



# 2020 Clayton Police Department Annual Report



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## Introduction

Each year, the Clayton Police Department gathers information from its division to generate the annual report. The annual report provides transparency to the public about the Department's performance, accomplishments, organizational changes, and crime trends.

The Clayton PD is a nationally accredited agency that has a strong partnership with community. The Department employed 46 sworn personnel and three civilians in 2020.



In 2020 CPD was organized into three divisions: Administrative Services, Support Services, and Patrol Services. The Administrative Services Division comprises the Office of the Chief of Police, records and clerical staff. The Support Service Division includes the Investigative Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit, Community Action Team, CALEA Manager, Training Sergeant, School Resource Officers, Animal Control, and Park Officer. The Patrol Division consists of four patrol squads, which includes three K-9 officers.

CPD services 13.51 square miles and a population of more than 24,000. Its FY20 operating budget was \$5,696,956.00. The Police Department offset some general fund expenditures through a Governors Highway Safety Program (GHSP) grant, drug forfeitures, and other sources of revenue.

**Message from the Chief**

It is my honor to present to you a yearly review and analysis of the activities and services provided by the Police Department in 2020. I would like to thank the Clayton community for their support and warm welcome. This truly is a special place, and I am honored and humbled to serve as the Chief of Police. I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and compassion of the police department. It is clear that the officers and civilian support staff that comprise this outstanding organization are deeply committed to serving the residents and businesses of our town.

Community outreach has long been a priority for the department and will continue to be a core focus. As the new chief, I will ensure we are well positioned to innovate and meet the needs and increasing diversity of our growing community. This has been an unprecedented year for the policing profession. Law enforcement agencies have reflected on the recent events that have led to increased scrutiny of their practices. As a result, they have reevaluated their communities' expectations and closely examined their procedures. We will make every effort for Clayton to remain one of the greatest communities in North Carolina.

The Department continues to manage the Covid-19 pandemic. The members of the Department continued to serve throughout the entire pandemic and all calls for service were answered. I am proud of the dedication of all of the members who have put their duties above their own wellbeing as this pandemic continues on. The Department will strive to keep its service to the public at a high level as we go into 2021.

I look forward to the future as the department evolves to address altering crime trends, the challenges of complex societal issues, and the increased demands of the town's positive growth and development. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve our great Town in this capacity, and it is my pledge that I will work tirelessly to uphold the very high standards expected of me in this new position. Furthermore, I am confident that the men and women of the department are dedicated police professionals who will further our mission and ensure that our agency continues to provide the highest level of professional service to our residents.

Sincerely,

Chief Greg Tart



**Mission, Vision & Values**

**Mission**

To deliver outstanding police service to everyone; every time.

**Vision**

To be a model of law enforcement excellence by exceeding the highest standards of quality in our profession.

**Values**

***Commitment:***

We are committed to serving others before ourselves by being alert and vigilant, never influenced by bias or prejudice, and unwavering in the performance of our duties. We are respectful, fair, and ethical in every instance. We do more, endure more, and are more.

***Professionalism:***

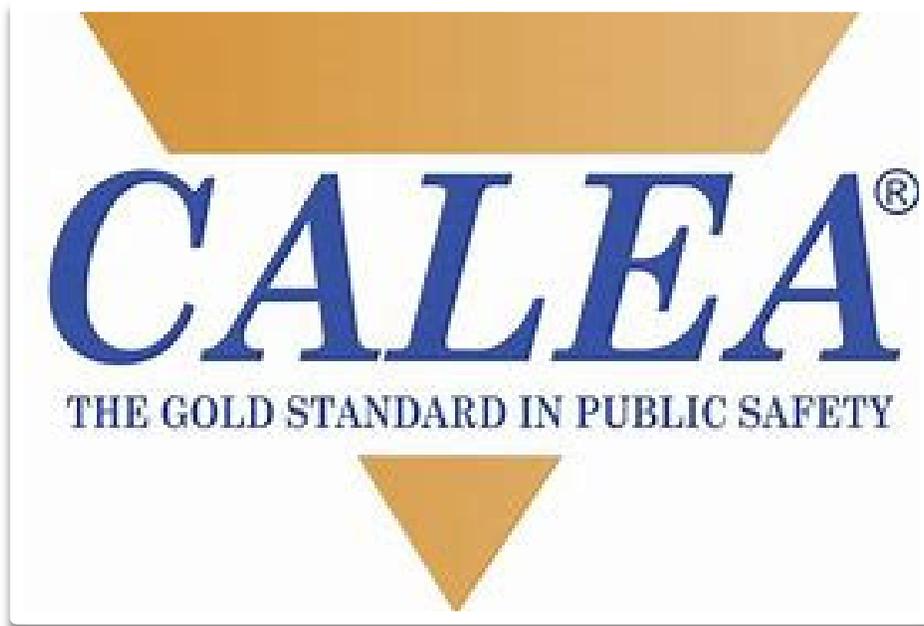
We are responsive and adaptive to our community because we endeavor to be skilled, efficient, and effective in our actions and behavior. We model integrity, honesty, and bravery no matter the cost. Perfection is not our goal; excellence is.

