

GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE UNIT



MLK Center
March 14, 2023

K9 UNIT AT THE GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Corps Eyed At Gainesville

GAINESVILLE (By Staff Writer)—Gainesville police will go to the dogs in an effort to stop the skyrocketing crime rate.

In the proposed new budget, chief William Joiner has asked for a record \$540,000 — a hike of \$81,000 over this year's expenditures.

Much of the increase would go toward adding 12 policemen to the force — and establishing a three-dog K-9 corps in Gainesville.

Chief Joiner last month reported a 60 per cent increase in crime here for the first seven months of the year.

He said the dogs would be used mainly in the war against prowlers and burglars.

"We have done a considerable amount of research in the use of police dogs," said Joiner. "We find that they serve as an excellent deterrent to crime. We have talked to police and trainers in cities where dogs are used. They report decreased crime incidence wherever there is a K-9 corps."

City Manager William T. Green Jr., goes along with the police request for dogs but recommends that the city employ six new policemen instead of 12. Chief Joiner said he would stay with his request for 12 new officers.



- History
- Current team
- Uses today
- De-escalation



K9 UNIT INITIAL AND MONTHLY TRAINING



- Well over the minimum initial training of 480 hours, as required by FDLE, GPD has been closer to 600 hours.
- Well over the monthly mandatory minimum of 16 hours of, “maintenance training” set by case law in Kerr vs. West Palm Beach.

K9 UNIT SAVING LIVES AND SACRIFICES



SPORTS FEATURES CW17 TRAFFIC JAX BEST NEWSLETTERS CONTACT **LIVE**

Gainesville officers save life of choking baby



Officer Dylan Hayes-Morrison and K-9 Officer Amanda Cummings from Gainesville

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – A choking baby was saved by two Gainesville police officers Wednesday, the Gainesville Police Department said.

Officers Amanda Cummings and Dylan Hayes-Morrison were searching for a wanted person believed to be in the area of 100 NE 15th St., police said.

While they were in the area, someone approached them holding a 3-week-old baby and said the baby wasn't breathing.

The infant was red in the face, unconscious and not breathing, and both officers immediately began providing medical assistance, police said.

They said the infant's airway was obstructed by an unknown object, and after several minutes, they were able to able to pull the object from the infant's airway, and it began breathing on its own.

EMS took the child to a hospital.

"It goes without saying that an incident like this would stress the most seasoned officer beyond belief," GPD spokesman Ben Tobias said. "Add that in this case there was no dispatch or 'en route' time to prep themselves for the call, (and) one can't speak highly enough about the composure they held to be able to provide life-saving measures to a dying infant. Amazing."



Services held for police dog that took bullet for officer

By The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Tears in his eyes, a Gainesville police officer paid tribute to the dog that was fatally wounded by a bullet aimed at him.

"He was my partner," K-9 Unit Officer Mike Pruitt said Wednesday of his German shepherd, "Gero." "I depended on him and he depended on me."

The dog was first shot when it attacked a burglary suspect. The wounded dog fell against Pruitt, catching a second shot meant for the officer, he said.

"Had I not been knocked down by the dog, I would have received the

shot," Pruitt said. Gero, on the police force for four years, died in his arms.

The suspect at the downtown law office, Darrell Earl Parker, was killed by police in the brief gun battle.

About 200 people — a few of them policemen from around the state with their dogs in tow — stood at attention as Gero's flag-draped white casket was put in position Wednesday at the Gainesville Police Academy burial site.

During his career in Gainesville, Gero was credited with catching 17 suspects, helping in the apprehensions of 48 others and aiding efforts to find two lost children.



K-9 Hans Shot By Cornered Suspect

GAINESVILLE — A two-year veteran of Gainesville police work is recovering from a gunshot wound in the stomach after helping capture



● Alcohol
● Lila
● Citrus
● Sunier
● Puhon

Tuesday, March 7, 1972 1—B

two breaking and entering suspects Sunday night.

Hans, age 4½, a Gainesville K-9 police dog, was shot by a suspect he had cornered in the back of a grocery store.

