



# PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date:

To: Chief Brian Smith

From: Deputy Chief Jason Viada

RE: Pursuit Summaries 2023

Chief Smith,

2023 marked a low in the number of pursuits, with only two, which is in stark contrast to 2022 with a doubling of our average number of pursuits over the last five years. In 2017 there were 5, in 2018 4, in 2019 5, in 2020 4, in 2021 3. Listed below are summaries from the both of the 2023 pursuits. I have reviewed the pursuit memorandums for each incident. The pursuit incidents were reviewed by command staff soon after each occurrence. All pursuits were within law and policy. It should be noted that these pursuits do not contain Fail to Yield incidents that did not rise to the level of a pursuit.

April 9: Wrong way driver on one-way street, stop attempted, erratic driving, RS for DUI, failed spike and PIT attempts in town, suspect rammed and disabled police vehicle, pursuit continued east out of town and through Sequim. Traffic too heavy for spikes. In Blynn vehicle swerved to avoid spikes and became stuck in ditch. Driver arrested. Total distance nearly 25 miles.

June 13: Wrong way driver on one-way street, stop attempted, vehicle swerving, RS for DUI, pursuit through town, east of town, and back into town, nearly 23 miles with multiple failed spike and PIT attempts. Vehicle stuck in field, driver eluded on foot after failed Taser stops. Delayed K9 search unsuccessful. Stolen vehicle out of Kitsap.

Actions: We will continue to update our training to reflect the newest legislation that was a small attempt to fix the recent law that some say was intended to reduce vehicle pursuits. The near doubling of our incidents of vehicle pursuits closely followed the new legislation. And, a plummeting of pursuit incidents followed the legislative "fix." We also upgraded some of our vehicle radios in an effort to ensure that we will be in compliance with the latest legislation requiring communication between multiple agencies involved in the same pursuit.

Recommendations: Continue to Intensify our pursuit training with an emphasis on preventing pursuits with good tactics and ending pursuits with a variety of techniques. Increase the frequency of Officers attending EVOC/Pursuit/PIT training in an effort to be ready for these high-risk low frequency events.

MEMO



# PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: June 13, 2023

To: Deputy Chief Jason Viada

From: Acting Supervisor Dan Morse

RE: 2023-10439 Pursuit

*Handwritten:* DV #102 6/13/23

### Synopsis:

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at approximately 0021 hours, I observed a wrong way driver in the 400 block of E 1<sup>st</sup> St headed westbound. Officer Cooper intercepted the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle at 5<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Sts. The vehicle failed to yield and swerved into oncoming traffic. Officer Cooper initiated a vehicle pursuit on a vehicle based on reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver was operating the motor vehicle under the influence. The pursuit lasted approximately 22.85 miles with multiple failed spike and PIT attempts. The driver attempted to drive through a field and Officer Cooper successfully utilized a PIT maneuver to stop the vehicle. The driver fled the scene on foot after two unsuccessful TASER device attempts. Dispatch advised that the vehicle was a stolen vehicle out of Kitsap County. A K9 was called, but the track was unsuccessful.

### Breakdown (Lexipol Policy 308.12.c):

1. Date/Time
  - a. June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 0022 hours
2. Initial Reason: Reasonable suspicion for DUI
  - a. Driving wrong way on one way street
  - b. Swerving into oncoming traffic
3. Length/Time:
  - a. 22.85 miles in 19 minutes
  - b. Originated at 8<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Sts
  - c. Terminated Delguzzi Dr & Lindberg Rd
4. Involved Vehicles/Officers
  - a. Officer Cooper in his marked patrol vehicle
  - b. Officer Tait in his marked patrol vehicle
  - c. Officer Morse in his marked patrol vehicle
  - d. Deputy Heck & Wood in Heck's marked patrol vehicle
  - e. Two unidentified WSP Troopers in marked patrol vehicles
5. Alleged Offenses
  - a. Felony Elude
  - b. Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle
  - c. Possible DUI

6. Suspect
  - a. Suspect fled and is unknown
  - b. Unsuccessful Spike Strip attempts
  - c. Unsuccessful & Successful Pit Maneuvers
  - d. Unsuccessful TASER device attempts
  - e. Unsuccessful K9 Track
7. Arrestee
  - a. N/A
8. Injuries
  - a. Male passenger complained of neck pain and was evaluated by paramedics.
9. Damage to vehicles/equipment
  - a. No damage to patrol vehicles
  - b. Damage to suspect vehicle documented in report.
10. Supervisor
  - a. Acting Supervisor Dan Morse
11. Preliminary Determination
  - a. Pursuit appears to be in compliance with Lexipol Policy 308

Police reports are still being worked on and not complete at the time of this memo.



