

Biased Based / Racial Profiling – Annual Report



Year Ending 2023

Each January, the Support Services Lieutenant shall review the department's effort to prevent bias-based profiling and submit an overview. This report is the overview of department's effort and compliance within state law and department policy.

Report prepared by:
Support Services
Lieutenant
Diego Zanella



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Bias-based policing is described as the inappropriate reliance on race, ethnicity, or national origin as a factor in deciding whether to take law enforcement action or to provide service.

According to state law (RCW 43.101.410), Local law enforcement agencies shall:

(1) Local law enforcement agencies shall comply with the recommendations of the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs regarding racial profiling, as set forth under (a) through (f) of this subsection. Local law enforcement agencies shall:

- (a) Adopt a written policy designed to condemn and prevent racial profiling;
- (b) Review and audit their existing procedures, practices, and training to ensure that they do not enable or foster the practice of racial profiling;
- (c) Continue training to address the issues related to racial profiling. Officers should be trained in how to better interact with persons they stop so that legitimate police actions are not misperceived as racial profiling;
- (d) Ensure that they have in place a citizen complaint review process that can adequately address instances of racial profiling. The process must be accessible to citizens and must be fair. Officers found to be engaged in racial profiling must be held accountable through the appropriate disciplinary procedures within each department;
- (e) Work with the minority groups in their community to appropriately address the issue of racial profiling; and
- (f) Within fiscal constraints, collect demographic data on traffic stops and analyze that data to ensure that racial profiling is not occurring.

(2) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall coordinate with the criminal justice training commission to ensure that issues related to racial profiling are addressed in basic law enforcement training and offered in regional training for in-service law enforcement officers at all levels.

(3) Local law enforcement agencies shall report all information required under this section to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs.

The Lake Forest Park Police Department (LFPPD) has established a policy for Biased Based Policing. The LFPPD utilizes the Lexipol Policy system and adopted policy §402, which covers Bias-Based Profiling. According to the LFPPD Policy §402, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that employees of the Lake Forest Park Police Department do not engage in racial- or bias-based profiling or violate any related laws while serving the community.



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The Lake Forest Park Police Department (LFPPD) strives to provide law enforcement to our community with due regard to the racial, cultural, or other differences of those it serves. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally and fairly without discrimination toward any individual or group.

The LFPPD has a citizen complaint review process that can adequately address instances of racial profiling. The process is accessible to the citizens and is fair. Officers found to be engaged in racial profiling are held accountable through the appropriate disciplinary procedures within police department policy §1017.

According to policy §402.3.1 (OTHER PROHIBITIONS), the Lake Forest Park Police Department also condemns the illegal use of an individual or group's attire, appearance or mode of transportation, including the fact that an individual rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle-related paraphernalia, as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest or search a person or vehicle with or without a legal basis under the United States Constitution or Washington State Constitution (RCW 43.101.410; RCW 43.101.419). **There have been no complaints or reported incidents in violation of this policy for the year 2023 by any members of this department.**

According to policy §402.4.2 (REPORTING TRAFFIC STOPS), each time an officer issues a notice of infraction or criminal citation, the officer shall make a reasonable effort to identify the race of the violator and document that demographic data in Sector and/or the departments records management system. **In 2023, 1248 tickets were issued.** Officers identified the race of those violators on the ticket apart from **129 (10%)** tickets issued with unknown race, or issued to a business, or parking.

In policy §402.7 (ADMINISTRATION), each year, the Operations Lieutenant shall review the efforts of the Department to prevent racial or bias-based profiling and submit an overview, including public concerns and complaints, to the Chief of Police. This report should not contain any identifying information regarding any specific complaint, citizen, or officers. **In 2023, no reports or investigations were conducted regarding minority or racially based incidents.**

According to §402.8 (TRAINING), all members of this department are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and consider racial and cultural differences among members of the community and shall attend training on the subject. Each member of this department is required to complete an approved refresher training course bi-annual, or sooner if deemed necessary, to keep current with changing community trends (RCW 43.101.410(c)).

