



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
CY2023 ANNUAL VEHICLE AND FOOT
PURSUIT REPORT

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By their nature, vehicular and foot pursuits are dangerous and can result in injury or death. Consequently, the Department has a policy to restrict and monitor these actions, while balancing the need to apprehend criminals and maintain the community's safety.

It is the policy of the United States Capitol Police to permit officers to engage in a vehicle or foot pursuit when it is reasonably necessary to effectively accomplish their lawful objectives (bring a subject under control), while protecting the lives of officers, the public, and others.

Department members are required to report and document all pursuits enacted. The Office of Professional Responsibility is the central repository for all Pursuit Analysis reports and is responsible to conduct a review of all submitted information to ensure compliance with the Department's pursuit policy.

The Office of Professional Responsibility's review ensures that the pursuit as reported was not prohibitive in nature; appropriate diligence was enacted during the pursuit; and the pursuit was consistent with applicable law, rule, regulation, and policy.

Based upon the Office of Professional Responsibility's review and if circumstances warrant, the Office of Professional Responsibility will either initiate an investigation or maintain the information on file for historical record.

This review and process prioritizes the community's safety, showcases transparency in an officer's decision-making authority, provides accountability of expectations, and enhances the public's trust in our operations.



Inspector Michael A. Spochart
Commander, Office of
Professional Responsibility

PURSUIT POLICY:

The Department's Vehicle Pursuit policy defines a vehicle pursuit as:

The pursuit of a vehicle, including motorcycles, by a sworn employee using an authorized USCP pursuit vehicle to apprehend an individual whom the sworn employee has probable cause to believe has committed a felony involving violence or threatened violence against another person – or involving serious physical injury or the threat of serious physical injury, or death – and the sworn employee reasonably believes that the person to be apprehended will pose an immediate threat of death to the sworn employee or others if apprehension is delayed.

The Department's Vehicle Pursuit policy dictates:

USCP sworn employees may only engage in vehicular pursuits when operating an authorized USCP pursuit vehicle with emergency devices activated in the following instances:

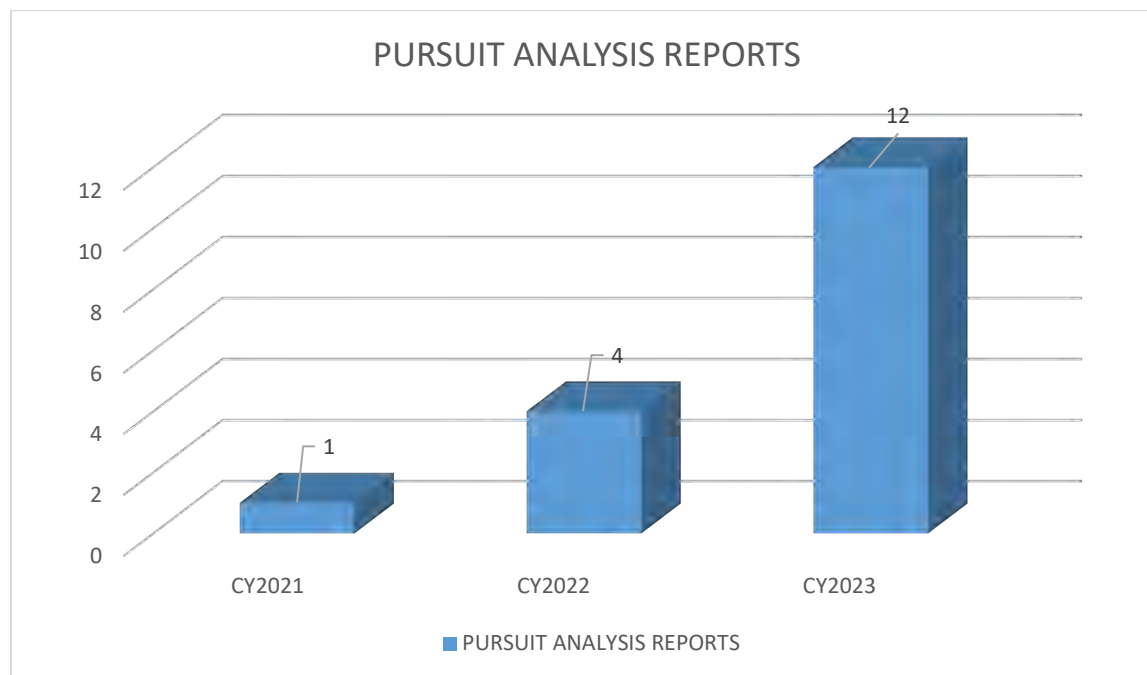
- 1. To affect the arrest or prevent the escape of a person who has committed a violent felony or has attempted to commit a violent felony in the sworn employee's presence; or*
- 2. When a violent felony has been committed and the sworn employee has probable cause to believe the person they are attempting to apprehend has committed the violent felony. The violent felony must involve an actual or threatened attack that the sworn employee has probable cause to believe could result in death or serious bodily injury to another; or*
- 3. The sworn employee reasonably believes that the person to be arrested or apprehended will pose an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the sworn employee or others if apprehension is delayed.*

