



Kenilworth

Police Department

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Chief of Police
Fred Soos Jr.

2022 year end summation of Kenilworth PD Use of Force Incidents

For the calendar year 2022 the Kenilworth Police Department had a total of seven (7) Use of Force incidents involving six (6) different officers. The involved officers filed a total of seven use of force entries in the NJ Attorney General's Benchmark Use of Force portal. All the information detailed in this report is available to the general public in the NJ Attorney General's Use of Force portal. This year end summation is in compliance with the AG's directive for the agency executive to review all use of force incidents to ensure the Kenilworth PD is training our officers in accordance with the new AG use of force guidelines.

The following background is necessary to establish prior to analyzing the use of force incidents. Kenilworth NJ is a borough of approximately 2.2 square miles in Northern NJ with a population of slightly over 8200 residents. It is considered a suburban community bordered by other suburban towns to the west and south (Cranford, Roselle Park) and Union Township a larger suburb/city center to the north and east. Kenilworth has several major thoroughways running through it, including the Garden State Parkway and Route 22. Kenilworth is only several miles away from several large urban cities including Newark, Irvington and Elizabeth. While predominantly a suburban bedroom community, Kenilworth also has several large industrial areas where a majority of our commerce is located. The amount of commercial and industrial businesses in Kenilworth leads to a large influx of traffic and people in the morning and

afternoon and causes the number of people within the confines of the borough limits to almost double.

In 2022 Kenilworth PD had 26 sworn police officers. KPD officers effected 69 arrests and had approximately 16,300 police/citizen contacts for the year. For Kenilworth PD officers to have seven use of force incidents for 2022 means that KPD used force .043% of the time that we came in contact with members of the public. From analyzing the data entered into the NJ Attorney General Use of Force Dashboard, my feeling is the Kenilworth PD uses force at a level which is the generally equal to or lower than other surrounding towns of similar socio-economic demographics. I have included that information in the table below:

Town	# of Incidents	# of Officers reported	# of reports	% who used force
Kenilworth	7	6	7	26.9%
Roselle Park	6	14	14	32.4%
Clark	8	23	23	50.0%
Garwood	1	1	1	6.3%
Fanwood	2	6	6	31.3%
Berkley Heights	5	13	13	37.0%
Westfield	10	23	23	29.5%

KPD filed seven Use of Force reports in 2022 which involved six subjects. The seventh report involved a show of force, which is a brandishing of an officers' firearm in order to ensure compliance with commands. Of the seven reported use of force reports, six were from officers assigned to patrol who were in uniform at the time of the use of force, the other report was a detective who was in plainclothes. In every reported use of force the officer was dispatched to the scene where the use of force occurred. In 85.7% of the reports the subject was a male and 14.3% of the subjects were female. Of the subjects that force was used on, one was white, two were black and the other three were Asian. Of the six subjects, four were placed under arrest and the other two were not. The reason given for the two subjects not being placed under arrest was a medical/mental health emergency. There were no reported injuries to any KPD officers and no injuries to any subjects in any of the reported uses of force in 2022.

The analysis of the Incident Type the use of force occurred during is an interesting subject, since an incident can be classified under multiple headings. For example, a domestic dispute could also be classified as a mental health incident and a welfare check could also become a medical emergency. In 2022 KPD used force during two potential mental health incidents, two times for a shoplifting/theft incident and once each for a suspicious person and a motor vehicle accident.

In every single instance where force was used, a Meaningful Review (MR) was completed by a member of the Kenilworth PD command staff to assess whether the actions of the officer(s) were in compliance with KPD policies and procedures and State and Federal guidelines. This review is in accordance with the accreditation procedures that KPD has had in place for several years. In every single use of force incident, the reviews found the KPD officers acted within the policies and procedures set forth above. No KPD officers were disciplined for excessive use of force in 2022.

My conclusion from analyzing the use of force data submitted for the year 2022 is that Kenilworth PD officers are using force in an appropriate manner in accordance with the NJ Attorney General guidelines. I am extremely proud of how my officers handle themselves in very difficult circumstances and in incidents where decisions are made in a split second. I attribute this to several factors. First Kenilworth PD and Union County both place a tremendous emphasis on training our officers. ICAT/Able, Fair and Impartial Policing, CIT training and other de-escalation training are all vital tools which have helped our officers to slow incidents down and improve their decision-making abilities. Secondly, KPD has excellent supervisors who consistently re-enforce the principles which make up the baseline of the new AG guidelines. Our supervisors use BWC footage to debrief their officers after every major incident to see what was done good and what can be done better. We are always striving to improve and get better, because as we stress to our officers "there is always a next time"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Soos Jr", with a large, stylized initial "F" and "S".

Chief Fred Soos Jr

Kenilworth Police Department