***Distinction:***

We are distinct because we welcome challenge and demand teamwork. We promote creativity and innovation to achieve our maximum potential. There are none other like us.

**Slogan**

*"The Keepers of Clayton"*



CALEA is the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. As an organization, it establishes high standards and assesses volunteer agencies for compliance. International accreditation promotes community policing through advocacy, procedural justice, employee accountability, transparency, and integrity. Accreditation proves an agency's strong leadership foundation and connections with the local, county, or state governments. CALEA reduces an agency's level of risk or liability within the community, thus allowing a savings in tax dollars to the citizens. It also holds agencies at a higher accountability internally through strong standards.

In 2020 the department began a new cycle of accreditation. This cycle represent the fifth time the department has undergone review by the Commission on Accrediation. The Police Department has been CALEA accredited since 2009.

## New Hires

In 2020 officer retirements, military deployment, and other factors necessitated the hiring of a number of new officers. The Clayton PD is selective in its hiring process, and 2020 recruitment efforts resulted of nine highly qualified officers.



**Animal Control Officer – Kerry Barnes** joined CPD in March of 2020. She comes to us with previous experience working with the Johnston County Animal Control Unit.

**Officer Neil Budden** joined CPD with more than seven years of experience with the Fayetteville Police Department.



**Officer Avigal Cruz** joined CPD with one year of experience from the Sampson County Sheriff's Department.

**Officer Corey Cedeno** re-joined CPD in November of this year. Officer Cedeno is a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard. He was called to active duty shortly after being hired in late 2019. He brings more than four years of Police experience from the Asheville Police Department.



## Promotions



**Sergeant Isaiah Ruffin** was promoted to Sergeant in February of 2020. Sergeant Ruffin has been with the Clayton Police Department since December 2006 and has served as a patrol officer, community officer, detective, traffic officer and K-9 officer. Sergeant Ruffin is currently assigned to the Traffic Unit of the Support Services Division.

**Sergeant Colonel Kilpatrick** was promoted to Sergeant in July of 2020. Sergeant Kilpatrick has been with the department since March 2003. He previously worked in Patrol and Investigations as a detective. Sergeant Kilpatrick is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.



**Sergeant Daniel Evans** was promoted to Sergeant in September 2020. Sergeant Evans has been with the department since June 2005. He has served as a police officer in the Patrol Division and a traffic officer on the Traffic Unit. Sergeant Evans is the CPD's only DRE (Drug Recognition Expert). He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.

**Detective Komivi Ekoule** was promoted to Detective in September 2020. Detective Ekoule has been with the department since August 2018. He was previously an officer in the Patrol Division. Detective Ekoule is currently assigned to the Vice Section of the Investigative Unit.



**Sergeant Patrick Smith** was promoted to Sergeant in November 2020. Sergeant Smith came to the Clayton Police Department in early 2019 after serving with the Morrisville and Roanoke Rapids Police Departments. He spent the past year serving in the Traffic Unit of the Support Services Division. Sergeant Smith is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.

**Captain Kenneth Lunger** was promoted to Captain in late November 2020. Captain Lunger has been with the CPD since February of 2007. Since his employment he has served as police officer, patrol sergeant, Support Services lieutenant and patrol lieutenant. He is a recent graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program (AOMP) at North Carolina State University. He also earned a master's degree from Fayetteville State University in 2012. Captain Lunger is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.



