

**INTER-AGENCY PROCEDURES  
PURSUIT PROCEDURES/ROAD BLOCKS  
VOL. V, CH. 6**

**DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS/POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/95	REVISION DATE:	PAGE #:	SECTION:	APPROVED	VOLUME V
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SUBJECT: PURSUIT PROCEDURES AND ROAD BLOCKS						DISTRIBUTION  ALL
ISSUING AUTHORITY: Lt. Edward Skillman Commanding Officer						EVALUATION DATE: 12/06/2021
ATTORNEY GENERAL, PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE REFERENCE						

***1. Purpose of Policy***

Law enforcement's duty to enforce the law and apprehend violators creates the intention to secure a balance between such duty while protecting the lives and safety of the public and police officers. Substantial risk of injury and fatalities are created by high-speed vehicular pursuits, while in recognition of data collected and the substantial human costs associated with high-speed vehicular pursuits, this policy's intention is to guide officers under which circumstances they may engage in vehicular pursuits. There is a strong presumption against the initiation of pursuits for traffic violations and based on the risk created by the speed and evasive driving of the fleeing suspects during the pursuit itself, continuation is prohibited by this policy. Additionally, this policy requires greater supervisor oversight and mandates termination of a pursuit unless a supervisor affirmatively authorizes it to be continued. Recognizing the potential risk to the public and officer safety vehicular pursuits create, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for a decision not to engage in or terminating an ongoing vehicular pursuit based on the risk involved, even in circumstances where this policy would permit

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commencement or continuation. Officers who conduct pursuits consistent with this policy will be strongly supported in any subsequent review of such actions.

**2. Definitions**

- 2.1. **Authorized Tire Deflation Device.** A device designed and intended to produce a controlled deflation of one or more tires of a pursued vehicle and capable of operation consistent with criteria established in this Policy.
- 2.2. **Boxing In.** The surrounding of a violator's moving vehicle with moving pursuit vehicles which are then slowed to a stop along with the violator's vehicle.
- 2.3. **Divided Highway.** A road which includes a physical barrier between traffic traveling in opposite directions.
- 2.4. **Heading Off.** An attempt to terminate a pursuit by pulling ahead of, behind, or toward a violator's moving vehicle to force it to the side of the road or to otherwise come to a stop.
- 2.5. **Law Enforcement Officer.** Any person who is employed as a sworn member of any State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, department, or division of those governments who is statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating the criminal laws of this State. The term law enforcement officer shall include sworn members of the New Jersey State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Juvenile Justice Commission. It shall include State Correctional Police Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:154-4, County Correctional Police Officers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:154-3, Special Law Enforcement Officers of all classes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.8 et seq., Humane Law Enforcement Officers appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:22-14.1 or 4:22-14.4, Auxiliary Police Officers appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. App.A:9-45(c), and Constables appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-120. For purposes of this policy, the terms law enforcement officer, police officer and officer shall have the same meaning.
- 2.6. **Paralleling.** Street Paralleling is driving a police vehicle on a street parallel to a street on which a pursuit is occurring.

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Vehicle Paralleling is a deliberate offensive tactic by one or more patrol vehicles to drive alongside the pursued vehicle while it is in motion.

- 2.7. **Pursuit Driving.** Pursuit driving is an active attempt by a law enforcement officer operating a motor vehicle and utilizing emergency warning lights and an audible device to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle when the officer reasonably believes that the driver of the fleeing vehicle is aware of the officer's attempt to stop the vehicle and is resisting apprehension by increasing vehicle speed, committing traffic violations or otherwise attempting to elude the officer. It shall not constitute pursuit driving if the fleeing vehicle follows all traffic regulations after the officer activates the emergency warning lights and audible device (siren).
- 2.8. **Pursuit Vehicles.** A Primary Unit is the police vehicle that initiates a pursuit or any unit that assumes control of the pursuit as the lead vehicle (the first police vehicle immediately behind the fleeing suspect). A Secondary Unit is any police vehicle which becomes involved as a backup to the primary unit and follows the primary unit at a safe distance.
- 2.9. **Roadblock.** A restriction or obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage of motor vehicles on a roadway in order to effectuate the apprehension of a violator. An avenue of escape is a gap in a roadblock which requires the violator to decrease the vehicle's speed to permit the violator to bypass the roadblock. A blocking vehicle is a motor vehicle, often a law enforcement vehicle, which is placed perpendicular to a roadway or angled in such a way as to create a roadblock.
- 2.10. **Supervisor.** A police officer who, by virtue of rank or assignment, is responsible for the direction or supervision of the activities of other police officers.
- 2.11. **Vehicle Contact Action.** Any action undertaken by the pursuing officer intended to result in contact between the moving police vehicle and the pursued vehicle.
- 2.12. **Violator.** Any person who an officer reasonably believes (1) has committed, or is engaged in a conspiracy or attempt to commit, any

