



Grand Rapids Police
Department

Officer Involved Shootings

Committee of the Whole

March 31, 2026

Overview and Disclaimer

On February 24, 2026, Public Safety Committee members and City Commissioners requested a review of officer involved shooting (OIS) incidents. The City Manager directed the Grand Rapids Police Department to summarize key facts about each OIS over the last few years.

This presentation discusses 10 OIS incidents from 2022 to 2025. Two OIS incidents are excluded: April 4, 2022 (litigation pending) and February 18, 2026 (investigation pending).

Names of officers and suspects are redacted.

WARNING: The following presentation contains sensitive content. Each OIS is a traumatic event for all involved.

Definition and Policy

An OIS is an incident where an officer discharges his/her firearm. This does not necessarily mean a person has been struck by gunfire.

Manual of Procedures 9-2.1

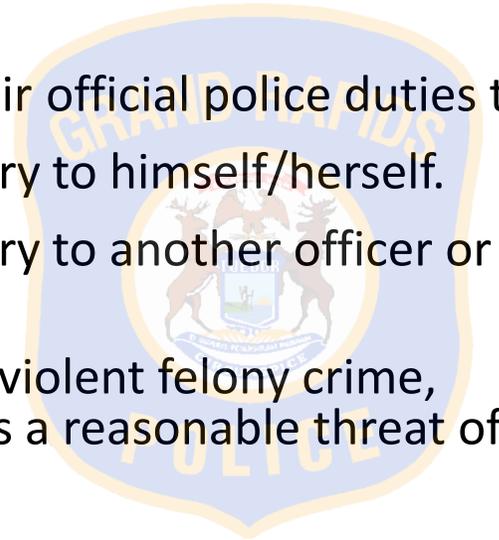
1. Deadly Force Applications

a. Officers may discharge a firearm in connection with the performance of their official police duties to:

- (1) Defend against a reasonable threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself/herself.
- (2) Defend against a reasonable threat of death or serious bodily injury to another officer or citizen.
- (3) Prevent the escape of a subject who is fleeing from an inherently violent felony crime, when the officer has probable cause to believe that the subject poses a reasonable threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others.

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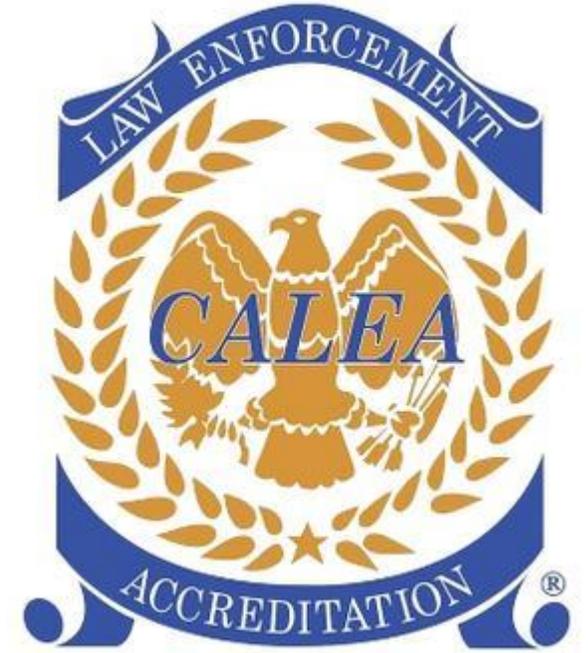
c. Officers may only use a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the vehicle presents a reasonable threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves, another officer, or others.



Accreditation

Committee on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

- The 21-member CALEA Board of Commissioners is comprised of police chiefs, sheriffs, state police colonels, city managers, mayors, prosecutors, judges, emergency communications experts, professors, and state legislators.
- GRPD was awarded accreditation in 2018 after a year-long comprehensive review of the entire department's policies and processes. CALEA conducts an annual audit.
- Only 13 agencies in Michigan — and less than 5% of police agencies nationwide — meet the rigorous CALEA standards.



June 24, 2022, 3:16 a.m., Prospect Ave SE and Highland St SE

Circumstance: An officer observed a vehicle driving in the roadway that didn't have its lights on. As the officer approached, a subject leaned out of the driver's side window and fired several rounds at the officer. The officer returned fire, shooting one round at the vehicle, which then fled at a high rate of speed.

