

# Departmental Correspondence

**Crystal Lake Police  
Department**

To: Chief Black

From: Commander Miller

CC: Deputy Chief Kotlowski, Deputy Chief Neumann

Date: January 23, 2026

Re: Response to Resistance Analysis – Calendar Year 2025 CALEA 4.2.4

The purpose of this memorandum is to document an analysis of the response to resistance (RTR) by officers during the performance of their official duties for the calendar year 2025. Each incident resulting in a RTR is reviewed by several members of the agency including the Unit Supervisor, Training Coordinator, Unit Commander, Deputy Chief, and the Chief of Police. The reviews ensure the response was appropriate, lawful, within training guidelines and policy. For calendar year 2025, Officers were involved in 41 incidents which were reviewed by supervisory staff. It should be noted that the Crystal Lake Police Department's threshold to initiate a Response to Resistance review starts when the subject being detained requires officer intervention beyond compliant hand cuffing. This is an important factor to remember when comparing the data captured in this analysis to other law enforcement agencies' data.

## **Policy 300.3 RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE-**

Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate response to resistance in each incident.

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.

Employees will use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force when it is safe and feasible to do so based on the totality of the circumstances. This includes continually assessing the situation and modifying the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including stopping the use of force when it is no longer necessary. Examples of de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to:

- a. providing a warning and exercising persuasion and advice prior to the use of force.
- b. determining whether the employee may be able to stabilize the situation through the use of time, distance, or positioning to isolate and contain a subject.
- c. requesting additional personnel to respond or make use of specialized units or equipment including crisis intervention team trained officers, as necessary and appropriate.

### **Calls for Service and Arrests-**

In 2025, the Department responded to 24,543 (decrease of 1,631 from 2024) calls for service and effected 822 (decrease of 133 from 2024) arrests. Therefore, of the 24,543 calls for service, only 3.34% (0.31% decrease from 2024) involved an arrest.

- 759 adults (decrease of 107 from 2024)
- 63 juveniles (decrease of 26 from 2024)

In 2025, 26 RTR incidents involved an arrest being made. This equates to approximately 3.16% of arrests requiring a RTR. Compared to 2024, this is a 1.07% increase. Conversely, no type of RTR was used in approximately 96.84% of arrests. With 24,543 total calls for service in 2025, approximately 0.2% involved a RTR. This remained essentially the same as compared to 2024.

### **Date and Time of Incidents-**

For the purposes of this analysis, time of day was examined and represented in terms of which shift the RTR occurred on.

- 23 Afternoon (17 arrests, 10 involving battery to officer)
- 11 Midnights (5 arrests, 2 involving battery to officers)
- 7 Days (4 arrests, 2 involving battery to officers)

Afternoon shift saw 56% of the RTR incidents. Midnights accounted for 27% and Days accounted for 17%.

By month, the following number of RTR were recorded: January (2), February (4), March (1), April (4), May (3), June (7), July (3), August (3), September (3), October (0), November (5), December (6). For this analysis the winter months of December, January, and February accounted for 12 of the 41 RTR incidents, or 29%. In contrast, the winter of 2024 accounted for 42% of that year's RTR incidents. In 2025 the summer months of June, July and August showed a notable increase compared

to 2024. The summer of 2025 accounted for 32% of the RTR incidents, in 2024 they accounted for only 12% of the incidents.

### **Types of Encounters Resulting in Response to Resistance-**

RTR incidents are categorized as one of three types of encounters, “Mental Health”, “Intoxication”, or “Other”. Incidents where both Intoxication and Mental Health were prevalent were considered as a Mental Health incident for purposes of this report. The “Other” category encompasses incidents where Mental Health nor Intoxication were factors in the RTR incident.