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crime of the first degree or one of the violent or serious crimes of the second degree enumerated in *Section 3.2* of this policy, or (2) poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public or other police officers, as that threat is defined in *Section 3.2* of this policy, set forth below.

**3. Deciding Whether to Pursue**

- 3.1. A law enforcement officer has the authority, at all times, to attempt the stop of any person suspected of having committed any criminal offense or traffic violation. When the violator does not submit to the officer's lawful authority and bring the vehicle to a stop, the officer must determine whether to pursue that violator by continuing to attempt to stop the violator utilizing pursuit driving as defined herein. The officer's decision to pursue should always be undertaken with an awareness of the degree of risk to which the officer exposes law enforcement and the community by engaging in a vehicular pursuit. The officer must always weigh the need for immediate apprehension against the risk created by the pursuit.
- 3.2. A law enforcement officer may only pursue under the circumstances described in subparagraph a or subparagraph b:
- a) When the officer reasonably believes that the violator has committed, or is engaged in a conspiracy or attempt to commit, any crime of the first degree or one of the following violent or serious crimes of the second degree:
- 1) Manslaughter, *N.J.S.A. 2C:11-4*;
  - 2) Vehicular Homicide, *N.J.S.A. 2C:11-5*;
  - 3) Aggravated Assault, *N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(b)*;
  - 4) Disarming a Law Enforcement Officer, *N.J.S.A. 2C:12-11*;
  - 5) Kidnapping, *N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1*;
  - 6) Luring/Enticing a Child, *N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6*;
  - 7) Human Trafficking, *N.J.S.A. 2C:13-8*;
  - 8) Sexual Assault, *N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2*;
  - 9) Robbery, *N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1*;
  - 10) Arson, *N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1*;
  - 11) Burglary, *N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2*;
  - 12) Escape, *N.J.S.A. 2C:29-5*.

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b) When an officer reasonably believes that the violator poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public or other officers. This determination shall be made based upon the violator's actions or operation of the vehicle prior to the initiation of the attempted motor vehicle stop. The violator's subsequent actions, including speeding or evasive driving during the pursuit itself, although often supporting the criminal charge of Eluding, N.J.S.A 2C:29-2(b), shall not constitute an authorization to initiate or continue a pursuit.

3.2.1. Pursuit for motor vehicles offenses is not authorized under Paragraph 3.2 unless the violator's vehicle is being operated so as to pose an imminent threat to the safety of the public or other officers and that threat is based on the violator's actions or operation of the vehicle prior to the initiation of the attempted motor vehicle stop. There shall be a strong presumption against the initiation of vehicular pursuits based solely on motor vehicle violations. Both supervisors and officers shall ensure that only in rare cases will a vehicular pursuit be initiated or continued for motor vehicle violations.

3.3. In the event that one of the authorization requirements is satisfied, a pursuit shall not be automatically undertaken. An officer must still consider the following factors:

- a) Likelihood of successful apprehension;
- b) Whether the identity of the violator is known so that later apprehension is possible;
- c) Degree of risk created by pursuit:
  - 1) Volume, type, speed and direction of vehicular traffic;
  - 2) Nature of the area (residential, commercial, school zone, open highway, etc.);
  - 3) Population density and volume of pedestrian traffic;
  - 4) Environmental factors, such as weather and darkness; and
  - 5) Road conditions (construction, poor repair, extreme curves, intersections controlled by traffic signals or signs, ice, etc.); and
- d) Police officer characteristics:
  - 1) Driving skills;

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- 2) Familiarity with roads; and
- 3) Condition of police vehicle.