In 2015, the LFPPD moved from a 5-year rotation of racially based training given to all members of the police department to bi-annual training. In 2020, the LFPPD had moved to training on racially based training with de-escalation training per state law. **Staff remained in compliance with our policy driven bi-annual biased based policing training requirement.**



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The LFPPD maintains a record management system and collects demographic data on traffic stops and analyzes that data to ensure that racial profiling is not occurring. Below is the available data related to traffic stops and non-traffic incidents, including demographic data:

TICKETS ISSUED

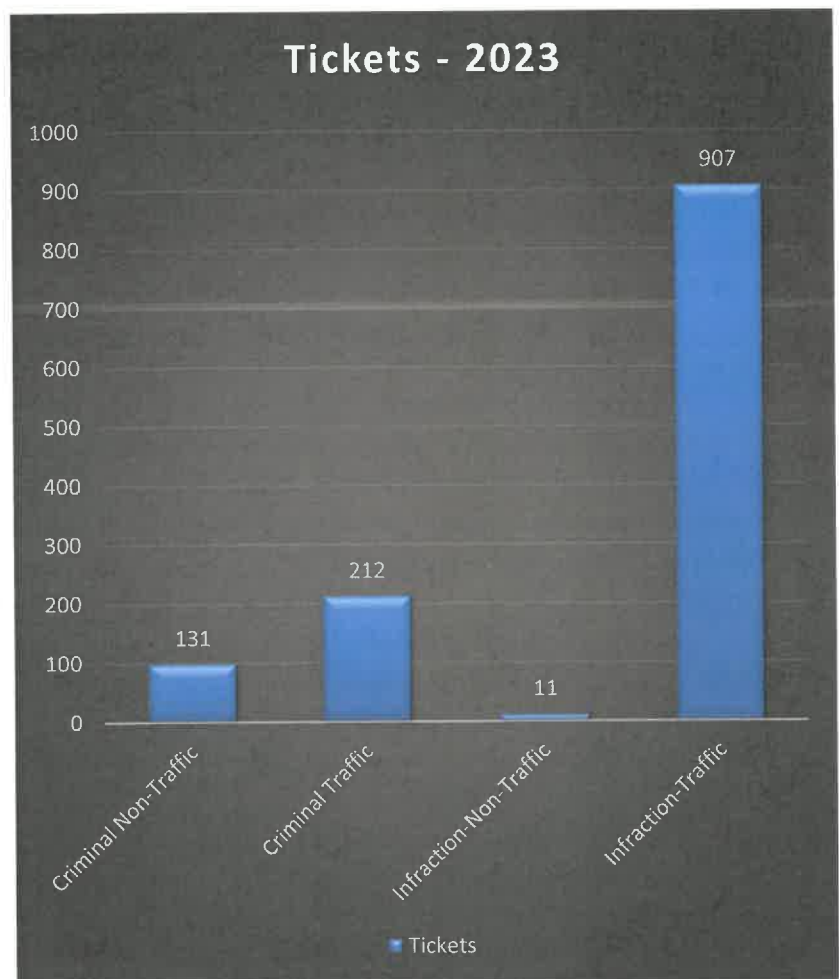
In the year 2023, **1248** tickets were issued in total.

Tickets are broken down into the sections as follows:

- Criminal (Traffic and Non-Traffic)
- Infractions (Traffic and Non-Traffic)
- Parking

Type of Tickets	
Criminal Non-Traffic	98
Criminal Traffic	212
Infraction-Non-Traffic	11
Infraction-Traffic	907
Correction Notice	0
Parking/Notice	19
Drug Warnings	1
Total	1248

73% of the tickets issued are traffic infractions and 17% are criminal traffic citations





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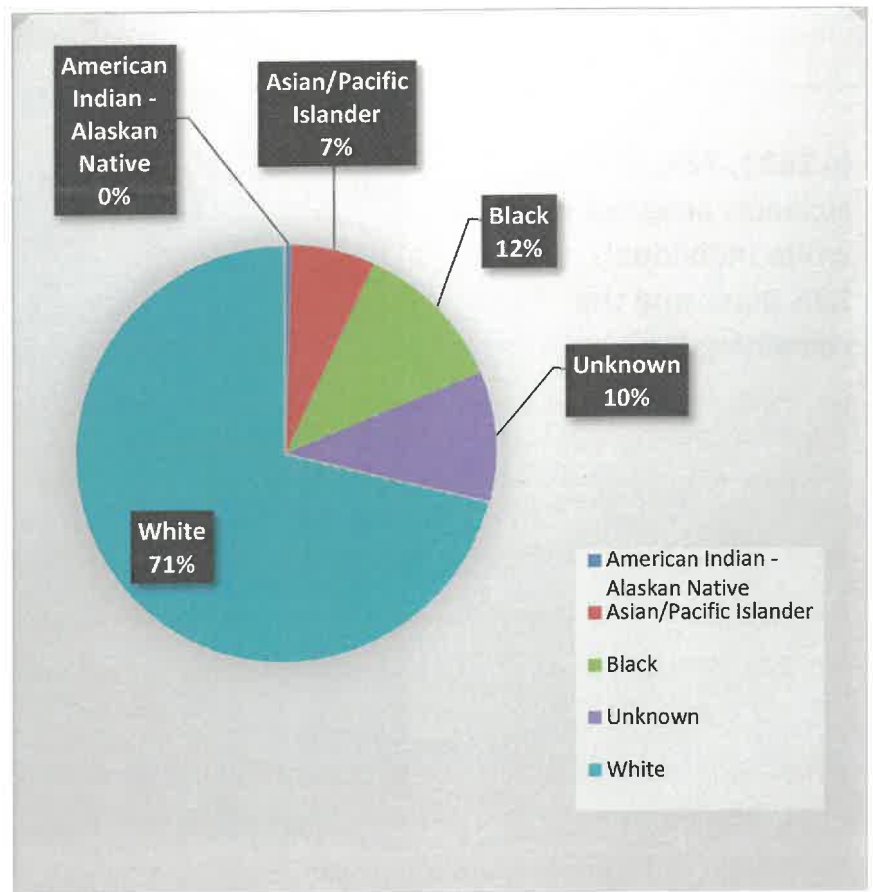
TICKETS ISSUED BY RACE