Professional Development



**Advanced Law Enforcement Certification**



**Officer Tim Mims** was awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Division in July 2020.

**Sergeant Jeff Young** was awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Division in December 2020.

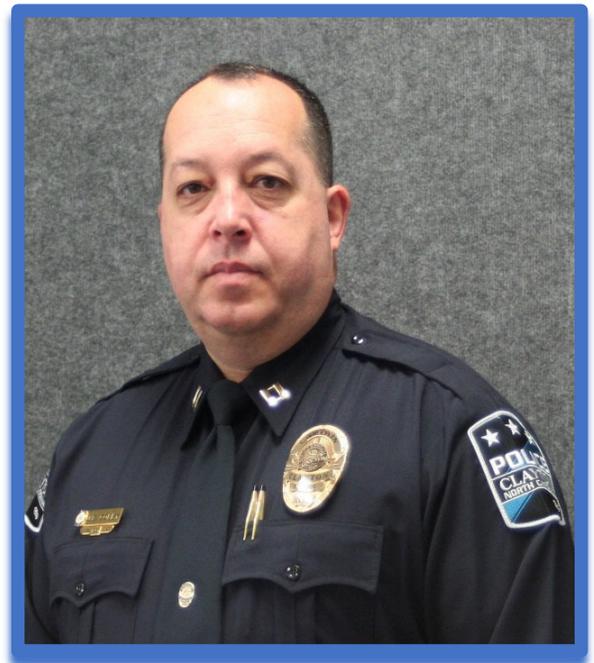


## Retirements



**Sergeant Keith Garner** honorably served the citizen of Clayton for 11 years. Sergeant Garner began his career with the Wilson Police Department. He later transferred to the Henderson Police Department and then the Johnston County Sheriff's Department. He joined the Clayton Police Department in November of 2009, serving as a patrol officer. Throughout his tenure with CPD, Sergeant Garner served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, traffic/motorcycle unit sergeant and retired as the sergeant over the training unit. Sergeant Garner officially retired on July 1, 2020.

**Captain John Coley** honorably served the citizen of Clayton for 28 years. Captain Coley began his career with the Smithfield Police Department and served part-time as a Reserve Deputy with the Johnston County Sheriff's Department. He joined the Clayton Police Department in August 1992, serving as a patrol officer. Throughout his tenure with CPD, Captain Coley served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant, investigations captain and retired as the captain over the patrol division. Captain Coley officially retired on May 29, 2020.





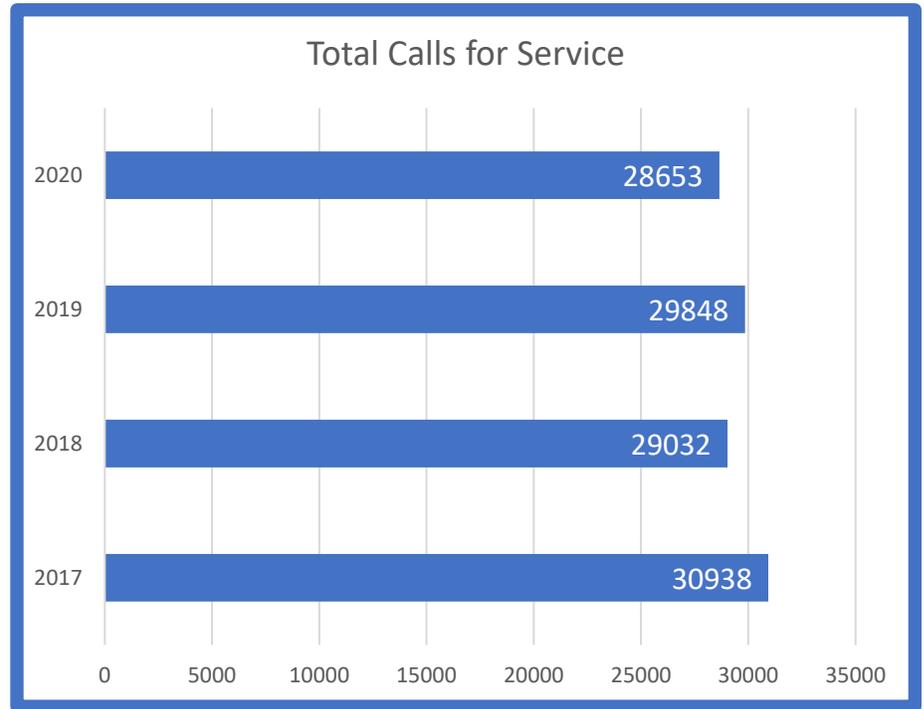
**Sergeant Kevin Pruden** honorably served the citizens of Clayton for 14 years. Sergeant Pruden joined the Clayton Police Department in November 2006, serving as a patrol officer. Throughout his tenure with CPD, Sergeant Pruden served as a patrol officer and patrol sergeant. He served on the Traffic Unit and Community Policing Unit before he retired. Sergeant Pruden officially retired on September 4, 2020.

