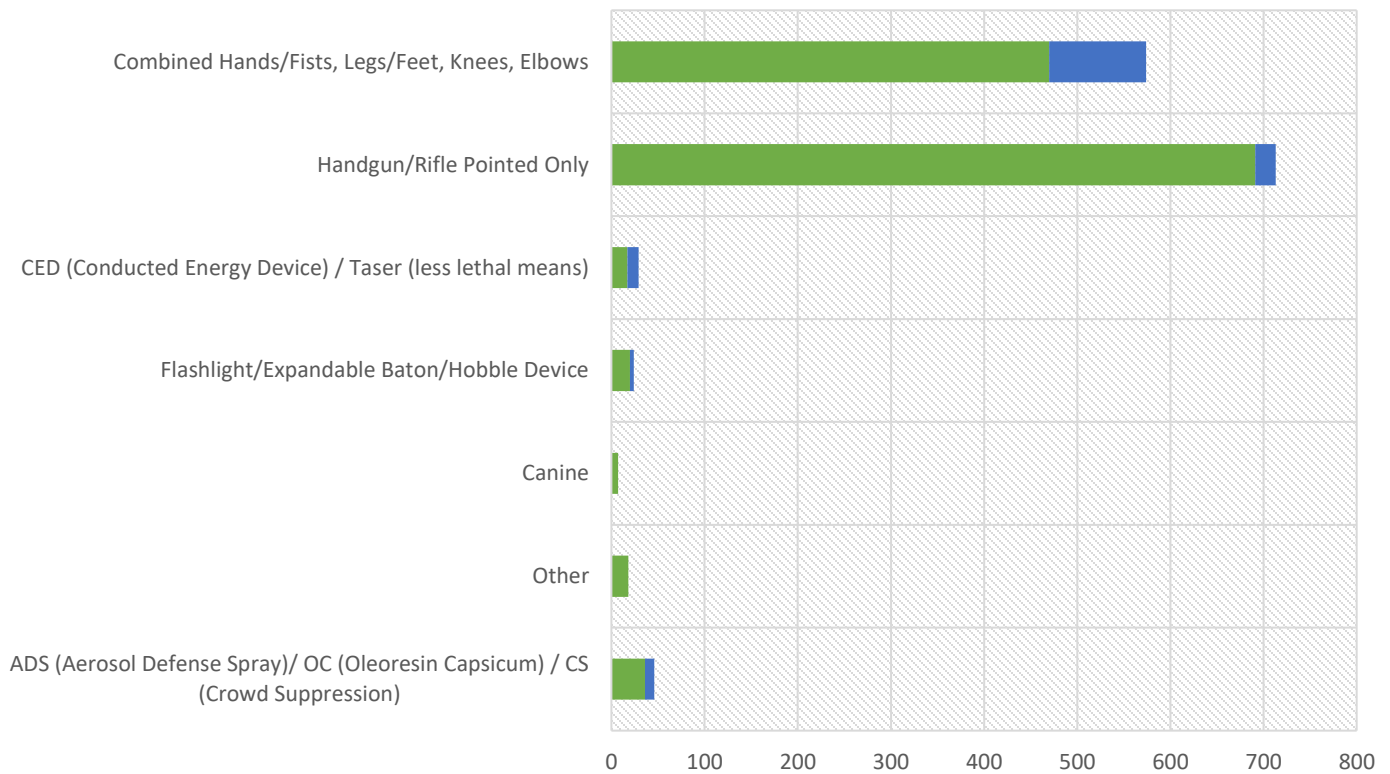
4. Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement. <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac/ucr/2020>

# 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 above. The use of hands/fists, legs/feet, elbows or knees, proved effective in bringing the subject under control in 33% of the 1,411 responses to resistance. A total of 713 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 2019 totals, there was a 63.8% decrease in the use of this type of response.

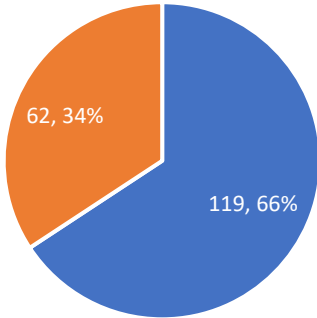
## RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE EFFICACY



|               | ADS (Aerosol Defense Spray)/ OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) / CS (Crowd Suppression) | Other | Canine | Flashlight/Expandable Baton/Hobble Device | CED (Conducted Energy Device) / Taser (less lethal means) | Handgun/Rifle Pointed Only | Combined Hands/Fists, Legs/Feet, Knees, Elbows |
|---------------|---|-------|--------|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| Effective     | 36  | 18    | 7      | 20  | 17  | 691                        | 470  |
| Non Effective | 10  | 0     | 0      | 4   | 12  | 22                         | 104  |