Analysis

During calendar year 2023, the Office of Professional Responsibility reviewed twelve Vehicle Pursuit Analysis reports and conducted a thorough administrative review of each incident.

Figure 17.

Pursuit Analysis reports by calendar year



The above chart shows that one Pursuit Analysis report was reviewed in calendar year 2020, four Pursuit Analysis reports were reviewed in calendar year 2022, and twelve Pursuit Analysis reports were reviewed in calendar year 2023.

The chart reflects an upward trend of pursuits conducted in a three-year comparison, however, it should be noted that the agency experienced a less than normal foot and vehicle traffic throughout the Capitol campus in CY2021 due to the COVID pandemic and the restrictive security perimeters that were in effect after the January 6, 2021, Attack at the U.S. Capitol.

The Office of Professional Responsibility has reviewed and conducted a thorough review of each of the below twelve vehicle pursuit forms received in 2023. Ten of the vehicle and foot pursuits were conducted in accordance with the Department's Vehicle Pursuits policy. Two of the vehicle and foot pursuits determined that the pursuit was not conducted in accordance with the Department's Vehicle Pursuits policy and those officers were administratively held accountable for their actions.

1. On January 24, 2023, at approximately 1145 hours, a Special Operations Division (SOD) Officer initiated a pursuit of vehicle wanted in relation to an armed carjacking. The pursuit commenced in the Unit Block of D Street NW, when a SOD officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop with emergency lights and sirens activated and the vehicle accelerated away at a high rate of speed. The suspect vehicle continued to maneuver at high speeds throughout multiple neighborhoods, striking a marked police vehicle and continuing to flee. The pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle struck a second marked police vehicle in the 300 Block of 3rd Street, S.E. The suspects were taken into custody after a brief foot pursuit and placed under arrest for multiple felonies.
2. On June 7, 2023, at approximately 1451 hours, two SOD officers were alerted by a License Plate Reader (LPR) of a wanted vehicle that was in connection with armed robberies in multiple jurisdictions in the 800 block of North Capitol Street, N.W. The suspect vehicle was located in the 600 block of H Street, N.E. where a traffic stop was initiated with emergency lights and sirens activated. The suspect vehicle fled the area and a pursuit was initiated. The pursuit ended at 3408 Ely Place, S.E. when the vehicle stopped due to heavy traffic conditions. The vehicle occupants attempted to run on foot, but were quickly apprehended by the SOD officers. Two firearms were recovered from the vehicle and the suspects were placed under arrest for multiple felony charges.
3. On June 14, 2023, at 2341 hours, SOD officers responded to the area of 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. for an armed carjacking that had just occurred. While responding to the scene, a vehicle matching the description pulled in front of the SOD officers. A traffic stop with emergency lights and sirens activated was attempted at 12th Street and M Street, S.E. The vehicle made an aggressive u-turn and a pursuit was initiated. SOD officers pursued the stolen vehicle onto the southbound lanes of I-295 where they lost sight of the vehicle at Exit 2. The pursuit was then terminated.
4. On June 19, 2023, at approximately 1902 hours, a Senate Division (SD) officer notified radio communications that a vehicle was fleeing from an attempted traffic stop in the area of 200 2nd Street, N.E., and the officer was initiating a pursuit. The vehicle fled southbound on 2nd Street toward Independence Avenue, S.E. As the dispatcher broadcasted the vehicle information, a House Division (HD) officer advised through radio communications that the vehicle was presently stopped at a traffic light at the 2nd Street and Independence Avenue, S.E. intersection. At that time, a second HD officer began to pursue the vehicle southbound on 2nd Street SE until the Watch Commander