**Detective Justin Miller** honorably served the citizens of Clayton for 14 years. Detective Miller joined the Clayton Police Department in March 2006, serving as a patrol officer. Throughout his tenure with CPD, Detective Miller served as a patrol officer and a detective. Detective Miller officially retired on September 11, 2020.



## Calls for Service

Calls for service can be initiated by an officer or advised to an officer by a variety of means to include, but not limited to, being dispatched by central communications or approached in person, email correspondence, and/or a growing number of social media notifications. Calls for service vary in nature, severity, and level of resources needed to address the issue. These calls encompass a wide variety of police functions to include, but not limited to, responses to crimes in progress, traffic crash investigations, disturbances, security checks, escorts, and other officer-initiated activity.



In 2020 the officers of the Clayton Police Department responded to 28,653 calls for service, a 4 percent decrease from 29,848 calls in 2019. This department attributes this reduction in 2020 calls for service to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the total calls for service show decreased slightly from the previous year, the next page provides Crime Statistics which indicate a 18.42 percent increase in total Part I offenses for 2020 as compared to 2019.

**Crime in Clayton**

**National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**

In 2019 the Clayton Police Department was one of the first agencies in Johnston County to begin submitting crime statistics to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement.

NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident as well as on separate offenses within the same incident. Unlike data previously reported through the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared. It can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing.

When used to its full potential, NIBRS provides greater specificity in reporting offenses, collects more detailed information, provides greater analytic flexibility, and helps give context to specific crime problems such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as modern crime issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.

**Part I Offenses**

The Town of Clayton saw an 18.42 percent increase in the total number of Part 1 crimes reported in 2020. Part I crimes include violent crimes (murder, rape, and robbery) and property crimes (larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft). This is largely due to a 20.28 percent increase in the number of reported total property crimes – up from 493 in 2019 to 593 in 2020.

Meanwhile, violent crime was down 5.13 percent, from 39 incidents in 2019 to 37 in 2020.

Crime Types:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Difference from 2019 to 2020 totals (+ or – totals)
Murder	1	1	0	1	2	1
Rape	1	2	7	6	3	-3
Robbery	9	9	5	8	4	-4
Aggravated Assault	17	19	21	24	28	4
<b>Violent Crime Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-2</b>
Burglary	86	79	60	49	56	7
Larceny	285	297	370	431	516	85
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	18	10	13	21	8
<b>Property Crime Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Part I Offenses</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>98</b>

Despite the increase in Part I offenses, the crime rate in the Town of Clayton remains well below state and national levels. However, this fact is of little consolation to the victims of crime. The CPD staff, officers, and civilian employees continue to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to departmental improvements and to making Clayton a better place to live, work and visit.

**Biased-Based Policing**

The Clayton Police Department is committed to treating all persons with respect and dignity. Thorough annual review of traffic stop data, use of force data, and complaint investigation practices helps the department ensure that officers are policing without bias. The 2020 analysis of the aforementioned data did not indicate bias in CPD interactions with the public. Additionally, there were no complaints of racially-based enforcement by the CPD in 2020.

The following is a report indicating Enforcement Action Taken by Driver’s Sex, Race, and Ethnicity. This report displays statistics based on Enforcement Action Taken (Verbal Warning, Written Warning, Citation Issued, On-View Arrest, or No Action Taken); by Driver’s Sex, Race and Ethnicity.