# ARRESTS & SERVICES RENDERED

## SUSPECTS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL

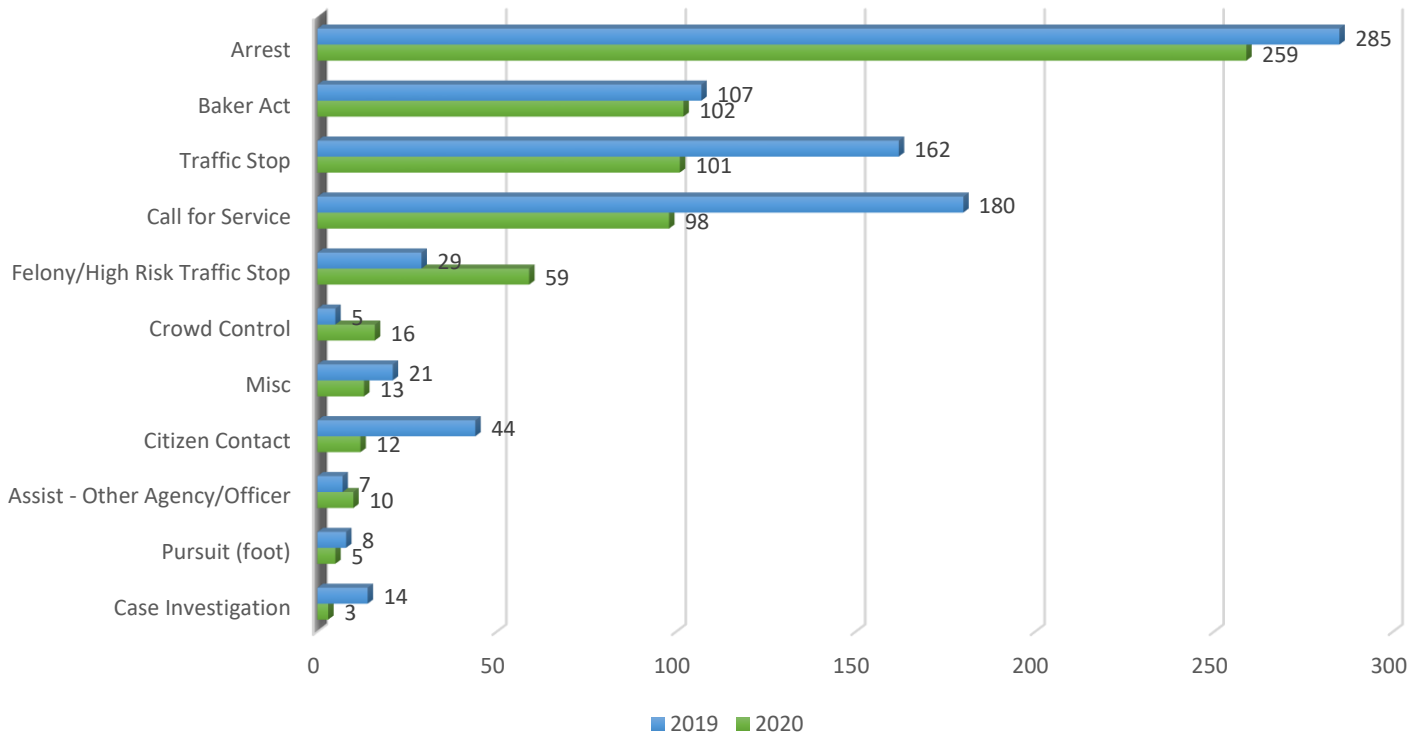


■ Not Injured ■ Injured

A total of 181 individuals were taken to the hospital in conjunction with the response to resistance; however, 62 were actually injured during the response. Twenty officers were injured in conjunction with response to resistance, and 7 were taken to a hospital.

The graph below illustrates the type of services being rendered when a response to resistance was needed. The amount of high-risk traffic stops increased by 103% from 2019 and crowd-control increased by 220%. The increase in crowd control was a result of the George Floyd protests/demonstrations that occurred in our City on May 31, 2020. There were decreases across the remaining services from the previous year.

