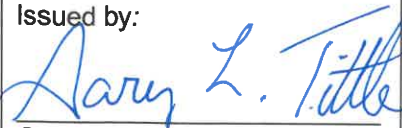
 <p><b>RICHARDSON, TX</b> POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GENERAL ORDER</b> <u>2.01.04-85</u> Vehicle Pursuit Procedures</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Previous Revision: February 11, 2022</p>	<p>Issued by: </p> <p>Gary L. Tittle Chief of Police Richardson Police Department</p> <hr/> <p>Effective: January 25, 1985 Revised: July 1, 2022</p>
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**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Order is to establish procedures for conducting vehicular pursuits.

**II. POLICY:**

Employees will adhere to established Department policies, procedures, and state law to minimize the risk to the public, police officers and suspects at all times. Open communications shall be maintained during all police pursuits.

**III. PROCEDURE:**

**A. Definitions**

1. Approved Pursuit Vehicle - A vehicle certified by the manufacturer as a pursuit vehicle with emergency overhead lights, siren and distinctive markings clearly identifying as a police vehicle.
2. Low Profile Vehicle – A marked or unmarked vehicle certified by the manufacturer as a pursuit vehicle equipped with low profile emergency lights and siren.
3. Emergency Equipment – Consists of both lights and siren.
4. Motor Vehicle Pursuit - A motor vehicle pursuit is an active attempt by a law enforcement officer operating an approved pursuit vehicle and utilizing simultaneously all emergency equipment to apprehend the occupant(s) of another moving vehicle, when the driver of a fleeing vehicle is aware of the attempt, and is resisting apprehension.
5. Pursuit Termination - Upon the officer and/or supervisor’s decision to terminate a vehicle pursuit, the pursuing officer(s) will turn off all emergency equipment, announce over the radio “Pursuit Terminated” or “Terminate Pursuit” and cease following the vehicle.
6. Active Unit(s) - Any approved pursuit or low profile vehicle involved in an intentional effort to apprehend the occupant(s) of a fleeing vehicle.
7. Limited Risk Pursuit – Where the violator is travelling at a reasonable and prudent speed for the conditions then existing with no hazardous evasive maneuvers, and light to moderate traffic.

**B. Pursuit Initiation**

1. Any law enforcement officer in an approved pursuit vehicle may initiate a motor vehicle pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. A pursuit may also be justified if the officer reasonably believes the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a

danger to human life or cause serious bodily injury to another person.

- a. Officers must consider the nature of the offense committed by the offender. Most vehicle pursuits are initiated because of traffic violations. These violators, if apprehended, often receive minor penalties. There is no reasonable justification for endangering human life, or even property, merely to apprehend a traffic violator.
  - b. Officers are prohibited from engaging in vehicle pursuits resulting solely from Class C traffic offenses, regional warrant hits or City ordinance violations.
  - c. The suspect's use of a vehicle to evade an officer, in and of itself, will not constitute justification to engage in a pursuit.
2. Officers will activate emergency equipment in an attempt to stop the violator.
  3. When an officer drives at excessive speeds and/or violates other traffic laws or traffic control devices, the officer will activate emergency equipment for the purpose of warning others of their presence while driving under such conditions. Officers will not disregard the safety of those around them in this process.
  4. For offenses other than Class C traffic offenses, regional warrant hits, or City ordinance violations, the responsibility for the decision to engage in a pursuit rests with the individual officer. The responsibility to continue a pursuit rests with the officer and/or the controlling supervisor of the pursuit.
    - a. The officer must carefully consider all factors involved, including the seriousness of the offense, totality of the facts as to why the pursuit is necessary, availability of air support, and most importantly, the safety of citizens whose protection is the officer's primary objective.
    - b. When arriving at a decision, an officers will not initiate or continue a pursuit when such safety factors outweigh the need for apprehension.
  5. Officers are not relieved of their duty to drive with "due regard" for the safety of all persons nor are they protected from the consequences of any reckless disregard for safety.
  6. Low profile vehicles are normally prohibited from becoming involved in a pursuit. Exceptions may apply if:
    - a. the pursuit is limited risk as defined by this policy and the officer immediately announces they are in pursuit in a low profile vehicle, or
    - b. there are no readily available approved pursuit vehicles in the immediate area and there are specific articulable facts the suspect(s) fleeing have committed a violent felony and the risk to the public by their escape is greater than the risk posed by their pursuit.
  7. Officers engaged in a limited risk or violent felony pursuit in a low profile approved vehicle will terminate immediately upon the participation of two pursuit vehicles (as defined by this policy) unless authorized to continue by a supervisor.

