

Village of Cottage Grove  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

210 Progress Drive, Suite #1  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
Dispatch: (608) 255-2345  
Business Office: (608) 839-4652  
Fax: (608) 839-4588  
Email: [dlayber@cottagegrovepolice.org](mailto:dlayber@cottagegrovepolice.org)  
Website: [www.cottagegrovepolice.org](http://www.cottagegrovepolice.org)



**Daniel L. Layber**  
Chief of Police

## **2018 Village of Cottage Grove Police Department Annual Report on Use of Force**

As required by the Village of Cottage Grove Police Department's "Use of Force" policy, Chief Layber is required to prepare an annual report and analysis of the department's use of force incidents. The report will note any areas needing improvement, and any patterns or trends that could indicate training needs and/or policy modifications.

In 2018 the Cottage Grove Police Department had 9 documented use of force incidents, compared to 6 in 2017.

The first incident involved a 12-year-old female with mental health issues that was out of control and aggressive at a foster family home. When the Cottage Grove Officers arrived on scene the subject was verbally acting out and proceeded to break items in the house and not listen to orders from officers trying to contain the situation. She attempted to strike an officer and attempted to access a drawer with knives inside. Eventually officers had to handcuff her to contain her due to safety concerns for her, the foster family and police. Prior to the handcuffing officers restrained her with arm blanket maneuvers at various times during the incident. After the subject calmed down she was released from handcuffs and turned over to the foster family. She did not complain of injuries and no first aid was needed. No weapons were used by officers.

The second incident involved a 35-year-old male that was wanted for domestic violence disorderly conduct, criminal trespass, and theft. Officers in uniform advised him of their purpose for contacting him and attempted to arrest the subject for these offenses in front of his house in Cottage Grove. The subject fled from officers and officers grabbed his sweatshirt to slow him down, grabbed his arms and eventually forced him to the ground where he continued to struggle with officers. Officers had to lay on top of him and struggle with him to eventually place him in handcuffs and take him into custody. He was not injured and was not taken to the hospital. No weapons were used by officers.

The third incident involved a 17-year-old male subject who was involved in a domestic disturbance and refusing to leave a residence. When police arrived, they contacted the subject who was yelling and swearing at his father and the police. He broke items in the house and his father wanted him arrested due to his behavior. The subject locked himself in a room, later came out and again yelled profanities at officers. He was told that he was going to be arrested and he attempted to flee into a room. Officers physically grabbed his arms and legs and directed him to the ground where he was handcuffed. He was eventually transported to the Juvenile Reception Center. The subject was not injured, and no weapons were used by officers.

In the fourth incident involved a 27-year-old male subject who was in a female's house with a gun and was acting in a threatening manner. Police arrived on scene in their fully marked police squads and the subject pointed a rifle at them while standing in front of the house. This happened to two officers in different vehicles. Officers did not fire at the subject. They disengaged and took up positions behind their vehicles, armed themselves with patrol rifles and attempted to talk with the subject about surrendering. After lengthy negotiations, the subject dropped the weapons and proceeded towards the house where he was physically

**Dedicated to Keeping Our Community Safe Through Partnership and Professional Service**

restrained by officers and taken into custody. He was checked by EMS and was cleared to go to jail. He was not injured, and no weapons were used against the subject.

The fifth incident involved a 12-year-old female also described in incident number one. She was at school and staff reported she was out of control and was kicking, pounding and damaging walls. When police arrived, they were advised she was in an office tipping over and throwing tables and chairs. The subject was advised to stand up, she refused, swore at the officers, and eventually officers grabbed her arms and escorted her to the floor. She resisted efforts to handcuff her and refused officers demands to put her arms behind her back. Officers eventually forced her arms behind her back while she kicked and screamed at officers and handcuffed her. She was eventually able to calm down and the handcuffs were removed. She left in the care of a former foster parent. She was not injured, and officers did not use weapons on her.

The sixth incident involved a 36-year-old male subject that was pulled over by police for a traffic violation. While pulled over by the marked squad he fired a round from a pistol while inside his vehicle. Officers conducted a felony, high risk removal of the subject from his vehicle which includes pointing guns at the subject. He was taken into custody without any physical force being necessary. He later admitted to firing the round while in his vehicle. He was taken to jail and was not injured.

The seventh incident involved a 19-year-old female who was involved in a domestic dispute while intoxicated. Officers contacted her, and she yelled, swore and made gestures at officers. Officers were told by family members that she was suicidal, incapacitated due to alcohol, and belligerent. Officers observed this same behavior and attempted to take her into custody. She fled on foot and officers chased her and grabbed her moving her to the ground where she was placed in handcuffs while struggling with officers. She was not injured, no weapons used by officers and later transported to Detox.

The eighth incident involved a 13-year-old female that had physically assaulted another student at a school in Cottage Grove. Officers arrived at the school and contacted her. She was yelling and swearing at staff and refused to leave the scene. Officers made contact and had to physically blanket her arm and move her to the office area due to her non-compliant state. She was not hurt, did not require first aid and was left in the control of school staff. No weapons were used by officers.

The ninth incident involved a 13-year-old male who was physically assaulting school staff. The officer contacted the male and he refused commands to stay in an office area. The officer had to physically grab the male's jacket to try and restrain him. He pushed the officer at which time he was physically restrained by the officer who forced his hands to his side and got him under control. He was later released to his mother. The officer did not use weapons and the male was not injured.

In Chief Layber's review of the incidents, the officer's actions were deemed appropriate in all situations they were faced with. They used the minimum amount of force necessary to control the subjects and no subjects were injured because of the use of force.

Due to the minimal number of police use of force incidents, it is difficult to note any patterns or trends that could indicate training needs and/or policy modifications. It appears that the police officers involved were well trained and applied their training and experience appropriately during these encounters. No follow-up complaints were made to the police department by the subjects or their representatives alleging excessive force was used.

Sincerely,

Daniel Layber  
Police Chief