## SERVICES BEING RENDERED





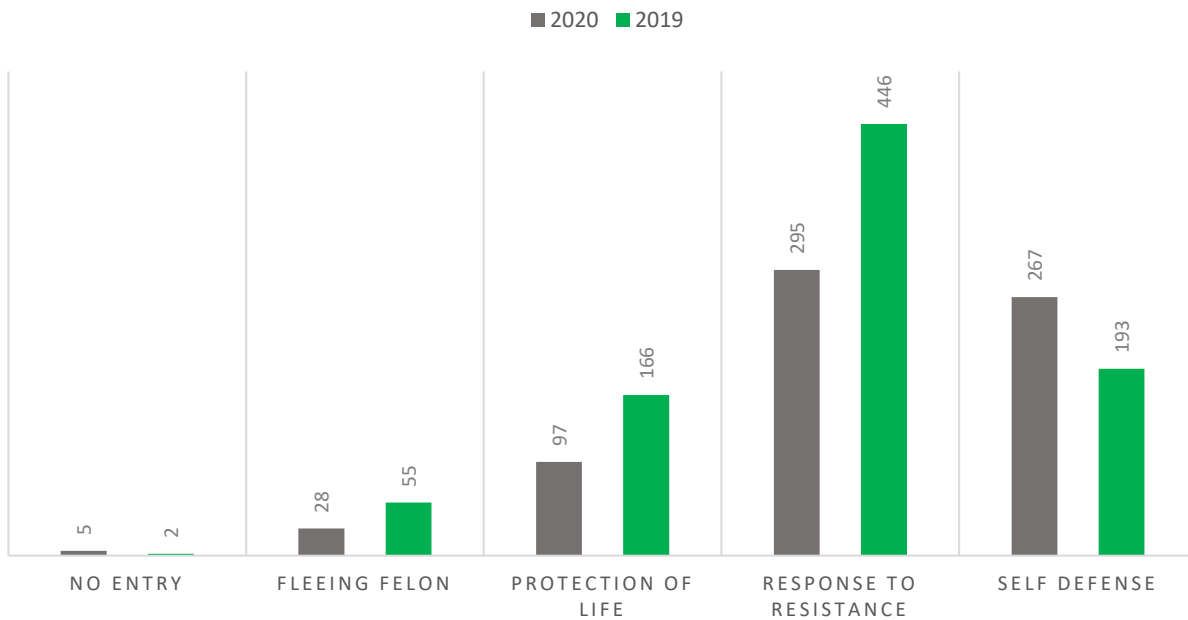
# REASON FOR RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

When considering response to resistance, it is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department that 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?

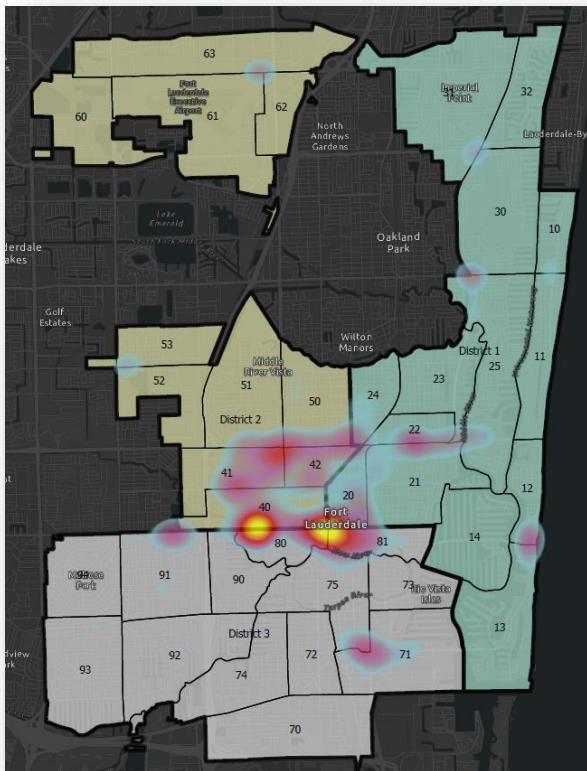
In 2019, the top reason for response was due to a subject’s resistance encountered by the officer, making up 52% (446) of incidents. In 2020, this remained the top reason for the response to resistance, making up 43% of incidents. In 14% (97) of incidents, a physical threat to the officer or others (protection of life) necessitated the use of an appropriate level of force while 4% (28) of incidents attributed the response to an individual attempting to evade arrest by flight. In 39% (267) of incidents, the officer’s response was self-defense. There was a significant increase in officers using responses to resistance for the purposes of self-defense. In 2019, there were 193 incidents, compared to 267 incidents during 2020.