directed all units to no longer pursue the vehicle. Pursuit of the vehicle was terminated at 1909 hours.¹

5. On June 24, 2023, at approximately 0458 hours, a SOD officer received a LoJack System alert for a vehicle stolen in an armed carjacking in the 200 block of 2nd Street, N.E. The vehicle was located in an alley in the 700 block of 8th Street, N.E. The vehicle's engine was still running with a male subject standing next to the vehicle. When the SOD officer exited his vehicle to contact the subject, the subject entered the vehicle and fled from the area. The SOD officer initiated a pursuit with emergency lights and sirens activated for the violent felony. The SOD officer lost sight of the vehicle in the 600 block of 7th Street, N.E., but continued to canvas for the vehicle and tracked the LoJack signal to the intersection of 16th Street and Gales Street, N.E. where the signal was lost. As nothing was found, the pursuit and canvass for the vehicle was terminated without any further law enforcement action.
6. On July 3, 2023, at approximately 1420 hours, a SOD officer observed a vehicle that matched a lookout in connection to an armed robbery that occurred earlier in the day. After waiting for backup, a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle was attempted at First Street and Florida Avenue, N.E. The vehicle immediately fled the scene and a pursuit was initiated by SOD officers with emergency lights and sirens activated. The SOD officers lost sight of the suspect vehicle in the area of the Route 50 and Interstate 295 interchange and terminated the pursuit without any further law enforcement action.
7. On July 27, 2023, at approximately 1024 hours, a SOD officer observed a vehicle in the Unit Block of H Street, N.E. that matched a lookout for a vehicle wanted in connection with an armed robbery. A request for backup was made and a traffic stop was attempted at 16th Street and Benning Road, N.E. The suspect vehicle immediately fled and SOD officers initiated a pursuit with emergency lights and sirens activated. The suspect vehicle crashed into a curb and metal fence at 1310 Florida Avenue, N.E. and stopped, ending the vehicle pursuit. Five suspects then fled the crash scene on foot in a residential neighborhood. SOD officers were able to apprehend two of the occupants and were placed under arrest for multiple felony charges. The other three suspects were not able to be located.
8. On October 15, 2023, at approximately 1558 hours, a SOD officer observed a vehicle matching the description of a lookout in connection with an armed carjacking in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Columbus Circle, N.E. that occurred on October 14, 2023. The vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed away from the scene before a traffic stop could be initiated. The SOD officer initiated a pursuit of the vehicle with emergency lights and sirens activated. The vehicle continued at a high rate of speed through

¹ The Office of Professional Responsibility conducted a thorough review of the June 19, 2023, pursuit and determined that the HD officer violated the Rules of Conduct and was subsequently held administratively accountable for the incident.

different streets without regard to any traffic laws. The vehicle evaded pursuing units and the SOD officer terminated the pursuit in the 1500 Block of 9th Street, N.W. The vehicle then stopped in the 900 Block Blagden Alley, N.W., where the occupants fled the scene. The Metropolitan Police for the District of Columbia recovered the vehicle, but the suspects evaded apprehension.

