



PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date:

To: Chief Brian Smith

From: Deputy Chief Jason Viada

RE: Pursuit Summaries 2021

Chief Smith,

Listed below are summaries from the three 2021 pursuits. I have reviewed the pursuit memorandums for each incident. The pursuit incidents were all reviewed by command staff soon after each occurrence. All pursuits were within law and policy.

On January 10, 2021 Officers received a report that several suspects followed a victim into a trailer park and that suspects threw rocks at windows. Officers also received a report of suspects throwing eggs at vehicles and people. Officer Ryan observed the suspect vehicle and initiated a stop. The suspect vehicle fled, but after about a half a mile crashed. The pursuit lasted about 49 seconds. Four suspects were arrested during a high risk stop.

On March 15, 2021 Officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in violation of a protective order at a battered women's shelter. Officers observed the suspect vehicle parked nearby. Officer Ryan attempted a stop, but the suspect drove away, the officer pursued the vehicle for about 2.79 miles. The suspect fled on foot, and after a brief struggle and activation of a Taser the suspect was arrested and processed for DUI among other crimes.

On August 11, 2021 Officers responded to an arson report of a sign being lit on fire at the gate to the Coast Guard Base. Officers arrived and attempted to detain the suspect who drove away. Officer Mueller followed. Other officers used spike strips to stop the suspect vehicle before the suspect was able to drive into a more populated area, and after a brief struggle and Taser activation the suspect was arrested and booked.

2021 Analysis: The first two pursuits were initiated by the same officer. That officer also made the second most arrests for the entire department in 2021. He was not involved in the third incident. There are no patterns that would suggest early warning indicators or any bias whatsoever. Partially due to the paucity of incidents, and the common sense view that a pair is not a pattern. Further analysis indicated that pursuits are down to three in 2021 from the four or five common in recent years.

Respectfully,

Jason X. Viada
Deputy Chief of Police



PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

321 East 5th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Date: January 11, 2021

To: Deputy Chief Jason Viada

From: Corporal Clay Rife

Re: PAPD 2021-556 Vehicle Pursuit

Deputy Chief Viada,

The following information pertains to the above referenced vehicle pursuit:

Date/Time/Duration/Speed of pursuit:

January 10, 2021, 2045.19 hours – 2046.08 hours, approximate top speed 60 mph.

Initial reason/circumstances for pursuit:

PAPD 2021-549, 1828 hours, Disturbance: Officers responded to the Emerald Trailer Park, 1215 W. Hwy 101 #7, on a report that several subjects had followed a resident to his trailer and were throwing rocks at the windows. Subjects fled in a blue colored SUV prior to officers arriving on scene. One of the subjects was identified as Greg Zmuda.

PAPD 2021-556, 2040 hours, Disturbance: Officers received a report of “teens” throwing eggs at vehicles and people in the 200 Block of W. 2nd Street. At 2041 hours, the suspects were seen leaving the scene in a blue colored “crossover” with a tire on the back. The vehicle was last seen eastbound on First Street at approximately 2043 hours.

I responded to the area via 3rd, Cherry and Valley. From about the 100 Block of W. First Street, I saw the suspect vehicle turn south on Lincoln from First. At

about the same time, Officer Ryan, who was traveling north on Lincoln Street, observed the suspect vehicle as it turned onto Lincoln. Officer Ryan made a U-turn, activated his overhead emergency lights and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. The vehicle did not yield to Officer Ryan's emergency lights and accelerated away. Officer Ryan activated his siren (audible through his police radio when he transmitted) and announced he was in a pursuit.

The suspect vehicle turned west on 3rd and accelerated to a speed of approximately 60 mph. The suspect vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign at Cherry, then turned south on Cherry. The suspect vehicle did not fully negotiate the turn, drove onto the grass at 302 S. Cherry and struck a mailbox. The suspect vehicle then turned east into the alley between 3rd and 4th Street. The suspect vehicle slowed down then turned south onto Oak Street. The suspect vehicle stopped on Oak just north of 4th. It was later determined the suspect vehicle had sustained debilitating mechanical damage when it struck the mailbox. The damage rendered the vehicle un-drivable and it was forced to stop. Through our investigation we determined the vehicle and occupants was the suspect vehicle from the earlier disturbance call at the Emerald Trailer Park.

Length of pursuit, start/termination points:

Approximate distance of pursuit: .5 miles. Start point was 200 S. Lincoln Street, termination point was 300 S. Oak Street (see map).

Involved Vehicles/Officers:

Initial officers: Officer Ryan 448 and Corporal Rife 290. Sergeant Miller 224, Officer Moore 480, CCSO Sergeant Knutson 114 and CCSO Deputy Cortani 129 responded after the pursuit terminated.