## REASON FOR RESPONSE

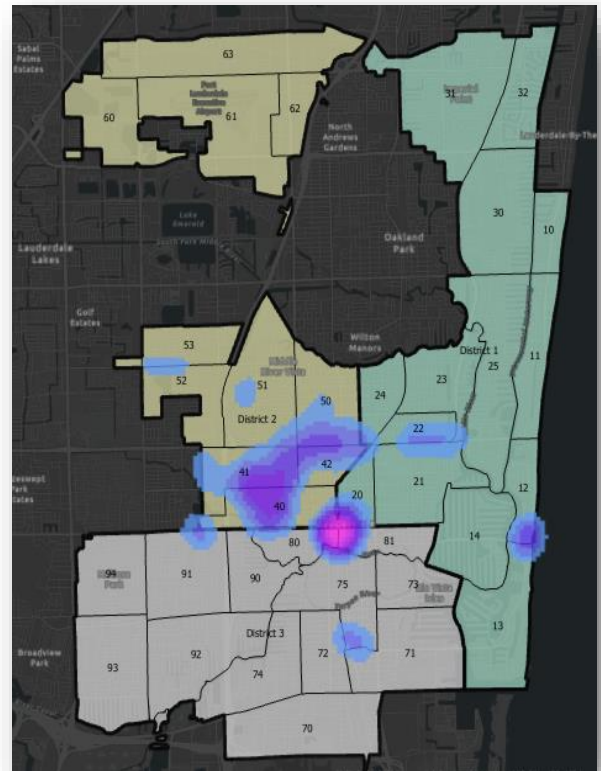


# DEMOGRAPHICS

The City of Fort Lauderdale is divided into three police districts (1,2,3). According to 2020 population estimates<sup>5</sup>, District 1 houses the largest population, making up 40% of the City’s population, while District 3 houses 37% and District 2 with 23%. While District 2 houses the lowest population, it accounts for the largest percentage of calls for service within the City’s boundary (Fig. 1). In figure 2, the density of response to resistance shares similar characteristics to those of calls for service density.



**Fig 1 - 2020 Calls for Service Density**



**Fig 2 - 2020 Response to Resistance Density**

When the data is normalized for a specific demographic, for example the population of Black residents (which may also identify as Hispanic) in relation to the total population, District 2 is home to a larger percentage of residents that identify as Black. In comparison, District 1 houses more White residents (which may also identify as Hispanic) and District 3 lies in the middle (fig.3).

Figure 4 illustrates ESRI’s Diversity Index<sup>5</sup> 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 zones have a higher diversity index.

