



Use of Force Recommendation 42

Limit Number of Officers in a Pursuit



Agenda

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Highlights

- *Ensure number of officers in pursuit is limited to:*
 - *Primary Unit*
 - *Secondary Unit*
 - *Involved Supervisor*
- *Exception: exigent circumstances exist, requiring additional personnel to join the pursuit.*

Current Policy

Summary of the current policy

- ❑ *Current policy **DPM 2.3.5, Vehicle Pursuits** was revised 05/29/19.*
- ❑ *This recommendation appears to already be present in the most recent version of the policy.*
- ❑ *In fact, researching back to 2015, this recommendation was already present as well.*
- ❑ *The current policy reads:*
 - ❑ *Units authorized to participate in the pursuit are the **Primary Police Unit, Secondary Police Unit and Functional Supervisor**. Additional units may be authorized by a sworn supervisor.*



Gap Analysis

(Differences between the current policy and the recommendation)

PERF Recommendation

- Findings were the policy is detailed and limits the situations a pursuit is allowed.
- MPD should limit the number of responders to a primary unit, a secondary unit and a supervisor who is also involved in the pursuit,
- Unless exigent circumstances exist to require additional personnel to join a pursuit.

Current MPD Policy

- Units authorized to participate in the pursuit are the Primary Police Unit, Secondary Police Unit and Functional Supervisor. Additional units may be authorized by a sworn supervisor.
- Other police units will remain alert to the progress and location of the pursuit and may participate in a Support Unit role but shall not become actively engaged unless directed by a sworn supervisor.
- Consideration for the number of officers required for the pursuit is determined by an ongoing situational threat assessment made by the pursuing officer or functional supervisor.
- Support Units
 - May parallel the pursuit while maintaining routine driving.
 - DO NOT engage in non-routine driving to become involved in the pursuit.

Reference

Model Policy by IACP (excerpt taken from the Criminal Justice Institute's model Policy and Procedure Manual for Police Departments):

PURSUIT TACTICS

(1) Unless expressly authorized by a supervisor, pursuit shall be limited to the assigned primary and backup vehicles. Officers are not otherwise permitted to join the pursuit team, or follow the pursuit on parallel streets.

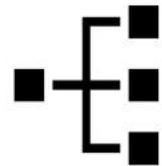
SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

(3) In controlling the pursuit incident, the supervisor shall be responsible for coordination of the pursuit as follows:

- (a) Directing pursuit vehicles into or out of the pursuit;
- (b) Re-designation of primary, support or other backup vehicle responsibilities;
- (c) Approval or disapproval, and coordination of pursuit tactics; and
- (d) Approval or disapproval to leave jurisdiction to continue pursuit.

(4) The supervisor may approve and assign additional backup vehicles to assist the primary and backup pursuit vehicles based on an analysis of:

- (a) The nature of the offense for which pursuit was initiated;
- (b) The number of suspects and any known propensity for violence;
- (c) The number of officers in the pursuit vehicles;
- (d) Any damage or injuries to the assigned primary and backup vehicle or officers;
- (e) The number of officers necessary to make an arrest at the conclusion of the pursuit; and
- (f) Any other clear and articulable facts that would warrant the increased hazards caused by numerous pursuit vehicles.



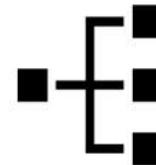
Pros and Cons

*Reasons **for** adopting the recommendation*

- Our policy currently, for the most part, already includes this recommendation.*
- Any additions would be relatively simple, minor and in the spirit of our current policy.*

*Reasons **against** adopting the recommendation*

- As long as there is a clause that more units can be utilized under exigent circumstances with supervisor approval, we do not see any drawbacks with this recommendation.*



Proposed Action

Adopt the recommendation by either keeping current policy.

or

Enhancing the current policy slightly to make it clear that additional units may only be used under exigent circumstances with supervisor approval.



Questions