

February 5, 2021

Dear Study Committee members,

ELPD Deputy Chief Gonzalez's memo dated February 3, 2021 includes information we requested about use of force by ELPD officers, including the race of people affected.

I have attached a table summarizing this information that shows that more Black people than White people experienced use of force by ELPD officers during the four-year period 2017-2020 – 184 Black people compared to 179 White people.

I am dismayed.

The memo with the information on which this is based is at Item 5.2 of our agenda for Feb. 8 and here:

<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/document/46570/Study%20Committee%20Follow%20Up%20Questions%20Part%202.pdf?handle=D3CFC421011740A59527412D402552E3>

Regards,

Chris Root

Cases of Use of Force by East Lansing Police Department, by race

Total, 2017-2020 (4 years)

	People	% by race
White	179	38.2%
Black	184	39.3%
Asian	5	1.1%
Unknown	100	21.4%
All races	468	100.0%

During the four-year period from 2017-2020, more Black people than White people experienced use of force by ELPD officers - 184 Black people compared to 179 White people. This includes people who are residents of East Lansing and people who are non-residents.

Annual data appear below.

Annual data:

2017

	People	% by race
White	57	43.2%
Black	41	31.1%
Asian	2	1.5%
Unknown	32	24.2%
All races	132	100.0%

SOURCE:

These data are reported in this memorandum:

TO: Kim Johnson, Chief of Police
 FROM: Steve Gonzalez, Deputy Chief of Police
 DATE: February 3, 2021
 SUBJECT: Study Committee Follow Up Questions - Part 2

2018

	People	% by race
White	44	33.8%
Black	55	42.3%
Asian	2	1.5%
Unknown	29	22.3%
All races	130	100.0%

Data are from the "SRMS Dashboard," which is the Michigan State Police Statewide Records Management System that the ELPD uses for its records. The Study Committee on an Independent Police Oversight Commission requested information about use of force by ELPD officers with information about the race of people against whom force was used.

2019

	People	% by race
White	43	34.7%
Black	57	46.0%
Asian	1	0.8%
Unknown	23	18.5%
All races	124	100.0%

The "Use of Force Report" from the SRMS does not include demographic information about persons who are not considered an "arrestee" or a "suspect." For example, this information is not reported for people who were experiencing a mental health emergency. This is a partial explanation of the large number of "Unknown" race.

2020

	People	% by race
White	35	42.7%
Black	31	37.8%
Asian	0	0.0%
Unknown	16	19.5%
All races	82	100.0%

Police encounters with the public were significantly fewer in 2020 than in previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Prepared by Christine Root, Study Committee member
 Feb. 4, 2021*

Use of Force by East Lansing Police Department, by race

2017	F	M	U	All	%
White	7	50		57	43.2%
Black	4	37		41	31.1%
Asian	0	2		2	1.5%
Unknown	5	22	5	32	24.2%
All races	16	111	5	132	100.0%

Key: F Female
M Male
U Unknown
All All Genders
% Percent of people affected by race

2018	F	M	U	All	%
White	7	37		44	33.8%
Black	3	52		55	42.3%
Asian	0	2		2	1.5%
Unknown	2	23	4	29	22.3%
All races	12	114	4	130	100.0%

2019	F	M	U	All	%
White	7	36		43	34.7%
Black	11	46		57	46.0%
Asian	0	1		1	0.8%
Unknown	5	17	1	23	18.5%
All races	23	100	1	124	100.0%

2020	F	M	U	All	%
White	7	28		35	42.7%
Black	2	29		31	37.8%
Asian	0	0		0	0.0%
Unknown	4	10	2	16	19.5%
All races	13	67	2	82	100.0%

2017-2020	F	M	U	All	%
White	28	151	0	179	38.2%
Black	20	164	0	184	39.3%
Asian	0	5	0	5	1.1%
Unknown	16	72	12	100	21.4%
All races	64	392	12	468	100.0%