5. Source: ESRI

# DEMOGRAPHICS

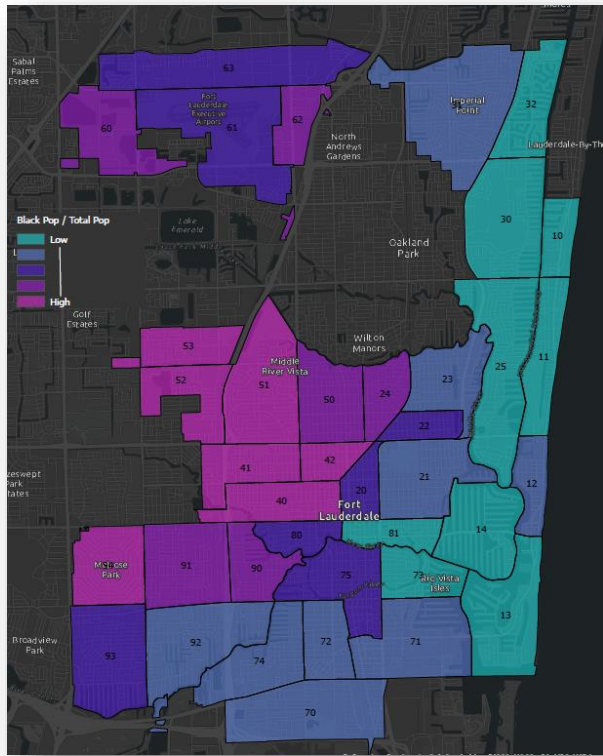


Fig 3. - Black Population/White Population

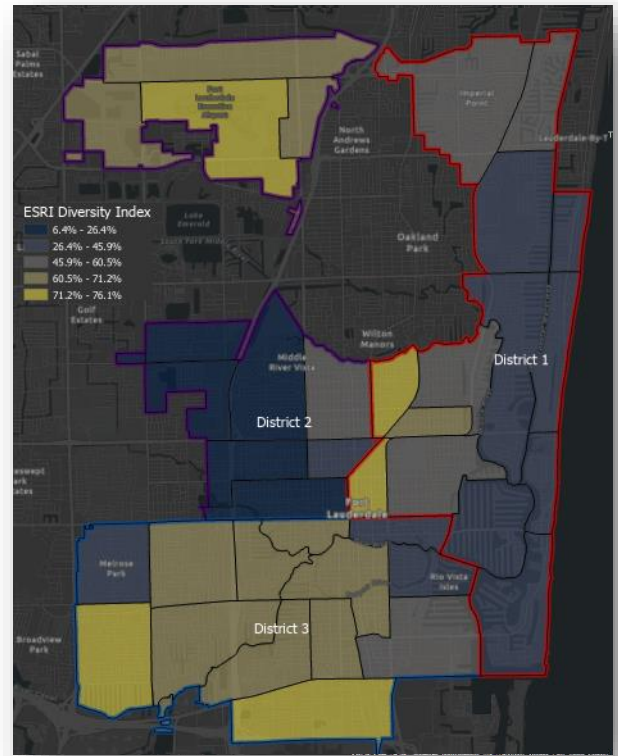


Fig. 4 – ESRI's Diversity Index

The chart below reflects the number of suspects that received a response(s) to resistance by race and sex/gender. Based on the breakdown of demographics in the City, the data reflects a large percentage of suspects identifying as Black (may also include Hispanic ethnicity). A large percentage of calls for service are received within communities that are predominantly Black, which could reflect a possible relationship between the percentage of suspects receiving responses to resistance and the areas in which calls for service are received. Males make up a larger percentage (77%) of suspects that received a response compared to females that made up 33%.

| Suspect Race/Sex   |            |            |          |            |             |
|--------------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Race               | Female     | Male       | Unknown  | Total      | % of UOF    |
| Asian              | 1          | 0          | 0        | 1          | 0%          |
| Black              | 123        | 439        | 1        | 563        | 69%         |
| Hispanic           | 3          | 18         | 0        | 21         | 3%          |
| Other              | 2          | 1          | 0        | 3          | 0%          |
| Unknown            | 4          | 1          | 0        | 5          | 1%          |
| White              | 47         | 172        | 0        | 219        | 27%         |
| Unknown            | 0          | 1          | 5        | 6          | 1%          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>180</b> | <b>632</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>818</b> | <b>100%</b> |

# DEMOGRAPHICS

The reason for response to resistance is outlined in the chart below. Self defense made up 44% of the total reasons for the use of a response to resistance. Officers encountering resistance made up an additional 37%. A total of 116 suspects posed a threat to lives (protection of life) making up 14% of the total.

| Reason                 | Asian | Black | Hispanic | Other | Unknown | White | Total |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Fleeing Felon          |       | 20    |          |       |         | 8     | 28    |
| Protection of Life     |       | 76    | 1        | 1     | 3       | 35    | 116   |
| Response to Resistance | 1     | 185   | 9        | 1     | 2       | 108   | 306   |
| Self Defense           |       | 279   | 11       | 1     | 6       | 66    | 363   |
| Not Available          |       | 3     |          |       |         | 2     | 5     |
| Grand Total            | 1     | 563   | 21       | 3     | 11      | 219   | 818   |

The types of response used is illustrated below broken down by race/ethnicity. Over 52% of the suspects received a handgun (pointed-only) response. Almost 78% of suspects that received a handgun (pointed only) response identified as Black while suspects that identified as White made up 18% and suspects that identified as Hispanic made up 2%. Of note, Black and White suspects may also identify as Hispanic ethnicity. Over 31% of suspects received hands/fists as a response to resistance. Fifty-six percent of Black suspects received this type of response compared to 40% of White suspects.