- 17 Intoxication related RTR, where no mental health issues were prevalent, were recorded.
  - This constitutes 41.5% of RTR encounters primarily related to Intoxication
    - An increase of 3% from 2024
  - 16 resulted in an Arrest, 1 was transported to the hospital with no charges
    - 6 of which resulted in a battery to an officer
  - 35% of RTR encounters involving Intoxication resulted in a battery to an officer or officers.
    - A decrease of 5% from 2024
  
- 15 Mental Health related RTR.
  - This constitutes 37% of RTR encounters primarily related to Mental Health.
    - 14% increase from 2024
  - 4 resulted in incarceration (one of which went for evaluation prior to jail)
  - 8 were transported for mental health evaluation
  - 3 were released (two were juveniles)
  - 33% of RTR encounters involving Mental Health resulted in a battery to an officer.
    - This remained the same as 2024
  - 67% of the Mental Health encounters resulted in a criminal charge
  
- 9 Other related RTR were recorded in 2025. These include RTR where no Mental Health or Intoxication were prevalent factors in the encounter.
  - This constitutes 22% of RTR encounters being primarily related to “Other”
  - 6 of these encounters resulted in an Arrest
    - 3 of which involved a battery to an officer
  - 33% of RTR encounters not considered Mental Health or Intoxication resulted in an officer being battered.

### **Trends related to race, age and gender-**

Gender and Race of those who resisted:

- 33 of 41 individuals involved in RTR incidents were male (80.5%).
  - 2 of these males were Black (6%)
  - 4 were Hispanic (12%)
  - 1 Pacific Islander (3%)
  - 26 (79%) were White
  
- 8 of 41 individuals involved in the RTR incidents were female (19.5%).

- 2 were Hispanic (25%)
- 6 were White (75%)
- Nine RTR incidents involved juveniles, 6 males and 3 females were involved in RTR incidents.
  - 3 White Juvenile Female
  - 1 Black Juvenile Male
  - 5 White Juvenile Males
- The number of subjects involved in RTR by age and cause:
  - 11 Juveniles (6 Mental Health, 2 Intoxication, 3 Other)
  - 5 in their 20's (2 Mental Health, 3 Other)
  - 8 in their 30's (2 Mental Health, 5 Intoxication, 1 Other)
  - 10 in their 40's (2 Mental Health, 6 Intoxication 2 Other)
  - 5 in their 50's (2 Mental Health, 3 Intoxication)
  - 2 in their 60's (1 Mental Health, 1 Intoxication)
- RTR cause and Race:
  - There were 2 RTR encounters with Black subjects. One was listed as Other and one was listed as Mental Health.
  - There were 6 RTR incidents involving Hispanics,
    - 4 were Intoxication
    - 2 were indicated as Other
  - There was one RTR encounter with a Pacific Islander which was a mental health call
  - There were 32 RTR incidents involving White subjects,
    - 12 were due to Mental Health,
    - 13 Intoxication
    - 7 listed as Other

**Demographics - Summary of subjects involved in RTR**

Of the response to resistance incidents, 80.5% involved male subjects. The subject was white in 75% of the incidents. The leading age categories were Juveniles which accounted for 27% of the RTR and those in their 40's being accounting for 24.4% of the RTR incidents. This is a demographic switch from 2024 where subjects in their 30's accounted for 32.25% of the RTR incidents. In 2025 subjects in their 30's accounted for 19.5%. The only discernable pattern identified was that the subject involved in a response to resistance incident is likely to be a white male 63.4% of the time, of which 42.3 % of the time the RTR was related to intoxication, 30.8% of the incidents were mental health and 26.9% of the time the RTR was listed as other. Additionally, White Males in there 40's were involved in 22% of all RTR reviews, 67% of the time due to intoxication. White Females are the next most likely group to be encountered involving a RTR, 14.6% of the time. Of the females involved in RTR incidents,

juveniles account for the largest group by age at 37.5% of the time. These 8 female encounters are split evenly between Intoxication and Mental Health.