3.4. The pursuing officer shall terminate the pursuit under the following circumstances:

- a) If instructed to do so by a supervisor;
- b) If a supervisor has not affirmatively authorized the continuation of the pursuit after being notified and given an opportunity to assess the situation;
- c) If the officer believes that the danger to the pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the violator;
- d) If the violator's identity is established to the point where later apprehension may be accomplished and where there is no imminent threat to the safety of the public or police officers;
- e) If the pursued vehicle's location is no longer known or the distance between the pursuing vehicles and the violator's vehicle becomes so great that further pursuit is futile;
- f) If there is a person injured during the pursuit and there are no police or medical personnel able to render assistance;
- g) If there is a clear and unreasonable danger to the police officer or the public. A clear and unreasonable danger exists when the pursuit requires that the vehicle be driven at excessive speeds or in any other manner which exceeds the performance capabilities of the pursuing vehicles or police officers involved in a pursuit; or
- h) If advised of any unanticipated condition, event, or circumstance that substantially increases the risk to public safety inherent in the pursuit.

3.5. When a vehicular pursuit is terminated, officers shall immediately cease all emergency vehicle operations, including turning off all emergency warning lights and audible devices (sirens), and disengaging from the violator's vehicle.

#### ***4. Role of the Pursuing Officer***

4.1. The decision to initiate and/or continue a vehicular pursuit requires weighing the need to immediately apprehend the violator

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against the degree of risk to which the officer and others are exposed as a result of the pursuit.

- 4.2. Upon the initiation of a pursuit, the pursuing officer shall immediately activate all emergency lights, siren, headlights, motor vehicle recorder (MVR), if equipped, and body worn camera (BWC), if equipped.
- 4.3. Once the pursuit has been initiated, the primary unit must immediately notify communications and a supervisor, providing as much of the following information as is known:
  - a) Reason for the pursuit;
  - b) Direction of travel and designation and location of the roadway;
  - c) Traffic conditions;
  - d) Presence of pedestrians;
  - e) Identification of the violator's vehicle (year, make, model, color, vehicle registration number, and other identifying characteristics);
  - f) Information on the identity of the driver, if known;
  - g) Number of occupants;
  - h) The speed of the pursued vehicle; and
  - i) Other information that may be helpful in deciding whether to terminate the pursuit or in resolving the incident.
- 4.4. The pursuing officer shall have a continuing duty to update the supervisor and communications on the above information as the incident develops.

**5. Vehicular Pursuit Restrictions**

- 5.1. No pursuit shall be conducted under the following circumstances:
  - a) In a direction opposite to the flow of traffic on a divided highway or a one-way street; or
  - b) In a police vehicle in which an individual who is not a law enforcement officer is either the driver or passenger.
- 5.2. There shall be a strong presumption against the initiation or continuation of vehicular pursuits in areas where pedestrians are located or in areas of high density vehicular traffic.