Police had stalked out the area around Waldo Road and Southeast Fourth Avenue because of a series of break-ins.

Officer M. J. Shea spotted two suspicious men around George's Meat-A-Rama just after 11 p.m. Sunday. He watched them try several times to break into the store and called in other units.

They surrounded the store and called for the intruders to surrender, but the pair refused to come out, and Hans and three officers went into the store.

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Hans' handler, Officer R. D. Shevaller, sent the large German shepherd toward the rear. He went into a back room and a shot rang out.

The dog came limping back dropping blood and the officers warned the assailant to throw out his gun or they would come in shooting.

A .38 caliber revolver came sliding out and Jack Davis, 31, gave himself up. He then told officers his partner was hiding on the other side of the store. A moment later 18-year-old Lorenzo Henderson gave up too.

Both were charged with breaking and entering, while Davis was charged with assault on the dog and handler. They were taken before the county judge who set bond at \$1,000 each for breaking and entering and placed Davis under an additional

\$5,000 bond for assault against the officer and dog.

Henderson was identified as a high school dropout and part time laborer, while Davis refused to give any address.

Shevaller rushed Hans to a veterinarian where he underwent surgery for a bullet wound which went through his ear and then through his stomach.

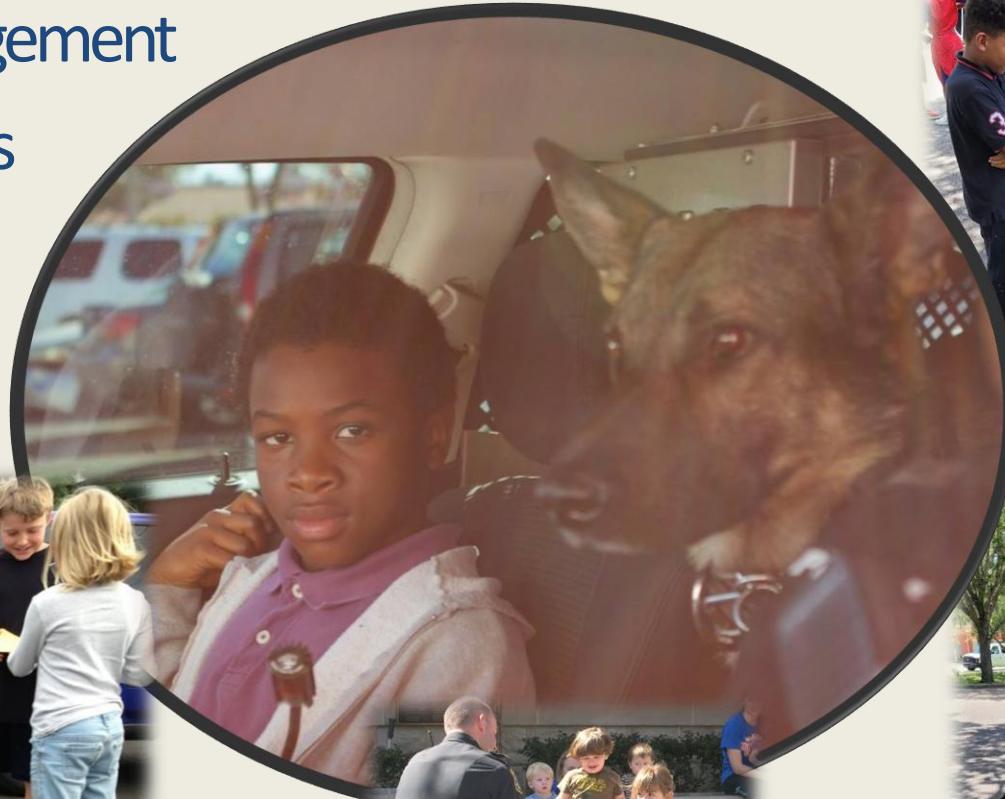
Police Major Bill Crews said the dog is doing well and is expected to return to duty shortly.



