



Chief of Police  
Michael Harden

17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155  
Telephone: 206-364-8216

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Annual Review of Pursuits by the Lake Forest Park Police Department

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Review of 2022

## **Members of the Pursuit Review Board**

<b>Mike Harden:</b>	<b>Chief of Police</b>
<b>Rhonda Lehman:</b>	<b>Operations Lieutenant</b>
<b>Diego Zanella:</b>	<b>Support Services Lieutenant</b>

## **2022 Lake Forest Park Police Overview**

2022 Pursuits:	6
2022 Traffic Stops:	2477
2022 Arrests:	230

## **2022 Injury, Damage, and Collision Overview**

Pursuits resulting in an injury	2
Pursuits resulting in property damage	3
Pursuits resulting in a collision	3

## **Review of Incidents**

There were six pursuits by Lake Forest Park Officers in 2022

Pursuit #1 occurred on 02/01/2022 at approximately 2310 hours. The involved officers were investigating a shoplift/theft from Albertsons. Officers made contact with the suspect who was inside his vehicle, parked in front of the store. As the officers were approaching, the suspect started the vehicle, ignoring commands to shut off the vehicle. The suspect then shifted the vehicle into reverse and quickly accelerated backwards. The sideview mirror struck an involved Sergeant's elbow causing a minor injury. The vehicle then collided hard with the front of the patrol vehicle behind it. The suspect then put the vehicle in drive and fled the parking lot. Officers pursued the suspect vehicle until the involved Sergeant determined it was unsafe to continue and terminated the pursuit. There was one minor injury to the involved Sergeant and unknown injuries to the driver. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

Pursuit #2 occurred on 02/24/2022 at approximately 0735 hours. The involved officers located a carjacking / Robbery suspect vehicle that had just fled from Bothell PD. When the officers attempted to stop the vehicle, it initially pulled over into the Arco parking lot, then fled south on Bothell Way NE. Officers pursued the vehicle for a short time until it entered oncoming traffic. Due to the danger this posed to public safety the officers terminated their pursuit. The suspect went on to commit 3 to 4 additional carjackings in the area. No officers were injured during this pursuit. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

Pursuit #3 occurred on 03/26/2022 at approximately 0204 hours. The involved officer attempted to stop a vehicle for suspicion of DUI when it fled at a high rate of speed. As the vehicle continued in excess of 80 miles per hour, attempting to force other vehicles off the roadway, and the pursuing officers' backup was a considerable distance away, the on-duty supervisor terminated the pursuit. No officers were injured during this pursuit. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

Pursuit #4 occurred on 04/02/2022 at approximately 0431 hours. The involved officer and Sergeant were assisting Bothell Police with a stolen vehicle investigation where the suspect vehicle had fled from Bothell officers and was headed towards LFP. Bothell Police requested a spike strip be deployed by LFP officers in order to stop the suspect vehicle. The involved Sergeant successfully deployed spike strips, which deflated three of the vehicles four tires. Officers followed vehicle until it stopped near a residence. As the officers exited their vehicles the suspect accelerated hard in reverse directly at the officers. The officers jumped out of the way as the suspect vehicle struck a fully marked patrol vehicle. The suspect again fled with officers now in pursuit. The driver pulled down a driveway and exited the vehicle, leaving it in gear, and fled on foot. After a short foot pursuit, the driver was taken into custody. There were no injuries to officers and a minor (possible) injury to the driver's knee as they climbed a fence while attempting to escape. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

Pursuit #5 occurred on 07/18/2022 at approximately 0600 hours. Involved officers were investigating multiple vehicle prowls when they located the suspect vehicle. The officers attempted a traffic stop, however the vehicle failed to yield. One involved officer passed the suspect vehicle and stopped more than a car length in front of the suspect vehicle. The suspect, rather than driver around the patrol vehicle, intentionally rammed the officers vehicle, pushing past and continuing to flee. The involved Sergeant then authorized a pursuit of the vehicle for vehicular assault. The vehicle eventually stopped, and the suspects fled on foot. Several suspects were located by a K9 team. The involved Sergeant discovered the two captured suspects were juveniles and immediately terminated the further use of a K9. The stolen vehicle was impounded, and large amount of stolen property was recovered. One suspect sustained a minor injury from K9 contact, no officers were injured. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

Pursuit #6 occurred on 08/15/2022 at approximately 0130 hours. The involved Sergeant was investigating a suspicious vehicle in a parking lot. The Sergeant smelled a strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle, (possible DUI), the driver also had a felony warrant. The Sergeant observed a male driver and a female passenger. The vehicle's female owner was the protected person in an order with a male subject. When the Sergeant ordered the occupants from the vehicle, the female passenger started to exit, when the male shoved her fully out and fled southbound on Bothell Way NE. The involved Sergeant pursued the vehicle until it ran a red light at a high rate of speed. The involved Sergeant then terminated the pursuit. No officers were injured in the pursuit. The pursuit was determined to be within policy and current legislation.

### **Pursuits by officer**

The Lake Forest Park Police Department employed 19 commissioned officers during 2022 that included the Chief of Police, two detectives and two Lieutenants. Also employed by the department was one specially commissioned Police Support Officer.

One Sergeant was involved in four pursuits, two Officers were involved in three pursuits, the five remaining involved Officers/Sergeant were involved in one pursuit each. One Sergeant sustained a minor injury when he was struck by a fleeing vehicle. Two suspects reported minor injuries that occurred after the pursuit ended and they fled on foot.

### Change from previous year.

There were two pursuits in 2021 and six pursuits in 2022. Due to a change in legislation suspects have become emboldened with the impression that they may flee without being pursued. Suspects have made numerous statements indicating they understand officers may no longer pursue so they choose not to stop. This year several patrol vehicles were damaged, multiple times, due to suspects intentionally ramming them in order to flee. Due to current legislation, officers were unable to pursue in these cases.

### Conclusion

Pursuit monitoring is a critical function that provides opportunities to evaluate specific personnel in various situations and determines whether training and policy compliance standards have been met. In addition, it permits analysis of data to identify trends that may or may not be indicative of the need for training intervention. Pursuit monitoring allows an assessment of the appropriateness of officer actions. Given the information and analysis in this report, pursuits by Lake Forest Park Police Officers are rare, however, since the implementation of new legislation, pursuits have risen in this (and other) jurisdictions. All pursuits conducted by Lake Forest Park Police Officers were found to be within policy.

  
Mike Harden, Chief of Police

2-15-23  
Date

  
Rhonda Lehman, Operations Lieutenant

2/15/23  
Date

  
Diego Zanella, Administrative Lieutenant

2/15/2023  
Date