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- 5.3. No more than two police vehicles (primary unit and secondary unit) shall become actively involved in a pursuit unless otherwise specifically directed by a supervisor.
- 5.4. A motorcycle officer may initiate a pursuit, but will relinquish primary unit status immediately upon the participation of a marked police vehicle.
- 5.5. An unmarked police vehicle will not participate in a vehicular pursuit unless it is equipped with an emergency light and an audible device. The unmarked car shall relinquish primary unit status immediately upon the participation of a marked police vehicle.
- 5.6. To diminish the likelihood of a pursuit, an officer intending to stop a vehicle for any violation of the law shall, when possible and without creating a threat to public safety, close the distance between the two vehicles prior to activating emergency lights and an audible device. Officers shall recognize that, while attempting to close the distance and prior to the initiation of a pursuit and the activation of emergency lights and an audible device, they are subject to all motor vehicle laws governing the right of way (e.g., N.J.S.A. 39:4-91 and -92).
- 5.7. Throughout the course of a vehicular pursuit, pursuing officers shall not attempt to overtake or pass the violator's moving vehicle.
- 5.8. During the course of a pursuit and when approaching an intersection controlled by traffic signals or signs, or any other location at which there is a substantially increased likelihood of collision, the operator of any pursuit vehicle shall, prior to entering the intersection, reduce the vehicle's speed and control the vehicle so as to avoid collision with another vehicle or pedestrian. The officer shall observe that the way is clear before cautiously proceeding through the intersection. At all other times including an attempt to close the distance prior to the initiation of a pursuit and upon the termination of a pursuit, officers shall observe the applicable laws governing the right of way at intersections and other locations.
- 5.9. Officers involved in a pursuit shall not engage in vehicle paralleling.



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- 5.10. There shall be no street paralleling along the route unless the pursuit passes through a patrol's assigned area. A patrol that is parallel-street-pursuing shall not join or interfere with a pursuit and shall stop all pursuit-related activity at the boundary of its assigned area.
- 5.11. Boxing-in or heading-off a violator's moving vehicle is permitted only under extraordinary circumstances. These tactics substantially increase the risk inherent in the pursuit and shall only be employed:
- a) At low speeds; and
  - b) With the approval of a supervisor; or
  - c) In response to an imminent threat to the safety of the public or a police officer.
- 5.12. Roadblocks must only be employed as a last resort in circumstances where deadly force would otherwise be justified.
- a) The use of a roadblock must be authorized by a supervisor;
  - b) At no time will a roadblock be established until all pursuing police vehicles are made aware of the roadblock and its location and have acknowledged this awareness;
- 5.12.1. Once a roadblock has been established and a vehicle or barricade has been positioned in the roadway, there shall be:
- a) Adequate distance to see the roadblock;
  - b) An avenue of escape; and
  - c) No one in the blocking vehicle(s).
- 5.13. Officers involved in a pursuit shall not engage in any vehicle contact action except as a last resort to prevent imminent death or serious injury to the officer or another person where deadly force would otherwise be justified.
- 5.14. Officers shall not discharge a firearm against the driver or passenger of a moving vehicle except in the limited situations permitted under *Section 4.6 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy* (Also see *Standard Operating Procedure Volume 04, Chapter 01 Use of Force Section 4.5*).

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- 5.15. Officers shall not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle except in the limited situations permitted under Section 4.7 of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy (*Also see Standard Operating Procedure Volume 04, Chapter 01 Use of Force Section 4.6*).

**6. Authorized Tire Deflation Devices**

- 6.1. Law enforcement agencies may choose to utilize authorized tire deflation devices during the course of a vehicular pursuit. Agencies that choose to employ this strategy may only utilize devices authorized by the Attorney General Vehicular Pursuit Policy. As with all operational decisions made during the conduct of a vehicular pursuit, the use of such devices is subject to the assessment of inherent risk balanced against the need to apprehend a fleeing offender.
- 6.2. To be authorized for deployment and use under the vehicular pursuit policy, the tire deflation device must be capable of the following:
- a) Producing a controlled deflation of one or more tires of a pursued vehicle;
  - b) Being deployed or activated immediately before the pursued vehicle drives over it, and removed or deactivated immediately after the pursued vehicle drives over it; and
  - c) Allowing the officer to remain a safe distance from the roadway at the time of deployment or activation.
- 6.3. Prior to the deployment and use of an authorized tire deflation device, the proper use of the authorized tire deflation device shall be provided in this Standard Operating Procedure and all officers shall be trained in the use of the authorized tire deflation device, which training must include practical, hands-on operation of the authorized tire deflation device.
- 6.4. The following are circumstances under which an authorized tire deflation device may be deployed:
- a) An authorized tire deflation device may be utilized only after supervisory approval;
  - b) An authorized tire deflation device shall not be used to stop motorcycles, mopeds, or similar vehicles;

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- c) The authorized tire deflation device should not be used in locations where specific geographic features (e.g., sharp curves, alongside of rivers, steep embankments, etc.) increase the risk of serious injury to the officer, violator, or public;
- d) Deployment locations should have reasonably good sight distances to enable the officer to observe the pursuit and other traffic as it approaches; and
- e) The officer deploying the authorized tire deflation device should not attempt to overtake and pass a high-speed pursuit in order to position the device.