Officers present: 1

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Shots fired at officer

June 24, 2022, 3:16 a.m., Prospect Ave SE and Highland St SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“The evidence gathered in these investigations clearly show that Officer [X] was fired on first, with multiple shots, and (they) simply returned fire after (they were) suddenly attacked. There is no basis for criminal charges here, (they are) listed as the victim in the charges we have filed. (They were) within (their) rights to use deadly force in self-defense when (they were) fired upon.”

August 25, 2022, 11:40 p.m., Giddings Ave SE and Forrester St SE

Circumstance: Officers received a report of a subject breaking into cars. They attempted to contact a subject matching the description and gave him multiple commands to stop. The subject then pointed a firearm at officers. The officers then fired upon the subject, striking him. Officers rendered aid to the individual, who survived.

Officers present: 2

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Firearm pointed at officers

August 25, 2022, 11:40 p.m., Giddings Ave SE and Forrester St SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“[Suspect] did possess a gun, and pointed that gun at Officer [X] as he fled from the scene of a car break in. Both officers, from different angles, saw the gun pointed and assessed that [suspect] was about to use deadly force to escape. They both fired *after* [suspect] pointed the gun back as he fled. Officer [X] was within (their) right to protect (themselves), and Officer [Y] was within (their) right to protect (their) partner, when each made the decision to fire their weapon when faced with a gun pointed at one of them. Given the circumstances, both officers use of deadly force was justified and I will not be filing any charges against either of them.”

December 1, 2022, 11:52 a.m., Jefferson Ave SE and Cass Ave SE

Circumstance: Officers were looking for a wanted murder suspect. They attempted to contact the individual when he produced a firearm and shot at their patrol vehicle, striking it multiple times. One officer returned fire. After the subject fled, a third officer on foot located the subject running toward a school that was in session. The subject was still holding the firearm, and the officer gave him verbal commands to drop the gun. The subject did not comply and raised the firearm toward the officer, who then discharged their firearm but did not strike the subject. The individual again fled and shortly thereafter took his own life.

Officers present: 3

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Firearm pointed at officers; shots fired at officers

December 1, 2022, 11:52 a.m., Jefferson Ave SE and Cass Ave SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“[Suspect] clearly fired at Officer [X] and [Y] first as they were driving cruiser [#] in search of [suspect]. The in-car video clearly shows the cruiser turning the corner when [suspect] turns, points the gun directly at the cruiser, he then fires multiple shots into the cruiser. The body camera footage shows the impact of the shots into the car, glass breaking, the surprise of both officers, and Officer [X] then returning fire.”

“Officer [Z] confronts [suspect] in an alley near a school between Jefferson and Cass. Officer [Z] fires five rounds at [suspect], none of which struck him. Given the fact that [suspect] had just fired multiple shots into a police cruiser, it was not unreasonable for Officer [Z] to take the action (they) did under the circumstances.”

October 27, 2023, 2:10 a.m., Division Ave S and Fair St SE

Circumstance: Officers were driving down Division when they heard multiple shots fired at a nearby bar. As individuals fled from the scene amid continued gunfire, one officer ran toward the shots. The officer noticed a green laser light near him and then spotted an individual crouching with a rifle that was pointed in the officer's direction. The officer fired two shots toward the individual and then sought cover from their patrol vehicle. The subject was not struck. Of note, this was the scene of a double homicide where officers found over 50 casings.

Officers present: 2

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Firearm with a laser-guided sight pointed at an officer

October 27, 2023, 2:10 a.m., Division Ave S and Fair St SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“Both officers should be complimented as to how they responded to this situation. They found two men both firing shots as they were simply on general patrol. Without hesitation they moved to apprehend these individuals, even while gunfire erupted from seemingly everywhere around them. Officer [X] and Officer [Y] responded immediately and without hesitation to an extremely dangerous situation with professionalism and tremendous restraint.”

December 16, 2023, 8:45 a.m., Lyon St NE and Union Ave NE

Circumstance: Officers responded to a call that a disorderly male was attempting to steal from a store in the area. An officer located the subject in an alley. The subject produced a box cutter and advanced toward the officer. The officer gave multiple commands while backing away from the subject. Despite the officer's attempt to de-escalate the situation, the subject continued to advance toward the officer and disregard commands. The officer discharged their firearm, striking the subject. The subject then fled into a nearby garage that was connected to a house. Another officer arrived, and they gave the subject multiple commands to surrender. Again, despite the officers' attempts to de-escalate the situation, the subject ran out of the garage, charging at officers with the box cutter. The second responding officer discharged his firearm, striking the subject. Officers rendered aid to the individual, who survived.

