



BALTIMORE COUNTY LODGE NO. 4

# FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

INCORPORATED

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## Your Baltimore County Police Officers Continue to Represent the Citizens of Baltimore County Professionally

Law enforcement officers across the country are facing intense public scrutiny about officer conduct and the use of force on the citizens they serve. Recent events nationally and local have gained widespread attention on both traditional and social media. Emotions are high and the demand for “police reform” is loud. There is a perception that police officers across America and in Maryland, have no regard for citizen rights, the use of force is commonplace and there is no mechanism to discipline officers for misconduct.

I ask that you take a step back from your emotions for a moment and look at what is occurring in our jurisdiction. As you can see from the last decade of Baltimore County statistics below, misconduct and the use of force by officers, whether physical or with a firearm is not commonplace.

Year	County Population	Calls for Service	Assaults on Officers	Arrests	Uses of Force	Citizen Complaints
2010	801,700	604,706	957	33,898	329	128
2011	805,029	576,017	955	29,959	354	109
2012	817,455	585,112	798	29,439	377	126
2013	817,455	580,416	692	27,982	318	124
2014	824,000	572,289	659	26,989	305	89
2015	824,000	582,894	660	25,651	300	85
2016	826,000	606,851	609	24,534	252	71
2017	831,000	709,627	581	23,584	208	52
2018	831,000	668,820	627	21,564	242	43
2019	835,000	<u>749,403</u>	<u>602</u>	<u>21,689</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>50</u>
		6,236,135	7,140	265,289	2,934	877

### County Population

The county population has steadily grown since 2010 with an increase of approximately 33,300 (4%) over the ten (10) year period. Demographics available on the county website showed that in 2010 the population was 64% white, 26% African American, 4% Hispanic, 6% other.



### **Calls for Service**

The number of calls for service shown includes all calls to 911, nonemergency calls and traffic stops. This does not take into account the numerous undocumented interactions with citizens that officers have every day.

Calls for service for the period shown have shown an increase of 24%. The average number of calls for service was 623,614. The last three years have been above the average.

### **Arrests**

In the decade 2010 thru 2019 in Baltimore County, there were a total of 265,289 arrests. That equates to an average of 26,529 arrests per year in a county where the population has grown 4% to 835,000.

The number of arrests has trended downward 36% since 2010. There has been a decrease in arrests in every year. Officers are utilizing other methods to handle many situations in lieu of arrests. Baltimore County officers made 1,017 less arrests per month or 33 less per day, in 2019 than in 2010 while the calls for service have increased 24%.

### **Uses of Force by Officers**

In the Baltimore County Police Department a “use of force” report must be completed when an officer uses force involving any execution of a physical act to control a person, overcome resistance, and/or defend oneself or another. The force may entail the use of body parts, issued departmental equipment, or an instrument of necessity.

In the ten (10) years indicated above Baltimore County officers used force a total of 2,934 times. That equates to an average of 293 uses of force per year. That is less than 1 use of force by an officer per day on average. Additionally, the statistics show that force was used in 00.0470% of all calls for service and 01.105% of all arrests.

Stop and think about that for a minute. Our officers used force in only 1% of all arrests.

Internal Affairs stats show that officers were involved in combat shootings 60 times during the ten (10) year period averaging six (6) per year. This equates to the use of a firearm in 00.00096% of all calls for service and in 00.0226% of all arrests.

### **Assaults on Officers**

During the ten (10) year period officers reported being assaulted 7,140 times averaging 714 assaults per year. (There has been 2 line of duty deaths) While assaults on officers have been trending downward, the numbers show that officers in Baltimore County are 2.4 times more likely to be assaulted by a citizen than use force against a citizen.



## **Citizen Complaints**

According to the Internal Affairs Section in the Baltimore County Police Department there were 877 complaints from citizens about officer misconduct, including uses of force. That equates to an average of 87 per year and has also been steadily trending downward (39%). Over the entire period there was an average of 1 citizen complaint for every 7,110 calls for service. In the years 2018 and 2019 there was 1 citizen complaint for every 15,249 calls for service. Citizens can make a complaint in a variety of ways as posted on the Department website <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/complaints.html>

## **Closing**

As you can see from the last decade of agency statistics, the narrative of rampant use of force by our officers is simply not true. The use of force is exceedingly rare in both calls for service and in arrest situations. The use of a firearm is even more rare, ninety-six ten thousands of 1% on all calls for service and twenty-two one hundredths of 1% of all arrests.

Our members are engaging the community. They participate in recreational sports, high school sports, cub scouts, churches, and countless other activities just like every other citizen. Because at the end of the day they and their families are part of the community.

Remember, our officers are professionals and are expected to act as such. However, they are human, and come in all varieties. They can try and be everything you want them or need them to be, negotiator, mediator, priest, counselor, mental health professional, lawyer, all while having their interactions documented on camera. The only thing they cannot be is perfect.

The Baltimore Metropolitan area has a serious crime problem. In 2019 there were almost 350 murders in Baltimore City and Baltimore County set an all-time high with 50 murders. The safety of our citizens is our ultimate goal. These homicide numbers are for a single year! Your police officers are not the problem. Violent crime is the problem and it's a regional one.

Let me end by extending an invitation to sit and have a conversation with me and our members to discuss any ideas or questions you may have.

David Rose  
President,  
Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4



REPRESENTING THE PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