C. Pursuit Requirements

1. No more than two active units will be involved in the pursuit unless authorized by the controlling supervisor due to the seriousness of the offense.
2. The controlling supervisor will monitor the pursuit via radio and normally should not become directly involved in the pursuit.
3. The first unit to become involved in the pursuit will be the primary unit. The second unit will be the back-up. The first unit should concentrate on the pursuit of the violator while all radio communications should be handled by the back-up unit.
4. Units transporting prisoners, witnesses, suspects, complainants or other non-police personnel shall not become engaged in pursuit situations.
5. Shooting at the pursued vehicle is prohibited unless necessary to protect against imminent death or serious bodily injury to an officer or another person.
6. To the fullest extent possible, officers should broadcast detailed descriptions of the car and occupant(s).
7. Deliberate physical contact between vehicles at any time is prohibited, except as necessitated to protect against imminent serious bodily injury or death to an officer or another person.
8. Officers will not pursue traveling the wrong direction on any roadway, unless authorized by the controlling supervisor.
9. When a pursued vehicle passes through red lights or stop signs, pursuing officers shall exercise due caution before going through such intersections as may be necessary for safe operation.

D. Pursuit Termination

1. The pursuing officer must at all times use their best judgment in evaluating and re-evaluating the pursuit and make a continuous appraisal of whether to continue the pursuit.
2. Officers will not initiate or continue a pursuit when:
  - a. there is a clear and unreasonable danger to the officer, the fleeing suspect, and/or any other persons; and the danger created by the pursuit outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension;
  - b. the environmental or traffic conditions create unreasonable hazards;
  - c. the identity of the violator is known, the only offense is a misdemeanor or a non-violent felony, and the violator does not pose a substantial threat to the general public (An exception can be made if the officer(s) involved have specific articulable facts which indicate the suspect is driving while intoxicated);
  - d. the pursuing officers have reason to believe the fleeing vehicle is

operated by a juvenile and the offense constitutes a misdemeanor or non-violent felony;

- e. the offense is misdemeanor traffic, and the pursuit has continued outside the corporate limits of the City of Richardson for an unreasonable distance; and
  - f. any sworn supervisor orders the pursuit terminated.
3. The suspect's use of a vehicle to evade the officer, in and of itself, will not constitute a felony in justification of pursuit.
  4. When a decision is made to terminate a pursuit by any officer involved or a supervisor, the officer or supervisor will announce over the radio "Pursuit Terminated" or "Terminate Pursuit".

#### E. Inter-Jurisdictional Pursuits

1. An inter-agency agreement has established the following guidelines in the Metroplex area. Before entering another jurisdiction, the public safety telecommunicator will notify the other agency of the following information:
  - a. a pursuit is about to enter their jurisdiction,
  - b. reason for the pursuit and nature of violation,
  - c. location and direction of pursuit,
  - d. complete description of occupants and vehicles,
  - e. number of units involved in the pursuit,
  - f. whether or not assistance is needed, and
  - g. when applicable, when the pursuit is leaving their boundaries or the location of termination.
2. The initiating agency will have control of and be responsible for the pursuit. Other agencies will not participate unless requested to assist.
3. No more than three vehicles from the combined jurisdictions will be involved in any pursuit: two patrol units and one supervisor.
4. During a pursuit involving more than one agency, the following practices are prohibited for RPD officers unless necessary to protect against the imminent death or serious bodily injury to an officer or another person:
  - a. the intentional use of roadblocks designed to stop the pursued vehicle;
  - b. intentional bumping or ramming of the pursued vehicle;
  - c. intentionally forcing the pursued vehicle off the roadway; and
  - d. shooting at the pursued vehicle.

