

# University of Chicago Police Department

## GENERAL ORDER

<b>Effective Date:</b> September 27, 2019		<b>Number:</b> <b>GO 506</b>
<b>Subject:</b> <b>Vehicle Operations and Pursuits</b>		
<b>References:</b> CALEA Standards 41.2.1, 41.2.2, 41.2.3, 41.3.3, Illinois Statutes 625 ILCS 5/11-204, 11-205		
<b>Reevaluation Date:</b> Annually		<b>No. Pages:</b> 15
<b>Amends:</b> 28 FEB 2019 Version (O.D.P. 16 March 2012)		<b>Rescinds:</b>
<b>Approved By:</b> Kenton W. Rainey, Chief of Police	<b>Signature:</b> <i>Original signed document on file in Accreditation Office</i>	

### 506.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to publish response protocols, pursuit procedures and guidelines for the operation, care and maintenance of University of Chicago Police Department Vehicles.

### 506.2 DEFINITIONS

#### Authorizing Supervisor:

1. The initiating unit's immediate on-duty supervisor; or
2. The next available on-duty supervisor if the initiating unit's immediate supervisor is unavailable; or
3. Personnel responsible for approving, reviewing, and controlling the pursuit.

Forcible Felony (720 ILCS 5/2-8): Treason, first degree murder, second degree murder, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, robbery, burglary, residential burglary, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement, and any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any individual.

Officer: All ranks of sworn personnel.

Roadblock: A barricade or other obstruction across a roadway set up to stop or prevent the escape of a fleeing vehicle.

Terminate a Pursuit: Immediate reduction of speed to the legal speed limit and complying with all applicable traffic laws. Units will turn off all emergency equipment and shall not continue to pursue suspect vehicle, nor may they violate any traffic laws or regulations in an effort to catch up to, or parallel the suspect vehicle. Officers shall make every effort to present an appearance to the suspect(s) that the police are no longer pursuing.

Motor Vehicle Pursuit: The attempted apprehension, stopping, or following a driver/operator of a motor vehicle that is fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer (625 ILCS 11-204).

### **506.3 GENERAL VEHICLE OPERATION**

- A. Employees are required to possess a valid driver's license from their state of residence.
- B. During normal operation, all employees are required to wear seatbelts and to ensure that passengers are wearing them (625 ILCS 5/12-603.1). When applicable, child-safety restraint devices shall be used in accordance with Illinois Law. Rear passenger seatbelts will not be required for a detainee if impractical due to injury or aggressive behavior.
- C. The assigned operator of a Department vehicle is responsible to check the vehicle for defects and/or damage before operation. Deficiencies shall be documented and forwarded through the chain of command in accordance with GO 706.
- D. Employees are responsible for maintaining a neat and clean vehicle. If a vehicle is found in substandard condition, the previous operator will be held accountable.
- E. All weapons, sensitive items, and confidential documents must be removed from a vehicle before it is left unattended for service or repairs.
- F. Department vehicles shall not be left unattended with the keys in the ignition (running or not).
- G. Non-sworn employees shall not operate marked or unmarked police vehicles, with the exception of the Department vehicle maintenance coordinator, unless under the direction of a Sergeant or above.

### **506.4 EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS**

- A. Officers shall obey all traffic laws unless responding to an emergency and the emergency lights and/or siren are being used.

**NOTE:** Officers shall use both lights and sirens when responding to emergencies unless the circumstances pose an officer safety concern whereupon officers may use either lights or sirens at the officer(s) discretion.

B. Officers shall operate emergency vehicles in accordance with 625 ILCS 5/11-205:

1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, **when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law** or when responding to a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.

2. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

a. Park or stand, irrespective of provisions of the chapter;

b. Proceed past a red or stop signal or sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safe operations;

**NOTE:** The law does **NOT** give the right of way to the police.

c. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as they do not endanger life or property; and

d. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

**NOTE:** The law does **NOT** give the right of way to the police.

3. The foregoing provisions do not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of their disregard for the safety of others.

C. The UCPD ECC shall dispatch and assign an initial response code for police calls for service. Patrol supervisors are responsible for monitoring radio traffic and may direct officers to upgrade or downgrade the response code as appropriate.

