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## Intel from a Records Tech in Battle Ground

1 message

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Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 10:35 AM

To: martina.morris@comcast.net, sidris@aclu-wa.org, moojieturtle@gmail.com

Hi all,

I just got off the phone with Kayla Whitmire, a very helpful records technician in Battle Ground, WA. She had a lot to share about maintaining and producing data/records on vehicle pursuits. My notes from our conversation are below. Let's discuss at tomorrow's meeting.

As a reminder, item 1 in our request was for "A list of all vehicle pursuit incidents that your agency was involved in from 2019 through 2023, as a line-level data extract from your records management system (RMS), including incident date, report number, and any/all other RMS data fields that are not required to be redacted by law"

Kayla shared the following info:

- Battle Ground PD (BGPD) uses E1S RMS
- Spillman and Mark 4 are other common RMS's used in WA
- She previously worked at the Clark County Sheriff's Office
- BG is on a main highway that runs through many towns, so BGPD is called to assist pursuits that are already underway
- BGPD officers do not specifically code if there was a pursuit. Since they aren't collecting that data, Kayla had to do multiple searches in their RMS to get all data that could possibly be responsive to our request.
- BGPD officers also do not code whether someone fled and they declined to pursue. Kayla has to click into each report and read through it in order to know whether the officer declined to engage.
- Kayla performed the following searches:
  - 1) Keyword search for "eluding"
  - 2) Keyword search for "pursuit" - yielded way too many results
  - 3) Keyword search for "assisting outside agency" in order to pull up instances when BGPD was asked to help Clark County Sheriffs
  - 4) Keyword searches for the Class A felonies for which a pursuit was permitted. Since the law changed during 2019-2023, she did different searches for different years.
  - 5) Since "eluding" isn't a Class A felony, a search for Class A felonies would miss cases where attempted eluding was the basis for the pursuit.
- Kayla did several searches and cross-checked the results against a list of incidents where she knew a pursuit took place, in order to test the completeness of the search results. She kept winding up with data sets that were either over- or under-inclusive.
- Every agency codes pursuits differently. For instance, the Clark County Sheriff's Office keeps those records in their Internal Affairs "Use of Force File," which BGPD doesn't have.
- Agency policies can be helpful guides when considering what to ask for. For instance, BGPD has a very specific policy on "assisting other agencies," so officers know to code that data and Kayla knows to look for it in response to our request. (But of course, we would only know to ask for that if we had their policies).

Kayla is going to provide me with screenshots of everything she thinks is responsive, which will also show what keywords she used to search. She will highlight the cases where officers declined to pursue since that won't be evident just looking at the screenshots.

Best,  
Heather