**6.5. Procedures for deployment of the authorized tire deflation device:**

- a) The officer deploying the authorized tire deflation device should do so from a position of safety;
- b) The officer deploying the authorized tire deflation device should be in position to allow sufficient time for deployment;
- c) The supervisor must coordinate the efforts of all law enforcement units involved in the pursuit;
- d) The communications operator shall notify all units of the location of the authorized tire deflation device deployment;
- e) The officer operating the authorized tire deflation device should take a position of safety as the pursued vehicle approaches;
- f) The officer shall deploy or activate the authorized tire deflation device immediately before the pursued vehicle arrives at the point where it would impact the device;
- g) The officer shall remove or deactivate the device immediately after the pursued vehicle goes over the authorized tire deflation device; and
- h) The officer should immediately notify communications if the pursued vehicle impacted the authorized tire deflation device, if the officer observed any signs of deflation, and the direction and operation of the pursued vehicle after the impact.

**6.6.** The use of an authorized tire deflation device shall be reported on a Vehicular Pursuit Report in the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal.

**7. Role of the Supervisor**

**7.1.** Upon being notified or becoming aware of the pursuit, the supervisor shall decide as quickly as possible whether or not the

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pursuit shall be permitted to continue and shall broadcast that decision over the police radio channel by declaring "pursuit authorized" or "terminate pursuit." In addition, if the supervisor decides to authorize the pursuit, the supervisor shall broadcast the underlying reason for authorizing the pursuit (e.g., "Pursuit authorized for armed robbery suspect.").

- 7.2. The supervisor shall permit a pursuit to continue only under the following circumstances:
- a) There is a reasonable belief that the violator has committed, or is engaged in a conspiracy or attempt to commit, any crime of the first degree or one of the violent or serious crimes of the second degree enumerated in *Section 3.2* of this Policy; or
  - b) There is a reasonable belief that the violator poses an imminent threat to safety of the public or other police officers. This determination shall be made based upon the violator's actions or operation of the vehicle prior to the initiation of the attempted motor vehicle stop. The violator's subsequent actions, although often supporting the criminal charge of Eluding, N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2(b), shall not constitute an authorization to initiate or continue a pursuit.
- 7.3. The supervisor shall order a pursuit terminated at any time if he or she concludes that the danger to the pursuing officer(s) or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the violator.
- 7.4. The supervisor shall order the pursuit terminated if the suspect's identity is established to the point where later apprehension may be accomplished and where there is no imminent threat to public safety.
- 7.5. In recognition of the overall population density and volume of vehicular traffic in this State, and the increased risk attendant to prolonged vehicular pursuits, a supervisor shall order the termination of any pursuit of protracted duration unless the supervisor determines that further pursuit is justified to respond to an imminent threat to public safety.
- 7.6. The supervisor shall ensure, for the duration of the pursuit, that this Policy and agency procedures are followed by all officers.

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**8. Role of Police Communications**

- 8.1. The communications operator shall do the following during a vehicular pursuit:
- a) Immediately notify a police supervisor of a pursuit in progress if a supervisor has not already been otherwise notified (*if no supervisor is on duty Hunterdon County Communications is to make a reasonable effort to contact an off-duty department supervisor*);
  - b) Keep the supervisor apprised of the duration and progress of the pursuit; and
  - c) Obtain from the pursuing officer any information listed in Section 4.3 of this Policy that was not initially provided by the pursuing officer.
- 8.2. When possible, a police supervisor shall determine whether there is a need to assume control over and coordinate pursuit related communications.
- 8.3. Hunterdon County Communications provides for a regionalized police, fire and emergency medical service dispatch. As such Hunterdon County Communications has implemented their own Operating Policies and Procedures Section 5 Page 31.1 Pursuit/Attempt to Stop (Appendix A). This agency operating policy establishes procedures to ensure that radio channels remain open for pursuit related transmissions and that all necessary information is made available to officers involved in the pursuit.