K9 UNIT USE BEYOND PATROL



- Community Engagement
- Missing Persons



K-9 PATROL USES

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TRACKS AND APPREHENSIONS



- During tracks
- Building Search
- Case Law



- Unknown location tracking
- Article searches for evidence



- Pursue
- Surrender
- Capture

K-9 POLICY UPDATES



- Implemented all of “V2 Global’s” recommendations after review
- Chief Lonnie Scott and Command Staff notified of every injury
- Dogs will not be utilized for “crowd control”
- Violent Misdemeanors and Felonies
 - Utilized when there is a possibility of physical harm to a victim





K-9 BENEFITS IN REVIEW



- Locating Narcotics/Guns
- Locating missing persons
- Officer Safety
- Locating violent suspects who threaten Public Safety
- Assist in de-escalation

GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TESTIMONIALS
POLICE K-9S
SAVES LIVES



RETIRED GPD SERGEANT MIKE PRUITT



GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE STATISTICS 2020 - PRESENT



GPD RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE REVIEW

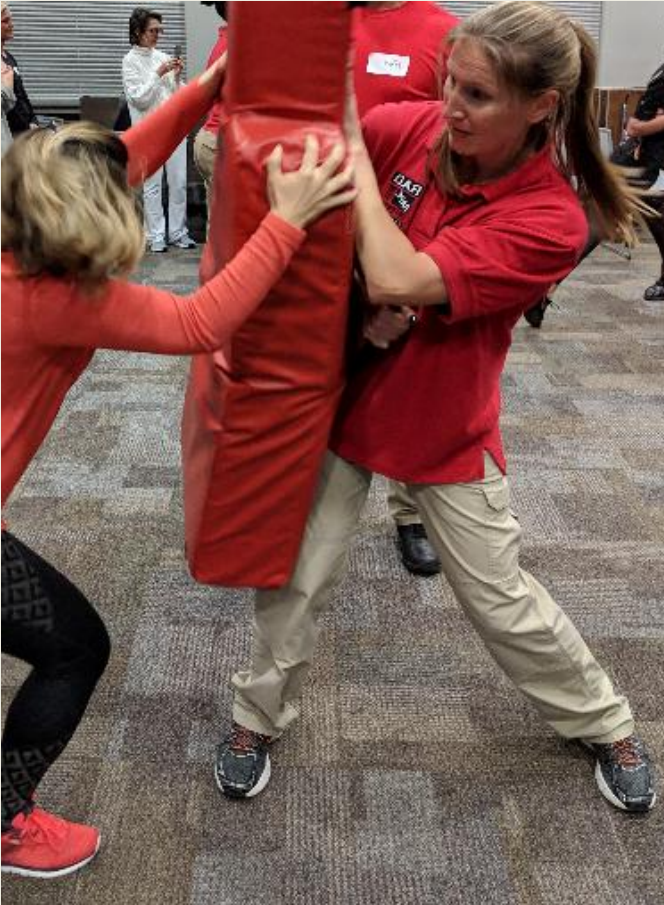


- All Response to Resistance Techniques utilized are approved by three levels of supervision and sent to Internal affairs.
- Any officer that has 5 Response to Resistance Techniques employed during a 12 month period an Early Warning Notification is received by our Internal Affairs Commander.
 - All the incidents are reviewed again and a report is completed with the findings.