Alleged Offense:

Original offenses: Malicious Mischief, possible Assault. Secondary offenses: Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle, DUI.

Suspect Apprehended/Means/Use of Force:

Driver and three male passengers detained. High Risk Vehicle Stop procedures, handguns drawn but held at low ready.

Arrestee/Detainee Information:

Driver: Johnathan C. Fennewald DOB: 10/15/2002. Arrested for the crimes of Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle and DUI. Passengers: Gregory A. Zmuda,

DOB: 01/07/1987, Matthew T. Griffis, DOB: 06/29/2004, Thomas M. Johnson,
DOB: 09/26/2002.

Injuries:

None.

Property/Equipment damage:

Mailbox at 302 S. Cherry Street destroyed. Suspect vehicle sustained debilitating mechanical damage after hitting the mailbox. Police vehicles were not damaged.


Name of Supervisor(s) at the scene:

Sergeant Miller and Corporal Rife.

Preliminary policy compliance determination:

Yes.

Respectfully Submitted


Corporal Rife



PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

321 East 5th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Date: March 15, 2021

To: Deputy Chief Jason Viada

From: Corporal Clay Rife

Re: Pursuit Memo PAPD 2021-4089

Date/Time/Duration/Speed of pursuit:

03.14.2021/Approximately 3.5 minutes /maximum speed approximately 60 mph

Initial reason/circumstances for pursuit:

PAPD 2021-4085: Officers investigated a Violation of a DV NCO and Malicious Mischief at 1203 E. 1st Street (Healthy Families Battered Women's' Shelter). Suspect was identified as Cameron George DOB: 07/16/1994, driving a red colored Kia Rio. Suspect was reportedly at the shelter having contact with his victim in violation of a current DV NCO. During the investigation, officers learned there was CCSO probable cause to arrest George for DV related crimes against the victim at the shelter: Assault in Violation of a Court Order, Unlawful Imprisonment and Assault 4.

After the initial investigation, Officer Ryan went back to the area to check for the suspect vehicle. Upon arrival in the area, Officer Ryan observed a red Kia Rio parked in the traveled portion of the roadway, facing southbound in the northbound lane, 100 N. Jones Street, directly in front of the victim's apartment. Officer Ryan attempted to initiate contact and the vehicle drove away. Officer Ryan attempted a traffic stop (emergency lights), the vehicle failed to yield and sped away. Officer Ryan activated his siren in addition to his emergency lights and the vehicle continued to speed away.

Officer Ryan continued to pursue the suspect vehicle for 2.79 miles (see attached Google Earth Map). During the pursuit, the suspect vehicle ran several stop signs and reached a maximum speed of approximately 60 mph in a 25 mph zone (S. Washington Street).

The pursuit ended when the vehicle crashed into a berry patch at the intersection of Washington and 10th Street. The suspect, George, exited his vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. Officer Ryan pursued and initially had a short physical confrontation with George. George escaped on

foot southbound towards Lauridsen Blvd. Officer Ryan pursued and deployed his department issued Taser at George. The Taser probes struck George in the lower back and upper thigh causing NMI, thus allowing Officer Ryan to take George into custody.

Further investigation revealed that George was likely under the influence of a controlled substance. George was processed for DUI at the jail and a search warrant was executed for a legal blood draw.

Length of pursuit, start/termination points:

2.79 miles/100 N. Jones/10th and Washington.

Involved Vehicles/Officers:

Officer Ryan, Officer Hollis, Corporal Rife, CCSO Deputy Middlekauff.

Alleged Offense:

6 counts of Violation of DVNCO, Malicious Mischief, CCSO PC for DV Crimes (CCSO 2021-2877), Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle, DUI.

Suspect Apprehended/Means/Use of Force:

Apprehended/level 1 defensive tactics followed by Taser deployment.

Arrestee/Detainee Information:

Cameron Lee George, DOB: 07/16/1994.

Injuries:

Suspect: Taser probe impacts, evaluated and cleared by PAFD Medics at the scene.

Officers: No reportable injuries.

Property/Equipment damage:

None.

Name of Supervisor(s) at the scene:

Corporal Clay Rife.

Preliminary policy compliance determination:

Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,


Corporal Clay Rife

MEMO



PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: August 11, 2021

To: Deputy Chief of Police Jason Viada

From: Officer Dan Morse

RE: Pursuit Memo 2021-13536

On August 11th, 2021 at approximately 0218 hours, dispatch received a call from multiple parties that a subject was lighting a USCG sign on fire with gas. Dispatch also reported that the suspect based on call history was believed to be Samuel Ketchum who had an outstanding felony warrant. Ketchum was also reported to say he was going to "Kill all Niggers" and tried to ram his truck into the one of the reporting party's vehicle who was described as black.

