



Fire and Police Commission

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Celebrating 125 years of service to the community
Fire and Police Commission - Established 1885

September 16, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

MILWAUKEE FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT USE OF FORCE

The FPC has published an analysis on the use of force by the Milwaukee Police Department during the first six months of 2010. The report provides an overview of the use of force incidents and is part of the FPC's continuous review of the policies and procedures of the Milwaukee Police Department. The report was produced in collaboration with the UW-Milwaukee Criminal Justice Department and its chairman, Professor Steven Brandl.

Michael Tobin, Executive Director of the FPC, summarizes the report:

"Use of force incidents increased in the first six months of 2010 as compared to the same time period in 2009, from 220 to 253. This is a 15% increase that closely tracks and corresponds to an 18% increase in the number of arrests made during the same time period. Since an officer's use of force is almost always associated with an arrest, the ratio of use of force incidents has remained statistically the same as last year. The use of a firearm by an officer has decreased over the same time period, from six to four incidents involving a subject, and from 21 to 14 incidents involving a dog. The department has improved its record-keeping system since our last report, and we are continuing to work with the department to identify training and policy modifications to further improve our officer's ability to confront violent situations with minimum use of force."

The report will be formally presented at tonight's FPC meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hill, room 301-B. The report will be available at the FPC website <http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/fpc>.

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