Similar reports can be found at: <https://trafficstops.ncsbi.gov/>

**Clayton Police Department**

**Enforcement Action Taken by Driver's Sex, Race, and Ethnicity**  
 Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
 Report From 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2020

Action	Gender	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Other	Total By Race	Hispanic	Non Hispanic	Total By Ethnicity
Citation Issued	Female	390	241	0	6	1	638	25	613	638
No Action Taken	Female	6	8	0	0	0	14	0	14	14
On-View Arrest	Female	13	7	0	0	0	20	0	20	20
Verbal Warning	Female	422	272	0	4	2	700	9	691	700
Written Warning	Female	82	41	0	0	1	124	1	123	124
Citation Issued	Male	721	411	0	9	1	1142	39	1103	1142
No Action Taken	Male	25	12	0	0	0	37	1	36	37
On-View Arrest	Male	25	18	0	0	0	43	1	42	43
Verbal Warning	Male	596	332	1	9	2	940	20	920	940
Written Warning	Male	107	70	1	2	0	180	3	177	180
<b>Female Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1461</b>	<b>1496</b>
<b>Male Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1474</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2342</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2278</b>	<b>2342</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2387</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3838</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3739</b>	<b>3838</b>

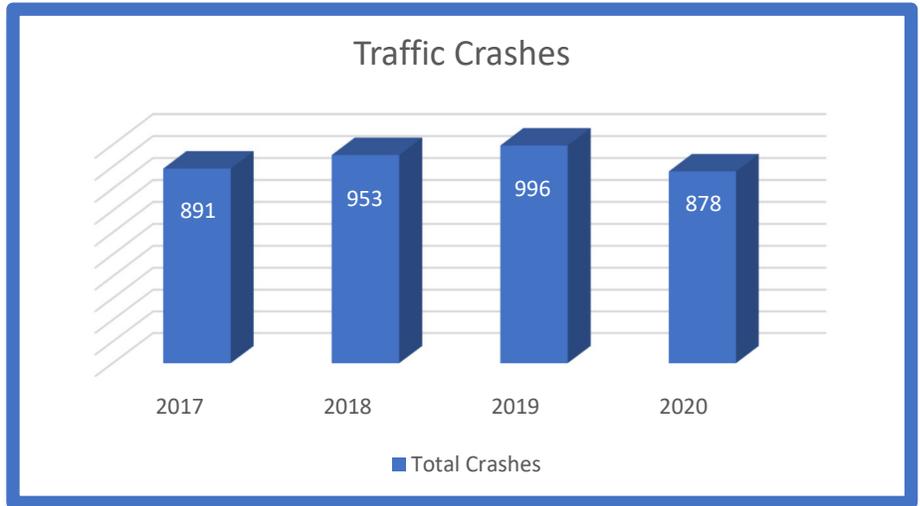
**Traffic Analysis**

**Traffic Safety**

The Clayton Police Department is dedicated to traffic safety and educating the public on safe driving practices. Through education, CPD works to gain compliance to motor vehicle laws. However, the department understands the importance of proactive enforcement of the laws.

**Traffic Crash Data**

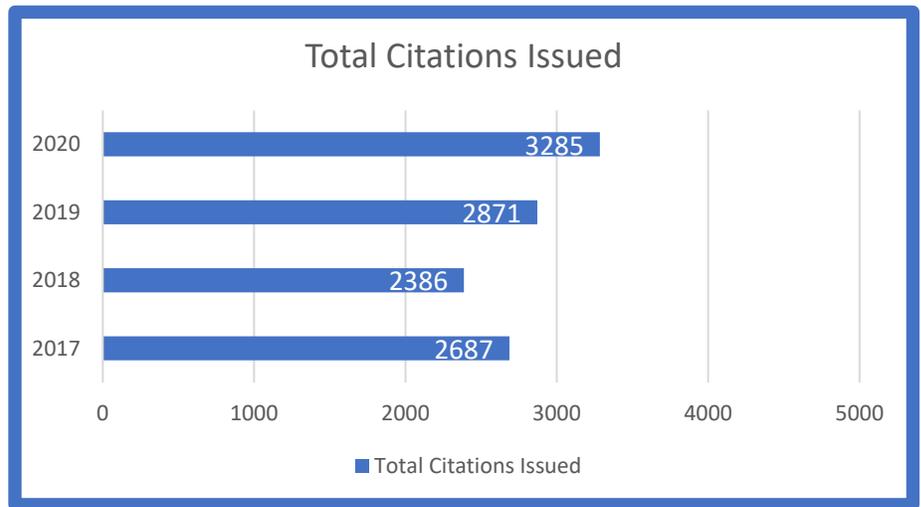
The Clayton Police Department investigated 878 traffic crashes in 2020, an 11.85 percent decrease from the 2019 reported total of 996.