D. Response codes shall be as follows:

1. **Routine** – Routine Calls are not coded. Officers shall observe all traffic laws and proceed to the call location without unnecessary delay. Examples include:
  - a. routine calls for service;
  - b. not-in-progress crimes where no injuries exist and suspect is not present;
  - c. traffic collisions with no injury.
2. **Code Two** – Urgent calls for service. Officers shall respond directly to the location while utilizing the appropriate emergency equipment. Officers shall operate the vehicle with due regard for the safety of all persons and **shall not exceed the speed limit without considering public safety**. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - a. calls with potential for violence;
  - b. in-progress burglaries where the suspect is still at large; and
  - c. heated arguments that are likely to escalate quickly.
3. **Code Three** – Emergency calls for service. Officers shall respond to the location as quickly as possible utilizing the required emergency equipment and exercising caution. Officers **shall not exceed the speed limit without considering public safety**. Code Three responses should be made for incidents that have or may result in death or serious bodily injury. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - a. officer down or needs assistance;
  - b. traffic collisions involving injuries;
  - c. potential for great bodily harm or homicide;
  - d. suicide attempts;
  - e. assaults in progress where a weapon is or may be involved; and
  - f. fire emergencies.

E. Officers using a Code-Two response will:

1. When approaching a yellow traffic light or yield sign the officer will:
    - a. Reduce speed to a safe level, from which a controlled stop can be made;
    - b. Enter the intersection only after the officer has checked for cross traffic and has determined that it is safe to proceed.
  2. When approaching a red traffic light (flashing or steady) or stop sign:
    - a. Reduce speed and **STOP** before entering the intersection;
    - b. Yield the right of way to any moving vehicles which are close enough to be considered hazards; and
    - c. Enter the intersection only after the officer has checked for cross traffic and has determined that it is safe to proceed.
- F. Officers using a Code-Three response will:
1. When approaching a yellow traffic light or yield sign the officer will:
    - a. Reduce speed to a safe level; from which a controlled stop can be made;
    - b. Enter the intersection only after the officer has checked for cross traffic and has determined that it is safe to proceed.
  2. When approaching a red traffic light (flashing or steady) or stop sign:
    - a. Reduce speed as necessary for safe operations;
    - b. Yield the right of way to any moving vehicles which are close enough to be considered hazards; and
    - c. Enter the intersection only after the officer has checked for cross traffic and has determined that it is safe to proceed.

## **506.5 PURSUIT REGULATIONS**

- A. Officers may only engage in a vehicular pursuit when the most serious offense for which the driver/occupant/vehicle is wanted is a violent forcible felony.

- B. Officers will not engage in a motor vehicle pursuit while:
1. There is an arrestee or non-law enforcement personnel (civilian) in the police vehicle.
  2. In covert vehicles, including unmarked, administrative and administrative police vehicles (GO 706).
- C. Any unit which is not a marked unit will not initiate, or participate in a pursuit. They will summon, or coordinate with, a marked unit, which would handle the pursuit, if needed.
- D. The continuation of a motor vehicle pursuit is prohibited when:
1. A pursued vehicle or pursuing Department vehicle (primary or secondary) is involved in any traffic crash in which there is a probability of personal injury.
  2. Communication between the UCPD ECC and the pursuing vehicle is lost.
    - a. Only those units that lost communication with the ECC are required to terminate the pursuit.
    - b. If the ECC loses communication with the primary pursuit vehicle, the ECC will, with the approval of the assigned supervisor, assign the secondary pursuit vehicle.

## 506.6 PURSUIT PROCEDURES

- A. Officers may only initiate a vehicular pursuit when **all** of the following criteria are met:
1. The officer has reason to believe that the operator of the vehicle or suspect(s) within the motor vehicle has committed a forcible felony that involves violence;
  2. The suspect(s), if allowed to flee, would present an imminent danger to human life or cause serious injury.
- B. All units involved in a pursuit and/or the decision to initiate a pursuit must decide if the **necessity to immediately apprehend the fleeing suspect outweighs the level of danger created by a motor vehicle pursuit**. The officer(s) shall consider the following in determining whether to initiate and/or continue a pursuit:

1. The performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the vehicle being pursued;
  2. The condition of the road surface;
  3. The amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area;
  4. Weather conditions;
  5. The threat posed by the suspect if not immediately apprehended; and
  6. The potential for apprehending the suspect(s) at a later date/time.
- C. Once the suspect is identified, the pursuit will be terminated, unless there is an imminent threat to human life.
- D. Officers may not pursue beyond the UCPD jurisdiction unless authorized by a supervisor.  
**A pursuit will always be terminated when it exits Cook County.**

#### **506.7 INITIATING/PRIMARY OFFICER'S PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The initiating officer shall immediately notify their supervisor and UCPD ECC that a pursuit is underway. The officer shall provide the following:
1. Location, speed and direction of travel of the fleeing vehicle.
  2. Description and license plate number, if known.
  3. **The violent forcible felony for which the vehicle is wanted.**
  4. Number of occupants in the fleeing vehicle and, if possible, a description of the occupants.
  5. Traffic violations, if any, being committed by the fleeing vehicle.
  6. Roadway, traffic and pedestrian conditions.
- B. If a hostage is involved, a description and location of the hostage, if known, shall be broadcast.

- C. The initiating officer shall be responsible for all necessary reports regarding police action that they took.
- D. The primary pursuit unit shall reduce the level of pursuit to that of support or secondary unit when:
  - 1. The fleeing vehicle comes under the surveillance of an air unit; or
  - 2. Another vehicle has been assigned as the primary pursuit unit.
- E. Any primary or secondary unit sustaining damage to or failure of essential vehicle equipment during the pursuit shall not be permitted to continue in the pursuit. The unit shall notify the ECC so that another unit may be assigned to the pursuit.
- F. The initiating officer, shall contact the authorizing supervisor (section 2) for authorization to either continue or discontinue the pursuit. If the supervisor **does not authorize** the continuation of the pursuit, the initiating/primary officer **shall discontinue** the pursuit.
- G. Any officer, regardless of rank, may terminate any pursuit if such officer has articulable information that, were it known by the authorizing supervisor, would reasonably cause immediate termination of the pursuit. Any officer that terminates a pursuit based on this section will immediately report verbally and in writing the justification for termination to the supervisor.

**EXAMPLE:** An officer is aware of a group of pedestrians crossing the road ahead of the pursuit. Time to transmit this information to the supervisor for a decision would be too much for pursuing officers to terminate and avoid pedestrian injury or death.

- H. The backup or secondary unit shall be a marked emergency vehicle. The secondary unit will advise ECC that they will be the secondary unit. The secondary unit(s) shall follow the primary unit at a safe distance and be ready to assume the primary unit's position should the primary unit be unable to continue pursuit. At the termination point, the secondary unit shall assist in apprehending the suspect(s).

## **506.8 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER (ECC) RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. After being advised of a pursuit, ECC dispatchers assigned to the pursuit will:
  - 1. Clear the radio channel of all non-emergency traffic.



2. Immediately advise a supervisor of essential information regarding the pursuit.
3. Obtain vehicle checks if the license plate number is known.
4. Notify the Chicago Office of Emergency Management Center.
5. Coordinate backup assistance under the direction of the authorizing supervisor.
6. Criminal history checks may be requested by the supervisor if suspect is known.
7. Advise pursuit vehicles of any known hazard in the path of the pursuit (i.e. collisions, street closures, or repairs, etc.).
8. Transmit information pertinent to the pursuit to other police units on applicable frequencies.
9. Notify neighboring jurisdictions, where practical, when the pursuit may extend into their locality.
10. Maintain communication with pursuing units and supervising unit, ensuring updates to locations, directions of travel, and descriptions.
11. Record all times (including time of termination and termination point), unit numbers, and vital information in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
12. If there are priority calls pending and/or other officers involved in potentially volatile situations, the monitoring ECC supervisor may elect to shift units not involved in the pursuit to another frequency. ECC shall clearly broadcast this.
13. Announce the termination point and call for any support personnel requested. ECC shall resume normal transmissions once the authorizing supervisor or a unit participating in the pursuit advises the situation has stabilized.

#### **506.9 SUPERVISOR'S PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Upon notification that a vehicle pursuit is in progress, the supervising unit shall immediately acknowledge the pursuit and authorize continuation or not, monitor radio communication, and maintain control of the pursuit as it progresses.