Corporal Stamon, Officer Mueller, and Officer Emery arrived on scene out at the scene and Ketchum began to drive away slowly (approximately 15MPH) and swerving in the roadway. Corporal Stamon was acting as a Field Training Officer and I was the acting supervisor for the shift. Officers advised that they had not made it to the scene of the fire and had not established probable cause for Arson. Corporal Stamon advised that they did have reasonable suspicion for DUI for the erratic driving and Officer Emery observed Ketchum holding a bottle of liquor as she passed him.

While Ketchum was not driving at excessive speed, Ketchum was followed by officers in two marked patrol vehicles with lights and audible sirens for approximately 1.8 miles. I was also familiar with Ketchum from the week prior where he failed to stop for officers however the pursuit threshold had not been met. I advised officers that I was deploying a spike strip at the mill. Ketchum hit the spike strip, but he continued. Officer Balderson and Deputy Kitchen deployed additional spike strips 0.5 miles from my location. Ketchum hit those spike strips, but he continued. Ketchum drove until he stopped a mile further down the road at 808 W Marine Dr. Ketchum exited his vehicle, was non-compliant, a TASER device was used, and Ketchum was taken into custody.

Pursuit Summary

1. Date/Time
 - a. August 11th, 2021 from 0231 to 0240 hours.
2. Initial Reason for Pursuit
 - a. Reasonable suspicion for DUI
3. Length, Location, and Time
 - a. Started on Ediz Hook near the boat launch at 0231 hours and traveled

approximately 3.1 miles along Ediz Hook Rd and Marine Dr to 808 W Marine Dr at 0240 hours.

4. Officers involved:

- a. Officer Mueller – Dodge Charger
- b. Officer Emery – Dodge Charger
- c. Corporal Stamon (FTO w/Officer Emery)
- d. Officer Morse – Chevrolet Tahoe
- e. Officer Balderson (Spike only)
- f. Deputy Kitchen (Spike only)

5. Alleged Offenses

- a. Arson 2
- b. Malicious Harassment
- c. Felony Warrant Apprehension
- d. Assault 2

6. Apprehension

- a. Suspect Apprehended
- b. Firearms at low ready
- c. TASER Deployed

7. Arrestee

- a. Samuel E Ketchum

8. Medical

- a. Ketchum evaluated by medics for TASER deployment and medically cleared for incarceration at Olympic Medical Center Emergency Room.

9. Property Damage

- a. No property damage as a result of the pursuit aside from suspect vehicle tires.

10. Supervisor

- a. Acting Supervisor Officer Dan Morse

11. Preliminary Determination

- a. Appears to be in compliance with the Port Angeles Police Department Pursuit Policy.

Sincerely,



Officer Dan Morse

ESHB 1054

...(4) For purposes of this section, "vehicular pursuit" means an attempt by a uniformed peace officer in a vehicle equipped with emergency lights and a siren to stop a moving vehicle where the operator of the moving vehicle appears to be aware that the officer is signaling the operator to stop the vehicle and the operator of the moving vehicle appears to be willfully resisting or ignoring the officer's attempt to stop the vehicle by increasing vehicle speed, making evasive maneuvers, or operating the vehicle in a reckless manner that endangers the safety of the community or the officer.

MEMO



PORT ANGELES

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: 8/30/2021

To: Deputy Chief Viada

From: Cpl. Fernie

Subject: Pursuit 2021-14818

On 8/30/2021 at approximately 0126 hours, Officer Ryan was parked in the parking lot of Chestnut Cottage (929 E. Front Street). Officer Ryan observed a black Toyota Tacoma traveling westbound on E. Front Street at approximately 60 MPH and slowed to approximately 50 MPH when the driver saw Officer Ryan's Patrol vehicle. Officer Ryan observed the vehicle turn northbound on Washington Street. Officer Ryan activated his emergency lights and followed after the vehicle. The vehicle turned westbound on Georgiana and continued at a high rate of speed. Officer Ryan observed the vehicle run a stop sign at the intersection of E. Georgiana and N. Race Street. Officer Ryan decided to end his pursuit of the vehicle and pulled to the side of the road in the 900 block of east Georgiana Street and radioed to dispatch that he had pulled over and was no longer following.

- Date/Time: 8/30/2021 / 01:26:36 hours
- Reason for attempted stop: speeding
- Length of pursuit: Approximately .15 miles
- Time of pursuit: Start time 01:26:36 End time 01:26:55
- Involved Officer: Sean Ryan
- Offenses: Speeding, Reckless driving
- Suspect was not apprehended pursuit terminated
- Suspect Info: N/A
- Injuries: None
- Property Damage: None
- Equipment Damage: None
- Supervisor: Bruce Fernie

Based upon my preliminary determination the pursuit appears to be in compliance with the Port Angeles Police Department Policy.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. S. #287