**Citation Data**

In 2020 the Clayton Police Department issued a total of 3,285 citations, up 14.42 percent from the 2019 total of 2,871 issued citations.

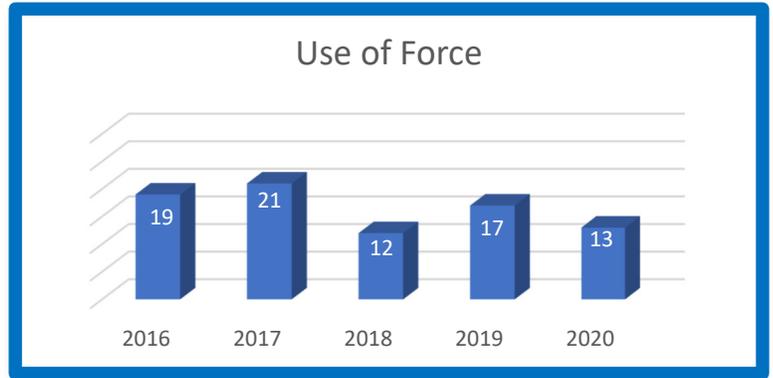
The increase in citations issued can be directly correlated to the increased effort by the CPD to focus on decreasing motor vehicle wrecks causing personal injury through aggressively enforcing the speed laws.