Officers present: 2

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Subject advanced toward officers with a box cutter

December 16, 2023, 8:45 a.m., Lyon St NE and Union Ave NE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“After reviewing the materials, I find no basis to charge either Officer [X] or Officer [Y]. Generally, I do try and provide some underlying facts to you regarding what occurred. However, from this incident I have made the decision to charge [suspect] with one count of felonious assault, and two counts of resisting and opposing an officer due to his actions that day. I cannot get into detail regarding the facts of the case given this. However, you can discern from the fact we have charged [suspect] from what occurred that day, that your officers were the victims in what occurred and acted appropriately given the circumstances. Clearly there is no criminal liability for them based on what happened.”

March 2, 2024, 11:40 p.m., Division Ave S and Stewart St SW

Circumstance: Officers initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for not having a license plate and having heavily tinted windows. As the vehicle slowed, a subject jumped out and fled on foot. As officers pursued on foot, one officer noticed the subject had a firearm. Officers gave the subject loud verbal commands to stop and drop the gun. The subject then pointed the firearm at officers and fired as he continued to flee. Officers returned fire but did not strike the subject.

Officers present: 2

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Shots fired at officers

March 2, 2024, 11:40 p.m., Division Ave S and Stewart St SW

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“After reviewing the investigation by Michigan State Police, I found that Officer [X] and Officer [Y] were justified in firing their weapons in this incident. We have filed charges against the individual who was firing shots at the officers as he fled from them that night, so I will not get into specific facts and circumstances which led me to this decision. I just wanted to inform you there will not be any criminal charges against your officers since I believe they acted appropriately given what occurred that night.”

November 9, 2024, 10:45 p.m., Jefferson Ave S and Maple St SE

Circumstance: An ambulance crew reported a man with a handgun outside of a nearby hospital. Dispatch also received a 9-1-1 call about a man waving a handgun as reported by individuals running away from the area. Officers located the subject, who was holding what appeared to be a firearm to his head. Officers shouted multiple commands for him to drop the gun. He then pointed the alleged firearm at an officer and advanced toward the officer's position. Other officers observing the subject advancing toward the officer, who was taking cover behind their cruiser, discharged their firearms and struck the individual. Officers rendered aid, but the subject succumbed to his injuries.

Officers present: 5

Knew subject was armed: Yes

Threat posed: Alleged firearm pointed at officers

November 9, 2024, 10:45 p.m., Jefferson Ave S and Maple St SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“It would appear to any reasonable person that [suspect] had a gun. The lighter he held closely resembled a gun; it would be virtually impossible for any person to think it was a lighter when viewing it at night, from a distance, and in the way [suspect] was using it. Every police officer, EMS worker, and civilian who saw [suspect] that night clearly believed he had a gun.”

“There is no requirement that someone actually fire a gun before another individual can react to protect someone else. This is what Officer [X] and Officer [Y] did; they heard another officer state that someone was pointing a gun at them, they saw this individual acting like he was pointing a gun, and they reacted to protect their fellow officer. Once again this is an entirely reasonable reaction given all of the facts and circumstances they knew at the time they fired their weapons. There is no question the officers believed [suspect] had a gun, was pointing it at another officer, and may fire that gun at any moment. Nor is there a requirement under the law that the person in potential danger act first. The law pertaining to defense of others allows an individual to act in defense of another person regardless of what actions the person in danger does.”

September 25, 2025, 6:02 p.m., Broadway Ave NW and 4th St NW

Circumstance: Officers responded to a domestic call of a male refusing to leave his brother's house. Officers, with the assistance of the brother, spent nearly 30 minutes trying to get the subject to leave. Eventually, the subject grabbed a knife. Officers then exited the house to create distance and cover while devising a plan to continue de-escalating the situation. Suddenly, the subject ran out the front door and charged at officers with the knife. One officer deployed a Taser, a less-lethal option, but it was ineffective. Officers then fired shots as the subject ran toward another officer who was experiencing a gun malfunction as they were retreating. Officers rendered aid to the individual, who survived.