9. On October 28, 2023, at approximately 1556 hours, SOD officers received a License Plate Reader notification for a vehicle wanted in connection to an armed carjacking. The vehicle was observed by a SOD officer in the 600 Block of H Street, N.E. While following the vehicle and awaiting backup, the suspect vehicle stopped on its own at 700 7th Street, N.E. When backup arrived on the scene, a felony traffic stop was attempted and the vehicle fled away at a high rate of speed. A pursuit was initiated by SOD officers and ended when the suspect vehicle struck two parked vehicles and then collided with a moving vehicle at the intersection of 8th and F Street, N.E. The suspect then attempted to flee on foot, but was apprehended by SOD officers. The suspect was placed under arrest for multiple felony charges.
10. On December 2, 2023 at approximately 0240 hours, a SOD officer observed a vehicle in the 1300 Block of South Capitol Street, S.W. that matched a lookout for an armed carjacking that had occurred within the previous two hour period. The SOD officer requested backup and began to follow the suspect vehicle until backup arrived on the scene. A traffic stop was attempted at South Capitol and O Street, S.E. but the suspect vehicle fled at a high rate of speed from the scene. A pursuit was initiated with emergency lights and sirens activated. The suspect vehicle continued to flee at high speeds through residential streets and highways while being pursued by SOD, the Metropolitan Police for the District of Columbia, and its helicopter. The vehicle then traveled east in the westbound lanes of Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. in the area of Interstate 295 when SOD officers lost sight of the vehicle. The pursuit by SOD was then terminated at the direction of the United States Capitol Police's Field Commander.
11. On December 2, 2023, at approximately 1942 hours, a SOD officer was on an assignment in the 1000 Block of New Jersey Avenue, S.E. and observed a possible carjacking in progress at the intersection of 2nd Place and K Street, S.E. Before the SOD officer could attempt a traffic stop to investigate further, the vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed from the scene. The SOD officer initiated pursuit with emergency lights and sirens activated. During the pursuit, the officer's vehicle made contact with the suspect vehicle and collided with a side mirror on a parked vehicle, but the suspect vehicle continued to flee from the officer. The pursuit ended in the 600 Block of Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., when the suspect vehicle collided with another parked vehicle. The occupants of the

vehicle then fled the scene on foot and were not able to be located or apprehended by officers.²

12. On December 28, 2023, at approximately 1238 hours, a HD officer provided backup assistance to SOD motor officers conducting a traffic stop at the intersection of New Jersey and Independence Avenue, S.E. As the SOD officers approached the suspect vehicle, the driver sped off colliding with the HD officer's marked police vehicle. The HD officer then initiated a pursuit and began to follow the vehicle voicing direction of travel and location over the radio communications. The pursuit lasted approximately thirty seconds when the suspect vehicle proceeded northbound on 2nd Street S.W. from E Street, S.W. (wrong way on a one-way street) and was terminated by the SOD Commander. Subsequently, the vehicle fled from the area and neither the vehicle nor the occupants were apprehended.

CONCLUSION:

The Office of Professional Responsibility has determined that ten of the reported vehicle pursuits were conducted within compliance of the Department's Vehicle Pursuit policy and did not violate the Department's restrictions for a pursuit. Further, the tactics used were conducted in a safe and prudent manner. In addition, the following guidelines were adhered to:

- The pursuit was initiated when a USCP sworn employee observed a vehicle involved in a known violent felony.
- The pursuit was initiated within the USCP jurisdiction.
- The pursuit was conducted with an authorized USCP pursuit vehicle with emergency devices activated.
- The agency having primary jurisdiction was notified when USCP pursuing employees entered the neighboring jurisdiction.
- USCP Watch Commander and Field Commander were notified during the pursuit.
- The pursuit was terminated by the Field Commander when USCP employees lost sight of the vehicle and/or it was no longer safe to continue the pursuit.
- The pursuit initiated was consistent with the Department's Use of Force policy.

Through its review, the Office of Professional Responsibility has determined that two of the reported vehicle pursuits (cited as 4 and 11) were not conducted within compliance of the Department's Vehicle Pursuits policy and therefore violated the Department's restrictions for a pursuit. Subsequently, the involved officers were held administratively accountable for their actions and were re-trained on their responsibilities for vehicle or foot pursuits.

² The Office of Professional Responsibility conducted a thorough review of the December 2, 2023, pursuit and determined that the SOD officer violated the Rules of Conduct and was subsequently held administratively accountable for the incident.