GPD RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE STATISTICS 2020-2022

CANINE DATA INCLUDED

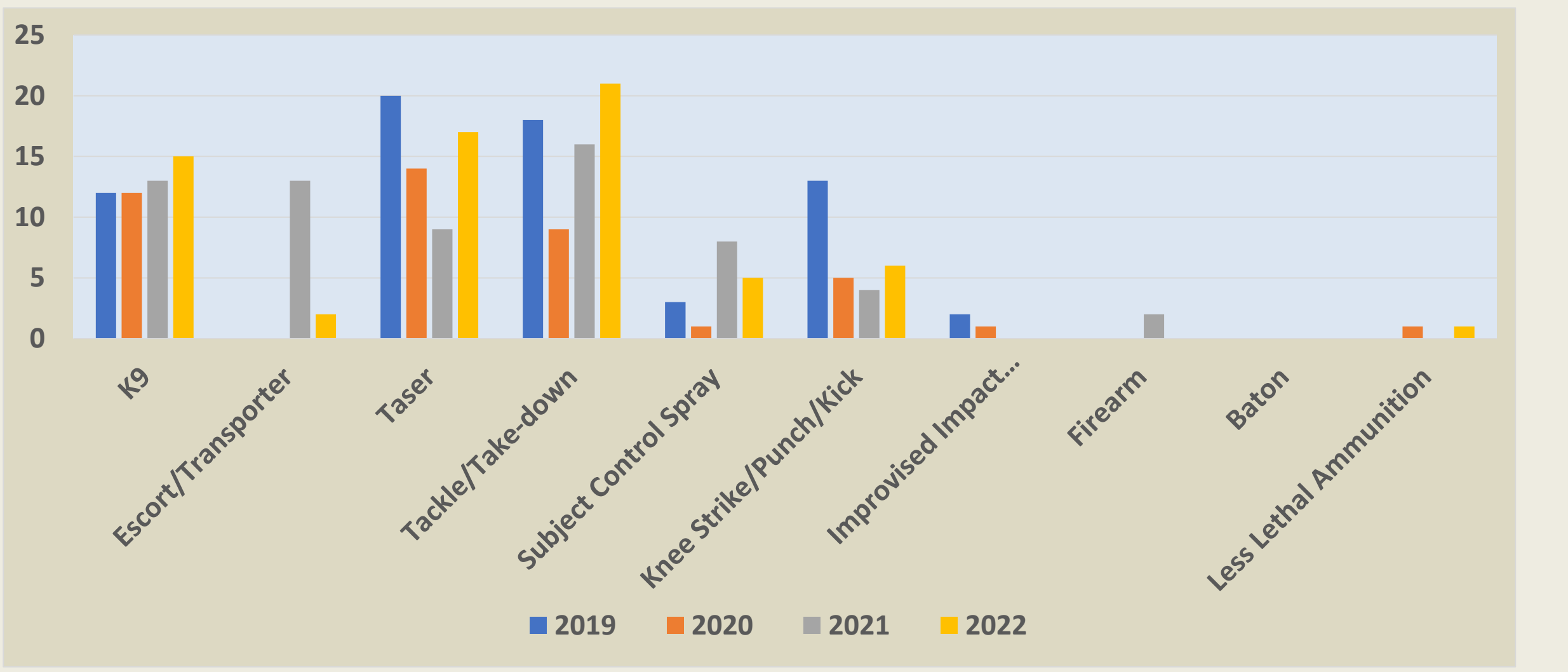


Year	GPD Calls for Service	Total Response to Resistance Techniques	% of Response to Resistance utilized
2019	92,762	64	0.07%
2020	89,124	43	0.05%
2021	93,285	65	0.07%
2022	94,185	69	0.07%

