

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 2, 2007, University of Florida President Bernie Machen established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment. The Committee was charged to review the University of Florida Police Department's (UFPD) Use-of-Force Policy ("Policy"), with special attention to how the Policy addresses the use of tasers. In its final report, the Committee made recommendations that have been accepted by the president and implemented by the UFPD, as discussed below.

Upon review of the UFPD use of force policy, the Committee recommended the policy be changed to more clearly define when the taser may be used and to include the following language: *Appropriate use of force is dependent on what a situation appears to be to a reasonable police officer under all of the facts and circumstances at the relevant time and place.*

As a result of the above recommendation, UFPD changed its Policy. The Policy now contains the preceding language and more clearly defines when the use of the taser is appropriate. The taser may be used in response to aggressive or aggravated physical resistance to an arrest or in a custodial situation, where the subject is physically harming or is threatening and appears capable of physically harming the officer, others or him or herself. In an arrest or custodial situation, the taser may also be used where active physical resistance is involved if the resistance appears to be escalating toward aggressive physical resistance or there are other extenuating circumstances. In addition, the Policy now restricts use of the taser on a non-compliant subject attempting to flee or escape. Specifically, the taser may not be used in this instance unless the subject attempting to flee or escape demonstrates the intent to engage in aggressive or aggravated physical resistance, has just harmed someone, or is reasonably believed to present an imminent physical threat to an officer, others, or him or herself. The mere pulling and/or running away by a subject from an officer is not sufficient to warrant the use of the taser. If, however, the escapee demonstrates aggression towards the officer or another by word or act, the officer may use the taser to seek compliance and establish control.

The Committee also recommended that UFPD publish its Annual Analysis of Use of Force.<sup>1</sup> While this document has always been readily available to the public upon request, UFPD will now publish it on its website with updates annually. The 2007 Annual Analysis of Use of Force is now available on the UFPD website. **Note that the 2007 report reflects actions taken under the UFPD's use of force policy before its recent revision in 2008.** The following describes what can be found in the document.

The document begins with a summary providing the number and types of use-of-force incidents. The next section provides basic information such as: what types of calls resulted in use of force,

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<sup>1</sup> Any time there is a use of force, as defined by the Policy, the officer(s) involved must write a report before ending his/her shift. The report is then reviewed by the Training Commander and Patrol Captain within 72 hours. This review is then forwarded to the Chief of UFPD. Each year, UFPD analyzes all use-of-force reviews for the prior calendar year and prepares an Annual Analysis of Use of Force, which is intended to reveal any possible patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications.

how many involved university students, how many involved drugs or alcohol, how many were the result of fights or disturbances, and how many involved suspect weapons, etc. This section is followed by an overall review and analysis of all included use-of-force incidents. This review looks at trends and patterns, and it addresses, at a minimum, officer training, preparedness, and proper application of force. Finally, a summary of each individual review is attached as supporting documentation.

All UFPD officers, regardless of rank or assignment, who have access to a taser have been properly trained in its appropriate use. In addition, all UFPD officers have been instructed and trained on the revisions to the Policy.