- B. The authorizing supervisor shall develop clear and articulable reason to continue or discontinue the pursuit.
- C. If the on-duty supervisor is out of service, the next available on-duty supervisor will respond and authorize continuation or direct units to discontinue the pursuit.
- D. Pursuits initiated by officers outside their area of command shall be under the control of the supervisor responsible for the district where the pursuit was initiated.
- E. The authorizing supervisor shall continuously review the incoming data to determine whether the pursuit should be continued or terminated.
- F. The authorizing supervisor may approve and assign additional support (non-pursuing) vehicles or request air support to assist the primary and secondary pursuit vehicles based on an analysis of the following:
  - 1. The nature of the offense for which the pursuit was initiated.
  - 2. The number of suspects.
  - 3. The number of officers in the pursuit vehicles.
  - 4. Any damage or injuries to pursuing vehicles or officers.
  - 5. The number of officers necessary to make an arrest at the end of the pursuit.
- G. In controlling the pursuit, the authorizing supervisor shall be responsible for the coordination of the pursuit as follows:
  - 1. Directing pursuit vehicles into or out of the pursuit.
  - 2. Reassignment of primary, secondary, or other support vehicle assignments.
  - 3. Approval or disapproval, and coordination of pursuit tactics.
  - 4. Approval or disapproval to leave UCPD jurisdiction to continue the pursuit.
- H. If a supervisor is directly involved in a pursuit (as a primary unit or secondary unit), they shall not be the supervisor to decide if the pursuit should continue or be terminated, unless they are the only supervisor on-duty.

- I. The authorizing supervisor shall respond immediately to the termination point and assume responsibility for any police action at the scene.
- J. Notify the squad Captain, Deputy Chief, Office of Professional Accountability and the Chief of Police.
- K. Ensure all reports are completed.

#### **506.10 TERMINATING A PURSUIT**

- A. Terminating a pursuit may be the best means of preserving lives and property. The pursuing officer, the authorizing supervisor, or any supervisor in the pursuing officer's chain of command may terminate a pursuit. The primary unit and the authorizing supervisor shall continually evaluate whether the risk associated with the continued pursuit outweighs the benefit of making an immediate apprehension.
- B. Pursuits shall be immediately terminated in any of the following circumstances:
  - 1. Weather or traffic conditions (both vehicular and pedestrian) substantially increase the danger of the pursuit beyond the worth of apprehending the suspect;
  - 2. The condition of the road surface becomes hazardous;
  - 3. The distance between the pursuit and fleeing vehicles is so great that further pursuit is futile;
  - 4. The danger posed by continued pursuit to the public, the officers, or the suspect is greater than the value of apprehending the suspect(s);
  - 5. Once the suspect is identified, the pursuit will be terminated, unless there is an imminent threat to human life.
  - 6. The suspect vehicle travels outside of the defined UCPD jurisdiction unless approved by the authorizing supervisor. **A pursuit will always be terminated when it exits Cook County.**
- C. The primary unit shall advise termination to the ECC with info that may assist later.
- D. When termination of a pursuit is ordered, all units directly or indirectly involved shall immediately reduce speed to the speed limit, comply with all traffic laws, and turn off all

emergency equipment. Officers shall not pursue the suspect vehicle, nor may they violate traffic laws to catch up to or parallel the suspect vehicle. Officers shall make every effort to present an appearance to the suspect(s) that the police are no longer pursuing.

#### **506.11 INTER/INTRAJURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS**

- A. When a pursuit initiated by an outside agency enters UCPD jurisdiction, that agency shall remain responsible for the conduct of the pursuit. Notification by that agency shall not be construed as a request or permission to join or otherwise assist in the pursuit.
- B. When another agency pursues a vehicle into UCPD jurisdiction and requests this Department's assistance, a supervisor shall determine what, if any, assistance will be given. UCPD personnel will not participate in the pursuit. Personnel may assist with peripheral duties, not directly involved in the pursuit.