Officers present: 5

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Subject advanced toward officers with a knife

September 25, 2025, 6:02 p.m., Broadway Ave NW and 4th St NW

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“Your department had been at the house where the incident occurred for a substantial amount of time simply attempting to get [suspect] to leave the home. He did not, and instead of leaving, he armed himself with a knife and came charging out the front door at officers who were present. Officers initially fired tasers to get [suspect] to stop; unfortunately those had little impact since he was still able to jump off the front porch and charge towards Officer [X] after being tased. The decision by Officer [Y] was reasonable to protect Officer [X], given the fact the Taser did not stop [suspect]. Officer [X] could fire to defend (themselves) however, (their) gun clearly did malfunction during this incident.”

“Quite frankly, if Officer [X’s] gun had fired initially as (they) intended, [suspect] most likely would not have survived. This was a tense and rapidly developing situation, the officers could and did act to defend themselves and others, so no charges will be filed.”

November 11, 2025, 1:40 p.m., Blaine Ave SE and Adams St SE

Circumstance: Officers attempted to stop a person suspected in a larceny of a firearm. Upon attempting to contact the subject, he produced a handgun and fired shots at officers while fleeing. The officers returned fire but did not strike the subject.

Officers present: 2

Knew subject was armed: No

Threat posed: Firearm pointed at officers; shots fired at officers

November 11, 2025, 1:40 p.m., Blaine Ave SE and Adams St SE

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“As you know, we have charged [suspect] with multiple felony charges, two of which are assault with intent to murder, Officer [X] and Officer [Y] are the respective victims in each count. This was a simple decision. [Suspect] clearly fired first at the two officers when they approached him. They were well within their rights to return fire when he did so. No charges are warranted against them under such facts.”

December 6, 2025, 4:46 p.m., Tremont Blvd NW and Mt. Mercy Dr NW

Circumstance: Officers were dispatched to take a report from an individual who said a male pulled a handgun on her mother and threatened to kill her. Officers were continuing to investigate the incident and locate the suspect. Later that afternoon, officers observed the suspect leaving his residence. Due to the subject being potentially armed, officers initiated a high-risk traffic stop. The subject began firing his handgun at officers while stepping out of his vehicle. Officers returned fire, struck the subject, and then rendered aid. He later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

Officers present: 3

Knew subject was armed: Alleged

Threat posed: Firearm pointed at officers; shots fired at officers

December 6, 2025, 4:46 p.m., Tremont Blvd NW and Mt. Mercy Dr NW

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor:

“This is about as clear a case of self-defense or defense of other justification as will ever occur. [Suspect] exited his car, firing a gun at officers who had pulled him over. From all the video, and statements of the officers, he opened the door and started firing his gun directly at them. Once this occurred the officers were completely justified in returning fire. The officers were also justified in attempting to stop [suspect] as he drove away from his home; they had information he had threatened his wife with a gun, he was suicidal, and he posed a danger to himself and others that necessitated them taking some sort of action.”

OIS Recap

- Each of the subjects involved in the 10 OIS incidents in this presentation presented a weapon. Per policy 9-2.1, officers may discharge their firearms to defend themselves or others against a reasonable threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- 5 subjects shot at officers; 3 subjects raised firearms toward officers, and 2 subjects charged at officers with bladed weapons. The suspects actions in all 10 of these incidents initiated the deadly force response from officers. These are all reasonable threats of death or serious bodily injury.
- Per procedure, the Michigan State Police conducted an independent investigation of each OIS and sent their findings to the Kent County Prosecutor for a legal determination. In each case, the prosecutor ruled the officers acted in self defense and were justified in discharging their weapons.

