



**PORT ORCHARD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**POLICY REVIEW – IR# 20-087**

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**DATE:** December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**IR# 20-087**

**SUBJECT:** Pursuit D20-002307

**BY:**   
Matt Brown, *Chief of Police*

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**REQUIRED REPORTING – POPD [PURSUIT POLICY 307]**

**Date/Time:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 0056

**Length of Pursuit:** 1.56 miles (approximately 3 minutes)

**Involved Units/Officers:** Horsley / Gapsch

**Initial Reason for the Pursuit:** Vehicle prowl

**Starting Point:** 2250 Sidney Av.

**Termination Point:** 110 Poplar St.

**Disposition:** Vehicle stopped voluntarily

**Injuries/Property Damage:** None

**Medical Treatment:** None

**Supervisor:** Horsley

**Preliminary Determination:** Within policy

**Additional Review/Investigation Needed:** None

**Related Reports:** None

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 0056 hrs, Sgt. Horsley and Off. Gapsch were dispatched to a vehicle prowling in progress at an apartment complex. When Sgt. Horsley arrived he immediately observed the described suspect vehicle. He activated his lights and directed his spotlight on the interior in a signal to the driver to stop. He observed the vehicle was driven by a white female with one passenger in the front and possibly a second passenger in the rear seat.

The vehicle failed to stop at his command and fled onto Pottery Ave. Sgt. Horsley activated his emergency equipment and began to pursue. Off. Gapsch joined a few moments later.



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The suspect vehicle eventually came to a voluntary stop a short distance away and the two passengers fled on foot. The driver was belligerent but eventually taken into custody without issue.

### **ANALYSIS:**

To conduct this policy review, I reviewed all written reports, sergeant's documentation, and all audio files provided by Kitsap 911 related to this incident.

Sgt. Horsley and Off. Gapsch were dispatched to an in-progress property crime. Sgt. Horsley arrived and immediately observed the described suspect vehicle. When he directed it to stop the vehicle fled.

Sgt. Horsley and Off. Gapsch were both driving fully marked and equipped police vehicles. Both were dressed in fully marked police uniforms to include easy to read markings and patches on both shoulders. The call of an in-progress crime placed the officers legally in the area looking for an identified suspect vehicle.

After the suspect vehicle fled Sgt. Horsley's lawful request to stop, he advised other units over the air that he was in pursuit.

During the brief pursuit, Sgt. Horsley continuously broadcast his position, speed, traffic, and roadway conditions. Sgt. Horsley remained calm throughout the incident and did not appear to be overwhelmed by the event. When Off. Gapsch became the number two officer he began calling the pursuit. He also remained calm and continuously provided updates over the radio.

The suspect vehicle stopped voluntarily in a residential driveway and two of the passengers fled. Sgt. Horsley and Off. Gapsch demonstrated good officer safety tactics by remaining with the vehicle and driver instead of pursuing the fleeing suspects on foot.

POPD policy states that numerous factors shall be considered, both individually and collectively, when deciding to continue a pursuit. Although the pursuit was short in duration and distance, the officers considered these factors and showed such by continuously providing updated and necessary information such as weather, traffic, and conditions. Although the initiation of the pursuit was for a property crime, the officers clearly weighed these factors and reasonably determined the pursuit could continue.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is my opinion that based upon the totality of the events, Sgt. Horsley's and Off. Gapsch's actions in this incident are within policy.



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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None.