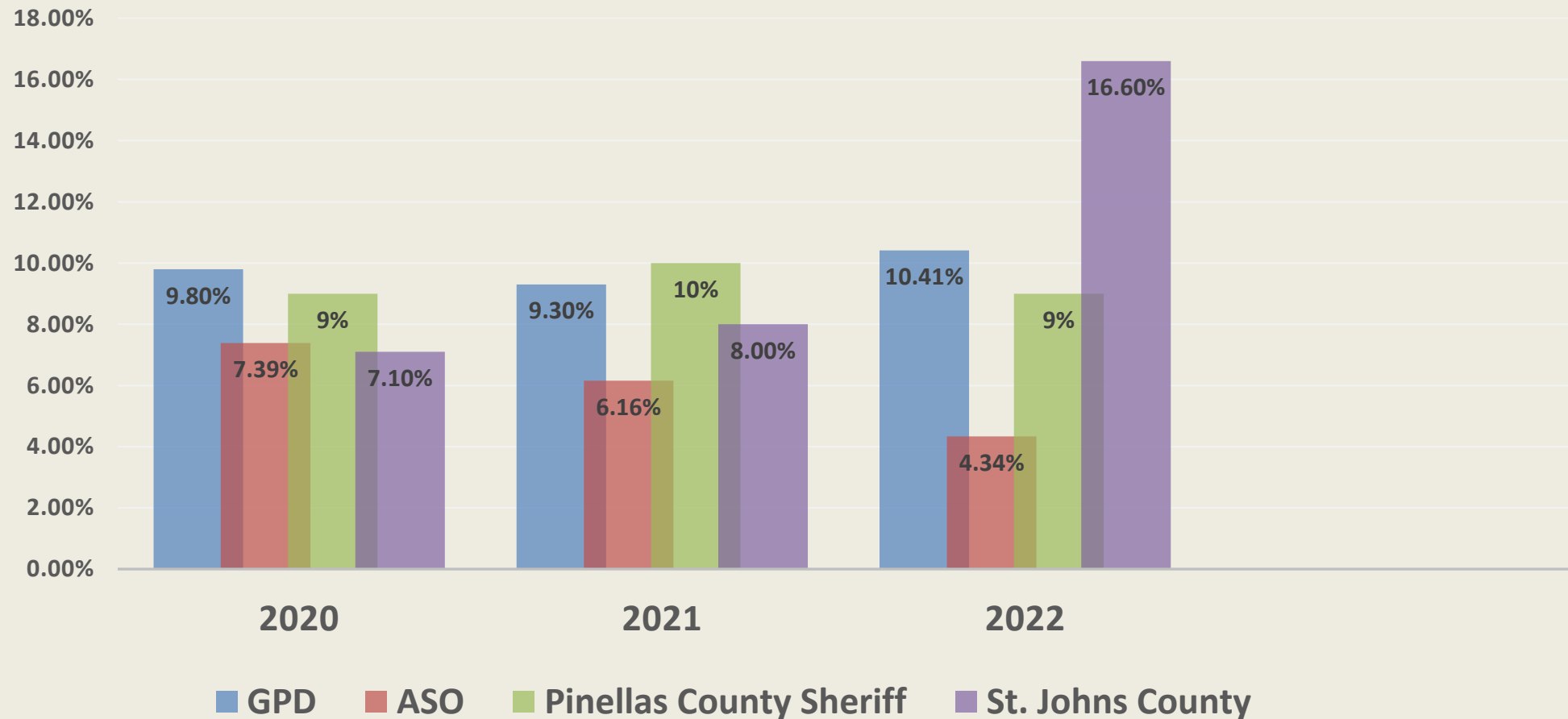


TYPES OF RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE TECHNIQUES UTILIZED

2019-2021



BITE RATIOS – COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES 2020 TO 2022



PROACTIVE AND REACTIVE RESPONSES BY K-9 RESULTING IN A BITE 2019-2022



Year	Proactive	Reactive (Citizen Request)	Internal Request	Total K-9 Bites
2019	0	8	4	12
2020	0	8	4	12
2021	0	6	6	12
2022	1	9	5	15

Proactive: The K-9 handler himself/herself initiated the event. (1.96%)

Reactive-External: The K-9 handler responded to the scene at the behest of a member of the public or another agency making GPD aware of an incident. (64.70%)

Internal Request: The K-9 handler responded to the scene at the behest of a member of GPD who initiated an incident (traffic stop, wanted person, etc.). (37.25%)

HOW OUR K-9 UNIT KEEPS THE COMMUNITY SAFE



Types of criminal offenses tracked by K-9 from 2019-2022*

- Felony Warrants
- Burglary – Residential, Business, Conveyance
- Robbery
- Aggravated Stalking
- Aggravated Domestic Battery
- Armed Carjacking
- Aggravated Assault
- Aggravated Battery
- Possession of a Firearm
- Aggravated Fleeing and Attempting to Elude
- Loitering and Prowling

* List is not completely exhaustive.

Without a K9 unit, what are the possible implications:

- From 2019-2022, The K-9 unit assisted in apprehending 598 individuals responsible for crimes.
- Community safety at risk.
- Officer Safety at risk.
- Potential for Responses to Resistance to increase without K-9 unit.