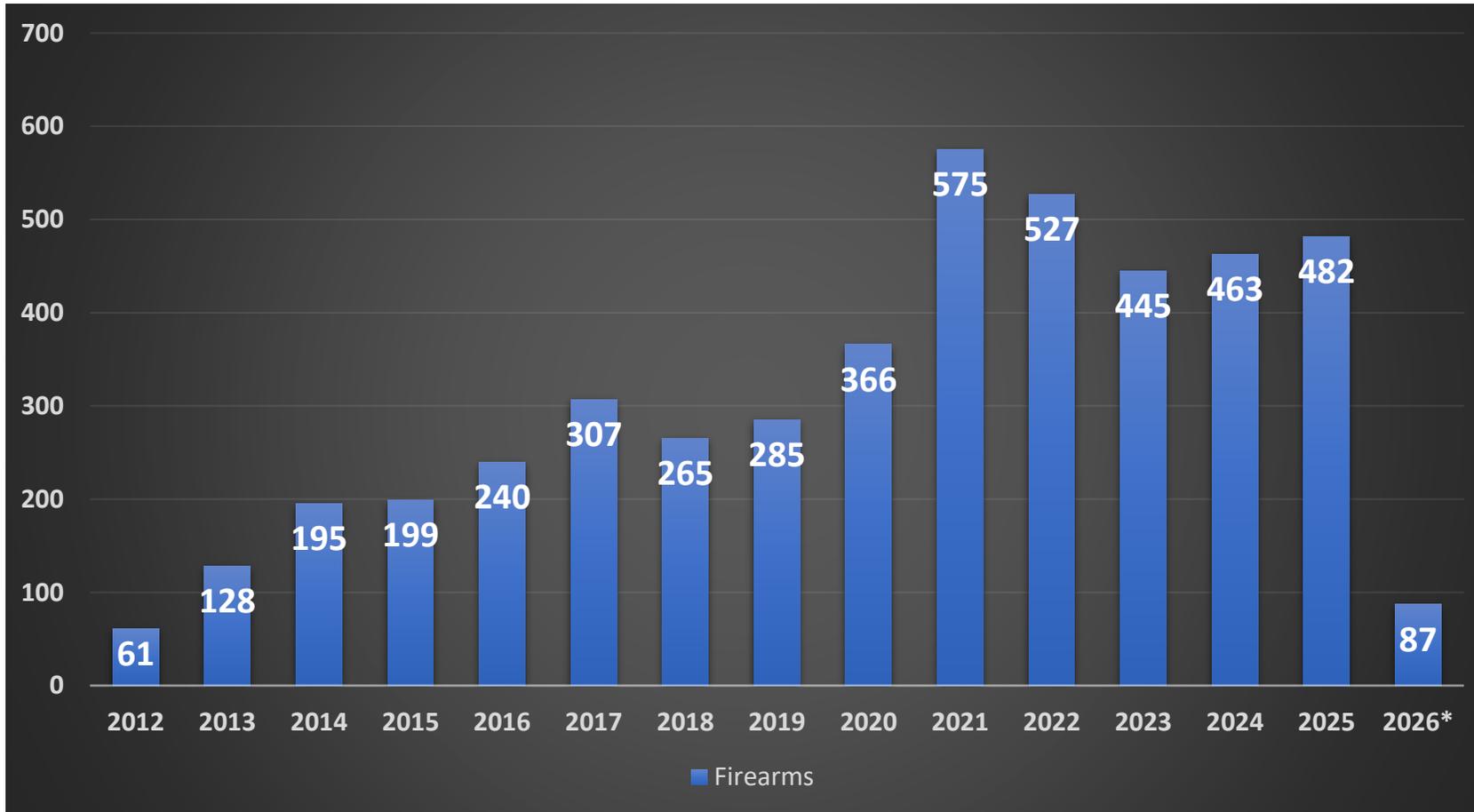


Post-OIS Response

- The officers involved are placed on administrative leave
- Critical incident stress debriefing usually within 48 to 72 hours after the incident (Peer Support Team)
- Mental health/employee wellness follow-up
- Internal departmental review of use of force concerning policy and law
- Returning officers are assigned to the Training Unit until mentally and physically able to report to their assigned duties
- Thorough training and incident review of current trends and best practices