#### **506.12 PURSUIT DRIVING GUIDELINES**

- A. All emergency vehicles involved in a pursuit shall use emergency lights and sirens throughout the pursuit. Headlights shall be used both day and night.
- B. Officers engaged in a pursuit may proceed past a red light or stop signal but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation. Officers must be constantly aware of other traffic and place their safety and the public's as a priority.
- C. Officers engaged in a pursuit may exceed speed limits so long as life or property is not unduly endangered.
- D. There shall be no caravanning of units paralleling the pursuit or attempting to join the pursuit.
- E. Unless directed by the authorizing supervisor, no more than two emergency vehicles may become actively involved in the pursuit.
- F. Officers involved in a pursuit, or a unit paralleling the pursuit, shall not attempt to pass other units unless requested to do so by the primary unit or a supervisor.
- G. Officers shall not pursue a vehicle on the wrong side of a controlled access road or highway.

#### **506.13 FORCIBLE STOPPING AND ROADBLOCKS**

A. Forcible Stopping Techniques and Devices shall **not** be used for a fleeing vehicle, including:

1. Driving alongside or in front of the fleeing vehicle to force it from the roadway.
2. Bumping or ramming the fleeing vehicle.
3. The use of pursuit termination devices (i.e.; stop sticks).

B. Roadblocks

Roadblocks to stop a fleeing vehicle, shall not be attempted unless authorized by a supervisor and then only as a **LAST RESORT** to apprehend a fleeing violent forcible felony suspect who shows total disregard for the safety of others:

1. Roadblock restrictions include the following:
  - a. Roadblocks must be set up in a conspicuous manner giving the fleeing suspect(s) the opportunity to stop if they choose to do so. Every effort will be made to divert other vehicular and pedestrian traffic away from the area of the roadblock.
  - b. Roadblocks should be located so that the visibility of oncoming traffic and the driver's reaction time is not impaired. There should be an avenue of escape to avoid unnecessary injury to persons or damage to property.
  - c. Occupied vehicles and/or private vehicles shall not be used as a roadblock.
  - d. Marked police vehicles should be used for a roadblock if no other suitable equipment is available. Emergency lights, headlights, spotlights, and emergency flashers shall be used on marked vehicles used to form a roadblock. All relevant information concerning the roadblock will be relayed over the police radio to vehicles involved in the pursuit.
  - e. Officers will exit the marked police vehicles used in the roadblock. They shall maintain cover with a safe distance between themselves and the roadblock vehicle(s).
  - f. Officers shall not solicit the assistance of civilians or civilian vehicles in an effort to slow down or stop a pursued vehicle.

2. Sworn personnel shall receive training in the use of Department authorized roadblock techniques.
3. Roadblocks, as with all pursuits, require reporting and administrative review.

#### **506.14 REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

- A. In accordance with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, the initiating/primary unit will document pursuit incidents in a UCPD incident report.
- B. The initiating/primary unit will ensure that an Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board "Pursuit Driving Report" is completed and forwarded, with the UCPD incident report, to the authorizing supervisor.
- C. The authorizing supervisor shall prepare a Supervisor's Motor Vehicle Pursuit Report (Attachment A). The authorizing supervisor shall review the in-car video recording, if available. The authorizing supervisor shall make a determination whether or not tactics were utilized consistent with Department policy, procedure and acceptable police tactics. This report will be forwarded with all applicable reports to the respective Deputy Chief.
- D. In a vehicle pursuit involving University of Chicago police personnel where there are people injured or property damaged, the authorizing supervisor will see that a Communications' recording of radio and telephone traffic for the relevant time period is logged into the property system as evidence. The in-car video recording, if available, will be entered into evidence.
- E. The Deputy Chief shall review the Supervisor's Motor Vehicle Pursuit Report and supporting documentation to determine whether actions taken were in compliance with Department policy. This review may include the presentation and review of the pursuit for Command Staff review. The pursuit incident packet will be forwarded to the Training Section.
- F. The pursuit incident packet will be maintained by the Training Section for the annual analysis of pursuits. The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that a copy of the completed Illinois "Pursuit Driving Report" is forwarded to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.
- G. The Training Section is responsible for conducting an annual analysis of all pursuits that have occurred during the previous twelve (12) months. This will include a review of pursuit policies and reporting procedures. The purpose of this analysis and review is to

identify the need for changes in training, policy, or procedures regarding pursuits. The analysis will be submitted to the Chief of Police, for approval.