Acting Supervisor Dan Morse





# PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

321 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Date: 4/10/2023**

**To: Chief Brian Smith and Deputy Chief Jason Viada**

**From: Corporal Jeff Ordona**

**RE: 4/9/2023 Pursuit**

JXV #1024/10/23

On 4/9/2023 at approximately 1910 hours, Clallam County Sheriff's Deputy Hector Eagan attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a purple Ford Ranger (1993) that was driving in the wrong direction on the 200 block of East 1st street. The Ranger (LIC# C39540B) failed to yield to the traffic stop near the intersection of North Lincoln Street and East Front Street, and continued west on Front Street, through the parking lot of Coog's Budget Records before fleeing southbound on N Laurel Street. Deputy Eagan announced over the radio that the suspected was driving erratically and suspected to be under the influence of intoxicants (DUI).

I was on the 100 block of North Liberty, fully uniformed and driving a marked patrol vehicle, when Deputy Eagan announced he was following the Ranger eastbound on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. I activated my emergency lights and stopped my vehicle where the driver of the Ranger could see me in the distance as they approached. I could see the Ranger and Deputy Eagan following in pursuit with his emergency lights and sirens on. I acquired spike strips from the trunk of my patrol vehicle and prepared to deploy them if prudent, but the Ranger turned Northbound on Jones North Jones Street. Deputy Eagan received permission from the on-duty supervisor to continue pursuit.

Officer Cooper took position behind Deputy Eagan and received authorization from me to use pursuit immobilization technique if the opportunity arose.

I drove to the intersection of Georgiana Street and South Ennis Street to set-up spike strips, but the Ranger and pursuing patrol units were closely approaching. I got back into my vehicle and followed pursuing units toward the intersection of Ennis and East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Upon reaching the intersection, it looked as though Deputy Eagan and Officer Cooper had nearly pinned the Ranger between their vehicles and landscaping. As I approached the Ranger had backed away from a light pole and began driving past Cooper and Eagan. I drove ahead of both units and attempted to use my vehicle to pin the truck, but it continued down the sidewalk and through a glass bus terminal.

The Ranger turned toward me, driving my vehicle across two lanes of travel and into a parked

vehicle on the south side of the road. I had no control of the direction of my vehicle and came to a stop after the collision. The Ranger continued eastbound with Officer Cooper, Officer Morse, and Deputy Eagan in pursuit.

The pursuit continued through Sequim where Sequim PD officers were unable to deploy spikes, due to heavy traffic.

Upon reaching Blyn, south of Jamestown, Deputy Morris with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department deployed spike strips. The Ranger swerved to avoid the spikes which subsequently caused them to crash into a dirt embankment.

The driver of the vehicle, Stacy Dyar Brown was taken into custody by Clallam County Deputies, taken to Olympic Medical Center, and booked for

DUI – Drugs  
Hit & Run  
Assault 2  
Reckless Endangerment  
Eluding Police Vehicle  
2 – Failure to Appear Warrants

I calculated the distance of the pursuit using Google Earth from the initiation of Deputy Eagan's traffic stop to the end of the pursuit in Blyn at mile marker 272 to be approximately 24.8 miles.

Deputy Eagan's traffic stop was initiated at approximately 1910 hours, and the pursuit ended at approximately 1932 hours. Duration, approximately 22 minutes.

No Officers were apparently injured.

Clallam Transit was notified of the damage to the bus terminal and responded shortly thereafter.

My patrol vehicle was towed to the city corp yard and Brian Coburn was notified that it was taken out of service. There was extensive damage to the front of my patrol vehicle (#1910) due to the Ranger turning into me and forcing my vehicle into a parked vehicle.

Officer Morse's patrol vehicle (#1314) obtained one smaller dent in the front left bumper from pinning the suspect vehicle, which continued to try to flee after wrecking into the embankment.

I contacted the owner of the vehicle the Ranger caused me to collide with, and will follow-up with them further, as they were leaving for a family event.

Port Angeles Police Policy 308.3.1 addresses the initiation of pursuit subject to a violent offense, sex offense, escape, or reasonable suspicion the vehicle is committing an impaired driving offense. Based on officer and deputy observations, reasonable suspicion of DUI was apparent, and the driver posed an imminent threat of safety of others. My preliminary determination is that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy.

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