Historical Trend of Illegally Possessed Firearms Seized by GRPD Personnel

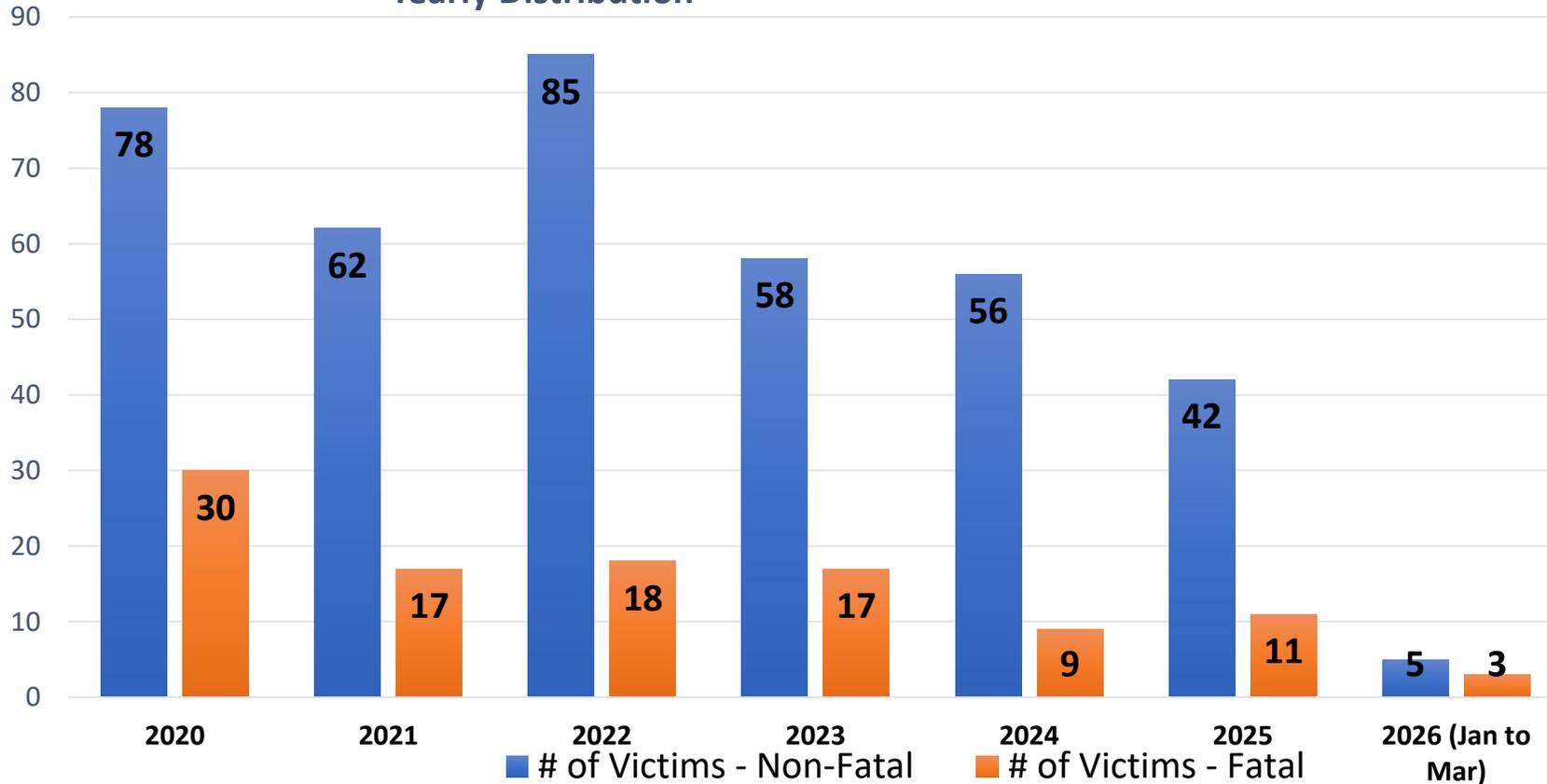


*2026 numbers are year-to-date



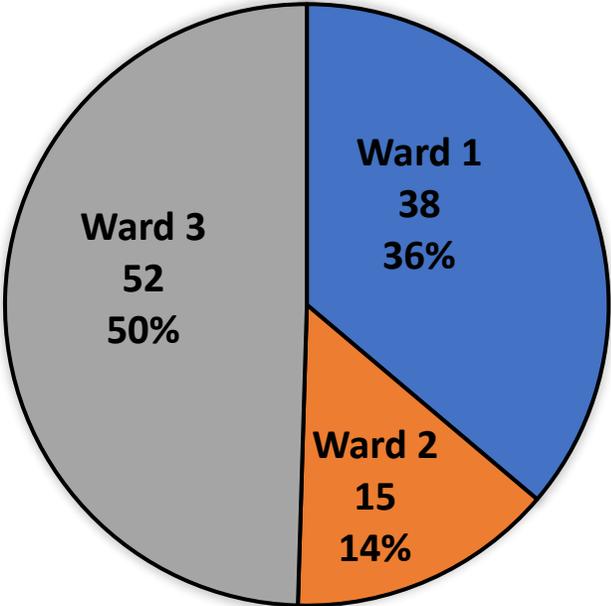
Historical Trend of Non-OIS Shootings

of Shooting Victims Fatal and Non-Fatal
Yearly Distribution



Historical Trend of Non-OIS Shootings by Ward

OF VICTIMS – FATAL
WARD-LEVEL DISTRIBUTION
(2020 TO FEB 2026)



OF VICTIMS – NON-FATAL
WARD-LEVEL DISTRIBUTION
(2020 TO FEB 2026)