**9. Reinstating Pursuits**

- 9.1. Reinstatement of any previously terminated pursuit shall be undertaken consistent with the authorization criteria for originally initiating a pursuit.

**10. Interjurisdictional Pursuits**

- 10.1. The original pursuing jurisdiction shall provide timely notification of a pursuit in progress to any other jurisdiction into which the pursuit enters. Notifying another jurisdiction that a pursuit is in progress is not a request to join the pursuit. The pursuing agency shall advise if assistance is necessary. Whenever

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the pursuing officers are unfamiliar with the roadways and terrain of the jurisdiction into which the pursuit has entered, the pursuing agency shall, when possible, seek the assistance of, and be prepared to relinquish the pursuit to, the other agency.

## **11. Vehicular Pursuit Reporting**

- 11.1. All law enforcement officers who operate law enforcement vehicles in vehicular pursuit situations shall complete a report in the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal. The report shall be completed by the officer within 24 hours of the vehicular pursuit and preferably before the end of the shift in which the pursuit occurred. If the officer involved in the pursuit is unable to complete the report within 24 hours, it should be completed as soon as the officer is able to do so, or by a supervising officer or other officer designated by the Chief Executive Officer within 48 hours.
- 11.2. Vehicular pursuits resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of any civilian shall be handled in accordance with Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2019-4. As soon as the law enforcement agency (HBPD) learns of a vehicular pursuit that resulted in death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, the agency shall immediately notify the County Prosecutor's Office for the county in which the incident occurred, who shall in turn immediately notify the Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) Director or their designee.

## **12. Vehicular Pursuit Review**

- 12.1. Every vehicular pursuit **must** undergo the following procedures for a meaningful command level review as established herein:
- a) The meaningful command level review of the incident **shall** be undertaken by: at least one (1) supervisor as the first level (*supervisory*) unless otherwise determined by the Law Enforcement Executive and the second level (*command*) will be completed by the Law Enforcement Executive where the reviewer **must** be two levels or more above the officer who engage in the vehicular pursuit;
    - **Designation of supervisory level:** for the purposes of this review, establishment of such supervisory level will be determined by rank or virtue of assignment (i.e. immediate supervisor, internal affairs, training officers, or command staff).

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- Conflict of Interest: the meaningful review is constructed to establish a removed review posture by someone with sufficient rank. A conflict of interest exists for any officer(s) involved in the vehicular pursuit including those who were actively engaged as pursuing units or serving as the supervisor in an incident. The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office will be delegated the review assignment for conflicts of interest existing for the Law Enforcement Executive where they would be recused from a matter.
  - b) The review **shall** include an examination of all available sources of information about the incident, including any video of the incident, recordings of 911 calls and police radio transmissions, reports, officer or other witness statements, medical records, or records of injuries;
  - c) The reviewing supervisors **shall** make a recommendation of what action, if any, should be undertaken, including policy changes, remedial training, administrative action, disciplinary action or, if appropriate, referral for criminal prosecution (*Appendix B Vehicular Pursuit Meaningful Review Form*);
  - d) The law enforcement executive **shall** review each vehicular pursuit investigation and approve or reject the recommendations of the supervisors who conducted the review. The law enforcement executive's decision **shall** be memorialized and retained in the vehicular pursuit investigative file (*Appendix B Vehicular Pursuit Meaningful Review Form*)
- 12.2. The law enforcement executive shall conduct an annual review of all vehicular pursuit incidents in their department. The review shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- a) Analytical reports from the Attorney General's Use of Force Reporting Portal;
  - b) An audit of BWCs and other videos on a risk-based and randomly selected basis;
  - c) Any internal affairs complaints; and
  - d) An analysis of vehicular pursuits to ensure that they are being conducted without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- 12.3. Based on that thorough review, the law enforcement executive shall determine whether changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment are appropriate. The law enforcement executive shall then provide a written report documenting the annual review to the Hunterdon County Prosecutor for the department.