The records management system breaks down race into 5 sections as follows:

- American Indian - Alaskan Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black
- Unknown
- White

American Indian – Alaskan Native	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	81
Black	147
Unknown	125
White	885
Business or Parking (no race identified)	4
Grand Total	1248

In 2023, 71% of tickets issued were identified as white individuals, with the remaining racial description generally distributed between the majorities of minority races.





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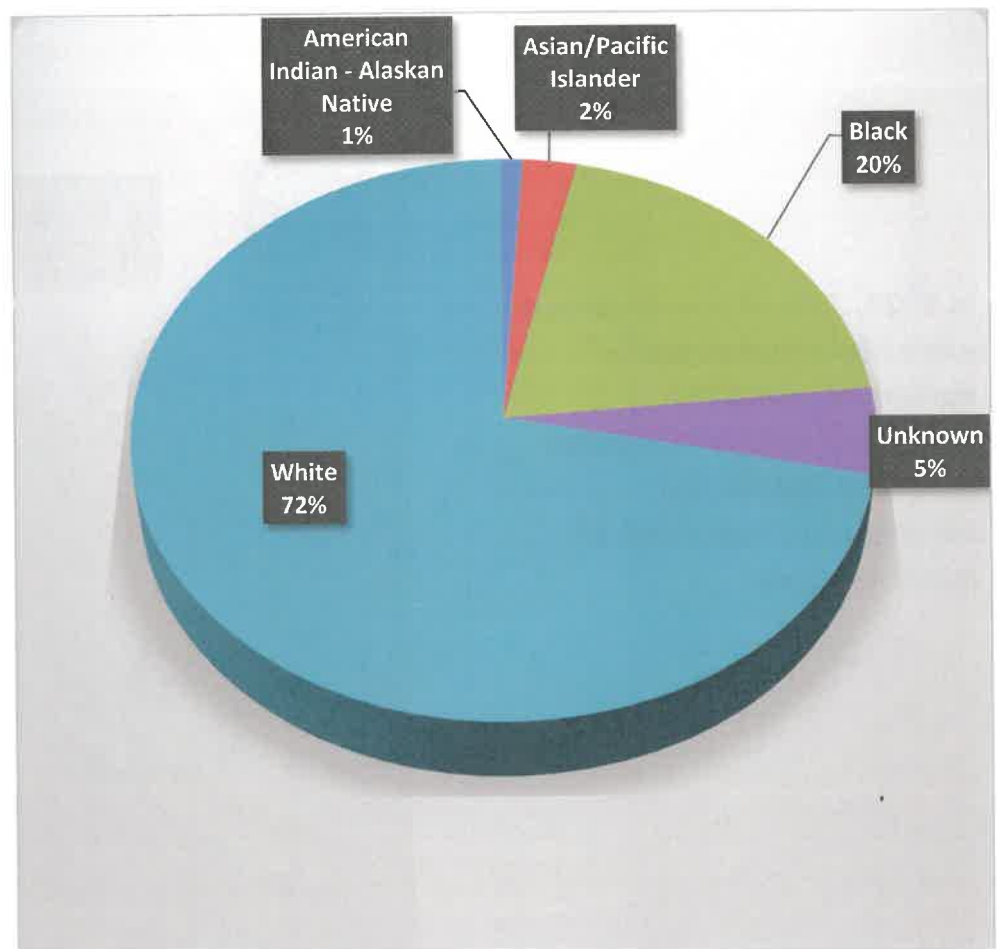
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ARRESTS BY RACE

In 2023, **201** arrests were made.