| Type of Response       | Race/Ethnicity |       |          |       |         |       | Total |
|------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
|                        | Asian          | Black | Hispanic | Other | Unknown | White |       |
| ADS / OC / CS          |                | 9     |          |       | 1       | 1     | 11    |
| Baton - Expandable     |                | 1     |          |       |         |       | 1     |
| Canine / K-9           |                | 9     |          |       |         |       | 9     |
| CED / Taser            | 1              | 9     | 2        |       |         | 4     | 16    |
| Handgun - Pointed Only |                | 333   | 10       | 2     | 7       | 76    | 428   |
| Handgun - Primary      |                | 2     |          |       |         |       | 2     |
| Hands / Fists          |                | 147   | 7        | 1     | 1       | 103   | 259   |
| Hobble Device          |                | 3     | 1        |       |         | 3     | 7     |
| Knees                  |                | 6     |          |       |         | 2     | 8     |
| Legs / Feet            |                | 20    |          |       |         | 11    | 31    |
| Other (see narrative)  |                | 1     |          |       |         | 1     | 2     |
| Rifle - Pointed Only   |                | 10    |          |       | 1       | 6     | 17    |
| Sage                   |                | 1     |          |       | 1       | 7     | 9     |
| Shotgun - Pointed Only |                | 2     |          |       |         |       | 2     |
| Not Available          |                | 10    | 1        |       |         | 5     | 16    |
| Grand Total            | 1              | 563   | 21       | 3     | 11      | 219   | 818   |

# MAY 31, 2020 CIVIL DISTURBANCE

On May 31, 2020, a large demonstration was held in downtown Fort Lauderdale to protest police brutality, racial inequality and the May 25, 2020 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN by police. The demonstration drew over 2,000 participants of all ages and appeared well-organized and peaceful.

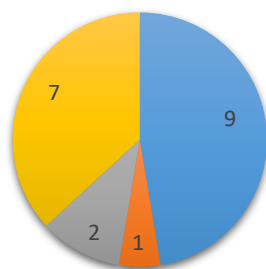
The demonstration began downtown in Huizenga Park, and demonstrators marched from the park to Fort Lauderdale Police Department headquarters. While a majority of the crowd demonstrated peacefully, several subjects were seen preparing to vandalize the building and the surrounding property. A demonstration organizer took notice and moved quickly to stop these individuals from taking action. The demonstrators marched back Downtown and dispersed; however, several agitators remained behind and vandalized businesses, hurled objects at law enforcement, surrounded police and civilian vehicles, and set off explosives (fireworks). Numerous officers reported being struck by rocks, bottles, and explosives (fireworks).

Throughout the course of the demonstration, Broward County Regional Dispatch received a grand total of 313 calls for service related to the event. Of those, 221 were emergency 911 calls and 89 were non-911 calls. Some of these calls included reports of protesters displaying firearms, vandalism, assaults, and alarms.

Fort Lauderdale Police obtained the assistance of outside law enforcement agencies to assist in maintaining the peace and protect the safety of those attending. The Department was assisted by the Broward Sheriff’s Office, Davie Police Department, Hollywood Police Department, Hallandale Beach Police Department, and Sunrise Police Department. The following data does not include any responses to resistance from these outside agencies.

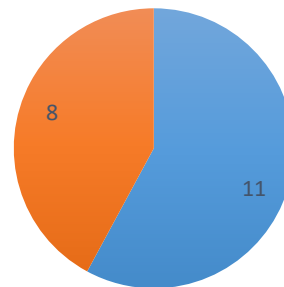
**Type of Response Used**

FLPD Only



■ ADS / OC / CS ■ Handgun - Pointed Only ■ Rifle - Pointed Only ■ Sage

**Reason for Response**



■ Protection of Life ■ Self Defense

# 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:**  
Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
Office of Internal Affairs  
1300 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

**Office Location:**  
255 NE 3 Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**Office Hours:**  
Monday- Friday 8AM-4PM

**Complaint Line:**  
(954) 828-6956

**Email:**  
InternalAffairs@fortlauderdale.gov

# SENIOR STAFF



**Luis Alvarez**  
Assistant Chief  
Investigations Bureau



**Karen Dietrich**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency Mgmt.



**Doug MacDougall**  
Assistant Chief  
Support Services Bureau



**Francis Sousa**  
Interim Assistant Chief  
Operations Bureau



**Eric Brogna**  
Major  
Special Operations  
Division



**Victor London**  
Major  
Operations Bureau



**Rick Maglione**  
Major  
Investigations  
Bureau



**Dana Swisher**  
Major  
Support Services  
Bureau

## CITY COMMISSION

**Dean J. Trantalis**  
Mayor

**Heather Moraitis**  
Commissioner – District 1

**Steven Glassman**  
Commissioner – District 2

**Robert L. McKinzie**  
Commissioner – District 3

**Ben Sorensen**  
Commissioner – District 4

**Chris Lagerbloom**  
City Manager

**Alain E. Boileau**  
City Attorney

**John Herbst**  
City Auditor

**Jeffrey A. Modarelli**  
City Clerk





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