

Vehicle Pursuit Annual Report



2023

VEHICLE PURSUITS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

For 2023, the Richardson Police Department (RPD) documented 36 incidents where police officers were involved in motor vehicle pursuits in accordance with General Order 2.01.04-85. The following chart highlights the types of pursuits conducted by RPD officers during 2023 as compared to the previous two years:

VEHICLE PURSUITS	2021	2022	2023
Pursuits Originating from Traffic Violations	44	38	3
Pursuits Originating from Suspicion of DWI	1	3	7
Pursuits Originating from Stolen Vehicles	Not tracked	19	10
Pursuits Originating from Misdemeanor Offenses (Non-Traffic)	10	5	3
Pursuits Originating from Felony Offenses	13	5	13
Total Incidents	68	70	36

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Below is a summary analysis of statistical data compiled from the 36 vehicle pursuits by RPD officers in 2023:

- The average tenure of the primary officer involved in the vehicle pursuits was six years of service. The least tenured officer involved had less than one year of service, and the most tenured officer involved had 24 years of service.
- All motor vehicle pursuits in 2023 were conducted by officers within the Patrol Operations Division. Of all the pursuits, six (17%) occurred on Day Watch (6:00 AM – 6:00 PM), and 30 (83%) occurred on Night Watch (6:00 PM – 6:00 AM).

- The greatest number of vehicle pursuits by month occurred in June with seven incidents. September had five incidents. May and July each had four. February, March and August each had three incidents. January, April and November each had two incidents, followed December with one. October had zero pursuits.
- Sixteen of the vehicle pursuits (44%) were terminated. Of those 16, eight (50%) by the initiating officer, and eight (50%) by a supervisor.
- Stop Sticks were deployed in five incidents (14%) and were effective in ending three of those five pursuits.
- A motor vehicle crash occurred in five (14%) of the 36 pursuits.
- Of the 36 incidents, two (6%) resulted in minor injuries to either civilians or suspects. No officers were injured during a vehicle pursuit.
- No police vehicle suffered damage because of a pursuit.
- One (3%) of the vehicle pursuit resulted in property damage.
- Arrests were made in 21 (58%) of the vehicle pursuits, and 18 (86%) of the arrests were made immediately following the pursuit while three (14%) arrests were made after investigative follow-up.
 - Below is an analysis of statistical data regarding the 36 motor vehicle pursuits initiated in 2023:
 - Of these pursuits 16 were terminated.
 - There were 21 arrests made as a result of pursuit investigations. In addition to the felony evading charges, the following charges were added.
 - One Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon
 - One Assault
 - One Criminal Mischief
 - Two Unauthorized Use of Vehicle
 - One Weapon Offense
- The seven pursuits originating from suspicion of DWI resulted in seven arrests for DWI.
- The three pursuits that originated for a misdemeanor offense or non-traffic incidents in 2023 were related to investigative stops on hit and run (1) theft (1), criminal mischief (1).
- Ten pursuits originated from stolen vehicles.

TRENDS

The following are trends identified during the annual review of the vehicle pursuits by RPD officers in 2023:

- Pursuits originating from traffic stops were down significantly in 2023, three (8%), compared to 38 (54%) due to changes in the pursuit policy that restricted pursuits based solely on traffic offenses.
- The total number of pursuits in 2023 was 36 compared to 70 in 2022, a 49% decrease. There is a significant decrease due to changes in policy.
- The number of pursuits terminated by the initiating officer decreased in 2023 to eight (22%), compared to 18 (26%) in 2022.
- Over the past year, RPD initiating officers or supervisors terminated 16 (44%) of the pursuits, compared to 36 (51%) in 2022.
- The number of arrests from vehicle pursuits decreased in 2023 with 21 (58%), compared to 32 (46%) in 2022.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are opportunities for improvement and recommendations in vehicle pursuits:

- It is recommended that the Training Sergeant and driving instructors review this report to better assist them in evaluating any training needs.
- In-Service instruction for 2024 will include eight hours of training regarding the emergency operation of police vehicles which will include review of vehicle pursuit statistics from 2022 and 2023. In addition, officers will review department policy on vehicle pursuits and the emergency operation of police vehicles as well as demonstrate proficiency with driving skills and vehicle handling.
- Officers will continue to receive periodic instructions during briefings from sergeants regarding the Department's Pursuit policy.
- In July 2022, the Department made a major change to the Vehicle Pursuit policy prohibiting officers from engaging in vehicle pursuits resulting from Class C traffic offenses, regional warrant hits and city ordinance violations. The policy change resulted in a decrease of pursuits in the last six months of 2022, with 55 from January-June 2022, and 15 from July-December 2022. In 2023, there were 36 pursuits, a 49% decrease from 2022.
- It is recommended to continue to research relevant technology that will allow officers to track vehicles that flee, eliminating the need to engage in pursuits.

- It is recommended to continue to research technology related to Stop-Sticks, allowing them to be deployed at a reduced risk of injury to officers.

SUMMARY

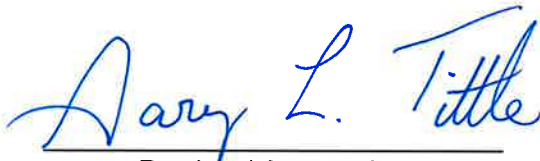
In protecting the life and property of the residents of Richardson, the Department's Vehicle Pursuit policy requires officers adhere to established Departmental policies, procedures, and state law to ensure the safety of police officers and other motorists at all times. The Department's primary consideration is citizen and officer safety.



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