### **Injuries Sustained and Officers Battered-**

- 18 officers were battered in 14 separate RTR incidents
- 54% of the time, where an arrest involved a RTR, an officer was also battered.
  - This is a 24% increase from 2024
- 7 officers reported injuries during separate incidents
  - One knee injury occurred while tackling a subject, which involved worker's compensation
  - 5 involved minor scrapes to hands or knees due to contact with the ground
  - 1 officer was spit on, causing occupational exposure precautions
- 4 offenders reported injuries during 4 incidents.
  - 2 offenders had scrapes, 1 Taser prob site redness, 1 complained of shoulder pain
  - 3 involved Mental Health, 1 involved Other
  - All 4 were Male (3 White, 1 Hispanic)
  - 2 were 17 years of age, one 32 years of age the other 61 years of age
  - 3 involved empty hand control, one involved Taser

### **Officer's involvement-**

Forty-six (46) different Officers were involved with 41 RTR incidents. There were 4 instances where the same officers were involved in 6 separate RTR events, 3 instances where the same officer was involved in 5 separate RTR events. 113 officers were involved in the 41 RTR incidents, this averages to 2.75 officers per an encounter. Some of these incidents involved more than one type of response during the incident or the same type was used multiple times.

The types of response to resistance ranged from "Empty Hand Controls" to "Firearm Presented". The frequency of those responses is as follows:

- Empty Hand Control = 36 incidents involving 102 officers
- WRAP Deployment = 10 deployments 37 officers involved
- Taser Displayed (not deployed) = 6 officers in 4 incidents
- Taser Deployed = 1 (suicidal subject)
- Baton Strike = 0
- Firearm Presented (not discharged) = 4 officers pointed their firearms during 3 incidents
- Firearm Discharged = 0

### **Summary-**

There was a sharp increase in the number of response to resistance incidents in 2025, 41 incidents, compared to 26 incidents in 2024, although 2023 had 41 RTRs recorded as well. The average number of RTR for the years 2019-2025 was 32.57(2019-2024 was 31.17). Deadly force was not utilized in 2025. Empty hand controls are still the primary type of response used. The average number of officers

involved in Empty Hand Control RTR incident increased from 2.47 in 2023 to 3.04 in 2024, in 2025 it was 2.83. The WRAP continues to be used more often. It was used during 24.4 % of the RTR incidents in 2025. The average number of officers involved in the application of the WRAP decreased from 4.5 in 2024 to 3.7 in 2025. In 2025, 7 officers were injured during response to resistance incidents, which is an increase from 4 in 2024. It should be noted that only 2 required medical treatment. Upon reviewing the documented response to resistance incidents, it appears our officers are responding appropriately to encountered resistance. All incidents were within the law, policy and their training.

### **Commentary-**

Although RTR incidents can naturally vary from year to year in number and type, changes in the profession over time can possibly shed some light on trends. De-escalation techniques, as they are solidified in law enforcement ethos, can aid in explaining why 2025 saw an increase in RTR incidents while the rates of injuries remain low. The natural consequence of attempting to de-escalate a situation generally prolongs the incident, allowing for additional officers to arrive on scene. This might assist in explaining why the average number of officers involved in the most common type of force, Empty Hand Control, increased as injuries to officers and offenders alike remain low. Beyond de-escalation, as the work force becomes more proficient with utilizing the WRAP, we have seen its use increase with fewer officers involved. The use of the WRAP continues to increase and in 2025 it was utilized in almost a quarter of the RTR incidents. A suggestion from last year's analysis for additional WRAP training was capitalized upon and the results can be seen in the 2025 data. Officers and supervisors alike are more confident with its use and recognize the benefits of deploying it. Currently they are housed in the Sergeant's vehicles, which forces supervisory oversight every time it is deployed, this practice should continue.

### **Conclusion-**

Based on this analysis, I recommend that no changes should be made to the Department's policies or procedures at this time. I do not recommend acquiring any additional items of equipment at this time. It is recommended that in order to allow officers to continue to become more proficient in the use of the WRAP, training should be continued annually. As mental health calls requiring RTR increase, so should our continued emphasis on targeted training for such calls. Lastly, I recommend the information contained in this analysis be shared with the personnel who develop the Department's scenario-based training. The trainers can then design sessions to include events with particular details to better prepare the officers. The incident reports and Response to Resistance Reviews for each incident are available for your review if desired.