American Indian - Alaskan Native	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	5
Black	40
Unknown	10
White	144
Grand Total	201

In 2023, 72% of suspects arrested were white individuals, with 20% black and the remaining 8%.





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USE OF FORCE

In 2023, 7 incidents occurred with use of force (x involving arrest, x involving ITA Involuntary Treatment Act).

In 2023 there were 9429 Incidents with 201 arrests.

Percentage of Calls Involving Force: 0.07%

Percentage of Arrests Involving Force: 2.13%

Breakdown of Race		Breakdown of Cause	
American Indian - Alaskan Native	1	Welfare Check/Drugs/Assault - Arrest	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	Traffic Stop/Warrant - Arrest	1
Black	0	Theft - Arrest	2
White – Non-Hispanic	5	Domestic Violence/Threats - Arrest	1
White – Hispanic	1	DUI – Arrest	2
Grand Total	7	Grand Total	7

The use of force monitoring is a critical function that provides opportunities to evaluate specific personnel in various situations and determine whether training and policy compliance standards have been met. In addition, it permits analysis of data to identify trends that may or may not be indicative of the need for training intervention. Use of force monitoring allows an assessment of the appropriateness of officer interventions.

Given the information and analysis in this report, use of force by a Lake Forest Park Police officer is in fact quite rare. There was no statistical change in the use of force incidents from 2022 to 2023. The fact that officers used force in 2% of the arrests made indicates Lake Forest Park officers use force very infrequently. Additionally, it should be noted that no citizen injuries occurred during these applications and only minor scrapes and bruising occurred to officers and suspects. Officers deal with a wide variety of incidents and individuals, while continuing to exercise patience and diligence while using force in a judicious, legal, and appropriate manner.



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POPULATION and DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the most recent U.S. Census data (DP05 ACS Demographics and Housing Estimates-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles), in 2021, 80% of the population in Lake Forest Park identified as White, 8% were Asian and 4% Black. 2.5% of the population identified with “some another race”. Lake Forest Park has two State Routes (SR522 and SR104) with thousands of commuters going through the city from the region.

Washington - 2017—2021 ACS	Estimate	Percentage
White	5,465,011	71.74%
Asian	682,711	8.96%
Two or more races	655,594	8.61%
Some other race	378,956	4.97%
Black or African American	293,401	3.85%
American Indian and Alaska Native	90,789	1.19%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	50,902	0.67%
	7,617,364	100.00%
King County - 2017—2021 ACS	Estimate	Percentage
White	1,356,265	60.52%
Asian	420,434	18.76%
Black or African American	144,474	6.45%
Two or more races	191,224	8.53%
Some other race	98,422	4.39%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	16,370	0.73%
American Indian and Alaska Native	13,687	0.61%
	2,240,876	100.00%
Lake Forest Park - 2017—2021 ACS	Estimate	Percentage
White	10,750	79.46%
Asian	1,012	7.48%
Two or more races	780	5.77%
Some other race	333	2.46%
Black or African American	499	3.69%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	82	0.61%
American Indian and Alaska Native	73	0.54%
	13,529	100.00%

Source: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2021/>



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TRAFFIC VOLUME

The City of Lake Forest Park has two State Routes, SR522 (Bothell Way NE) and SR104 (Ballinger Way NE). According to the State of Washington Department of Transportation Traffic Geo Portal there is an average daily traffic volume of 42,000 vehicles on SR522 before SR104 and 54,000 vehicles after SR104.

Average Daily Traffic Volume

State Route	Daily	Weekly
SR522*	42,578	298,046
SR104*	16,758	117,306

*On SR522 between 47th Ave NE to NE 145th St in Lake Forest Park

*On SR104 between 25th Ave NE to SR22 in Lake Forest Park

Source:

As of 2018, the Annual Traffic Report is no longer published. Point-specific traffic volume data is now available through a Traffic Geoportal map interface located at: <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/data/tools/geoportal/?config=traffic>.

In conclusion, the Lake Forest Park Police Department (LFPPD) has established a policy for Biased Based Policing. In review of existing procedures and practices, there is no indication of a system or practice of racial profiling.

Lt. Diego Zanella, Support Services Division Commander

3/19/24

Date

Lt. Rhonda Lehman, Operations Division Commander

3/19/24

Date

Mike Harden, Chief of Police

3-18-24

Date