5. If at any time any agency attempts any act or practice prohibited by this Order or related Orders, all Richardson units will immediately terminate their involvement in the pursuit.
6. The initiating agency will be responsible for:
  - a. arraignment of arrested persons;
  - b. disposition of any passenger;
  - c. disposition of arrested person's vehicle; and
  - d. coordination of all reports, citations, and criminal charges.
7. A supervisor from the Richardson Police Department will respond to the location of termination (if in Richardson) so that they may be informed of pertinent information regarding the pursuit. An information report will be made to document the incident and obtain the suspect names for records management system entry.

#### F. Stop Sticks

1. Stop Sticks will be carried in approved vehicles only.
2. Patrol Officers will be trained in the use of Stop Sticks.
3. Stop Sticks will only be deployed when a reasonable prediction can be made of the path and direction of a pursuit. Sufficient time must exist to deploy in a safe manner and advise pursuing officers of the deployment.
4. Stop Sticks will not be utilized against motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles (ATV's).
5. If a pursuit initiated by another agency is about to enter the City of Richardson, all reasonable efforts will be made to deploy the Stop Sticks in the path of the pursuit to minimize the risk to the citizens of Richardson whether or not the initiating agency requests RPD assistance.
6. The deploying unit will notify Communications prior to the deployment of the Stop Sticks.
7. Communications will notify the initiating agency of RPD's deployment of Stop Sticks.

#### G. Controlling Supervisor's Responsibilities

1. The controlling supervisor normally should not be an active unit in the pursuit.
2. Controlling supervisors are encouraged to monitor the pursuit from a static position.
3. Immediately upon being notified of a pursuit in progress, the controlling supervisor will:
  - a. assume command of the pursuit and notify dispatch of their status and unit number;

- b. not relinquish command regardless of the jurisdictions entered or personnel involved until the pursuit is concluded or terminated or until the supervisor is relieved by a higher authority;
    - c. monitor the pursuit for adherence to departmental procedures; and
    - d. decide whether the pursuit shall continue or be terminated.
  4. The controlling supervisor may order the pursuit terminated at any time.
  5. The controlling supervisor must consider the following factors and justification in determining when to allow a pursuit to continue. In addition, these factors must be addressed in the completion of the Vehicle Pursuit Report in the BlueTeam database:
    - a. nature of the violation;
    - b. environmental and traffic conditions;
    - c. violator's driving behavior;
    - d. experience of the pursuing officer; and
    - e. active involvement in the situation by a law enforcement helicopter or other air support.
  6. The controlling supervisor may order any response necessary and appropriate that is within department policy.
  7. In most instances, the controlling supervisor should go to the scene of a concluded pursuit and take command. In all cases where the suspect is apprehended or if injuries, death, or property damage occurred as a result of, or in the course of the pursuit, a supervisor will report to the scene and take command.

#### G. Reporting Requirements

1. The primary pursuit officer will complete the Vehicle Pursuit Report in the BlueTeam database.
2. If Stop Sticks are deployed, a Stop Stick deployment form, as designated by the manufacturer, will be completed by the deploying officer.
  - a) The form will be forwarded to Equipment Control along with the used Stop Sticks.
  - b) Equipment Control will return the used Stop Sticks to the manufacturer as directed for replacement.
3. The controlling supervisor of the pursuit will complete the supervisory portion of the Vehicle Pursuit Report in the BlueTeam database.
4. The controlling supervisor of the pursuit will forward the completed Vehicle Pursuit Report via chain of command to the Captain of Patrol Division. The

Captain of Patrol Division will act as the initial Incident Inspector as outlined in GO 1.00.09-89, Departmental Inspections, it is determined the pursuit requires a more detailed inspection, the Vehicle Pursuit Report will be assigned to a Driving Instructor for an Internal Incident Inspection.

- a. Pursuit Inspections are for the purpose of ensuring that training techniques are appropriate and to identify any trends, changes, or additions to pursuit training. Policy or rule violations that occur are to be addressed by the immediate supervisor separate from the Inspections process.
  - b. A supervisor or the officer assigned to the Inspection may request the Inspection be conducted by Internal Affairs when special circumstances are present that may preclude a normal Inspection process.
  - c. The final inspection report will be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Operations within 60 days of pursuit.
5. An annual report, prepared by the Captain of Patrol Division, will be submitted to the Chief of Police. In addition to a statistical analysis, the report will annotate trends, identify opportunities for improvement and make recommendations concerning needed modifications to policy, equipment or training.