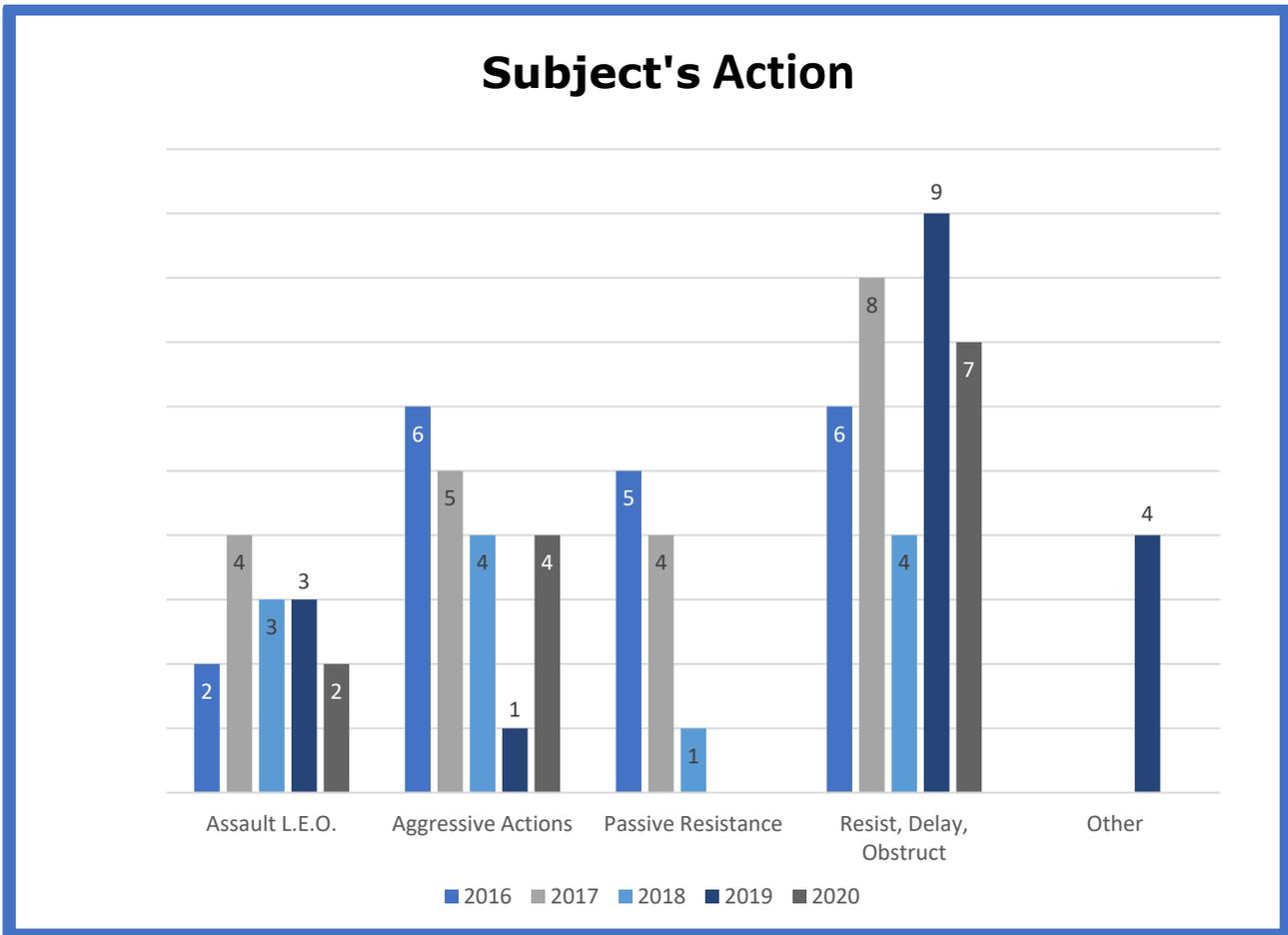
**Use of Force**

Clayton Police Department policy requires officers to document use of force for each occasion that physical force is used on another person. Each use of force is then reviewed by supervisory staff to ensure that the appropriate amount of force was delivered to safely control the behavior of the respective person.

In 2020 the Clayton Police Department reported 13 encounters requiring the use of reasonable force, down 25.53 percent from 17 encounters in 2019.



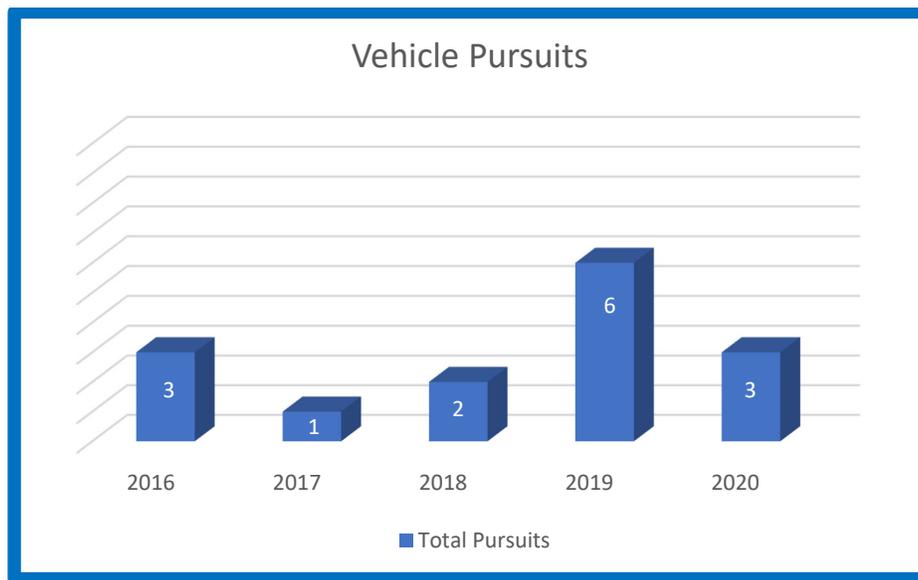
Subject's action that necessitated the use of reasonable force and the type of force used:



**Vehicle Pursuits**

The Clayton Police Department reported three vehicle pursuits in 2020.

Vehicle pursuits decreased by 50 percent when compared to the six pursuits conducted in 2019. CPD policy requires each vehicle pursuit to be appropriately documented and reviewed by each supervisory level to ensure the pursuit was within policy.



After a thorough review of all information pertaining to the three vehicle pursuits, all three were found to be within policy.

**Conclusion**

This report provides the reader with information regarding the various divisions and units within the Clayton Department and gives them a glimpse into our activities and accomplishments during 2020. The Clayton Police Department continues to adapt to the changing demands and trends in law enforcement and works diligently to maintain a partnership with the citizen of the Town of Clayton.

The report also contains information regarding crime trends in the community. We continue to serve the citizens of Clayton to the best of our ability by sharing data and activities with the community to keep citizens well informed. We have and will continue to remain diligent in addressing crime and safety issues throughout the Town of Clayton. If you should ever need us, we are here for you!



**“TO DELIVER OUTSTANDING POLICE SERVICES TO EVERYONE;  
EVERYTIME.”**