### ***13. Training***

- 13.1. The Division of Criminal Justice, by June 21, 2021, shall develop a training program to explain the requirements of this Policy as they pertain to state, county, and local law enforcement officers and officers. Such program shall be made available through the NJ Learn System or by other electronic means.

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- 13.2. All state, county, and local law enforcement agencies shall provide training to all officers regarding the provisions of this policy before December 31, 2021.
- 13.3. All officers shall attend in-service vehicular pursuit training annually.
- 13.4. Vehicular pursuit training shall consist of knowledge of applicable statutes, familiarization with statewide police pursuit policy and departmental procedures, decision making skills, and the use of an authorized tire deflation device if employed by the agency.



# WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

150 ROCKTOWN - LAMBERTVILLE ROAD  
LAMBERTVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08530

POLICE DISPATCH: (609) 397-1100  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS/RECORDS: (609) 397-5875



EMERGENCY: DIAL 911  
FAX NUMBER: (609) 397-8801

## VEHICULAR PURSUIT MEANINGFUL REVIEW FORM

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Details:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ CAD# \_\_\_\_\_

(Supervisory) Officer:

(Command) Officer:

Information Sources Reviewed:

Supervisor

Command

\*Video:

\*Reports:

\*Statements:

\*Medical Records:

\*Other:

\*Sources(s)

- Police Radio Recordings
- 911 Recording
- Vehicle Pursuit Reports completed

Recommendation:

(Supervisory:) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: (Command:) \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

# HUNTERDON COUNTY

## COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

OPERATING POLICIES & PROCEDURES



Section: 5

Page: 31.1

Revision #

4

Issue Date:

October 9, 1990

Revision Date:

January 10, 2007

Effective Date:

Immediately

**SUBJECT: PURSUITS/ATTEMPT TO STOP**

When a car is in pursuit/attempt to stop anywhere in Hunterdon County, and the dispatchers are aware of it, the following procedure will be in effect.

1. When a car calls in advising he or she is in pursuit/attempt to stop, he or she should give the location, direction of travel, and description of vehicle. The dispatcher will advise the officer to stay on normal channel.
2. The dispatcher will then advise on Police 2, Police 3 and Police 5, Police 6 simultaneously after the alert tone: "Hunterdon to all units, (unit #) is in pursuit/attempt to stop (give direction of travel, from where, description of vehicle), go ahead (unit #), all other cars, emergency radio traffic only. Any units that anticipate being involved in the pursuit/attempt to stop should switch to channel \_\_\_\_." (This is the channel the officer involved in pursuit/attempt to stop is on.)
3. The car will then give frequent locations, changes in direction of travel, or any additional information; such as why the vehicle is being pursued/attempt to stop. If not already known, ascertain pertinent information such as number and description of occupants or anything else that the other units may find useful in identifying the vehicle.
4. The dispatcher will repeat the location information or changes in direction of travel as briefly as possible and enter it into CAD using the time stamp feature. Do not lose track of your unit . . . if they do not call in call them. If possible, advise them of any dead end, sharp turns, bridges out, etc., on the roads they are traveling.
5. Other cars will begin moving in the direction of the pursuit/attempt to stop, and may be requested by the pursuing car to position their cars as they hear the progress of the pursuit. IF ANY ROAD BLOCKS ARE SET UP, MAKE SURE THE PURSUING UNIT IS ADVISED OF THEIR EXACT LOCATION.
6. When the vehicle is stopped, or the officer has lost sight of the vehicle, the dispatcher should cancel the "Emergency Radio Traffic Only", indicate the pursuit /attempt to stop has ended or lost sight of the vehicle, authority-pursuing department.
7. Pursuant to the Attorney Generals\* directive, the officer must notify his or her supervisor. If this has not been done, the dispatcher may inquire if the officer would like it done. If the officer desires it be made, or if contact is lost with them, make the notification.

\* This procedure has been reviewed by and is in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the Hunterdon County Prosecutors Office.