



College Place Police Department

Memorandum

To: Chief Tomaras

CC: WASPC Accreditation File: 4.3, 15.4

From: Sergeant Schmick

Date: 1/16/2024

Subject: 2023 Pursuit Analysis per Policy 308.12 (e)

DETAILS:

In 2021 HB 1054 drastically changed pursuit laws in Washington State. In 2023 we observed an amendment under HB 5352. However, the new law ([RCW 10.116.060](#)) has several restrictions which largely prevents law enforcement from engaging pursuits unless the following conditions are satisfied:

THE OFFICER HAS:

REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT A PERSON IN THE VEHICLE HAS COMMITTED OR IS COMMITTING A VIOLENT OFFENSE, SEX OFFENSE, A VEHICULAR ASSAULT, AN ASSAULT INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR ESCAPE UNDER CHAPTER 9A.76 RCW; OR

- THE PURSUIT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING OR APPREHENDING THE PERSON;
- THE PERSON POSES AN IMMINENT THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF OTHERS AND THE SAFETY RISKS OF FAILING TO APPREHEND OR IDENTIFY THE PERSON ARE CONSIDERED TO BE GREATER THAN THE SAFETY RISKS OF THE VEHICULAR PURSUIT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES; AND
- THE OFFICER RECEIVES AUTHORIZATION TO ENGAGE IN THE PURSUIT FROM A SUPERVISING OFFICER AND THE SUPERVISING OFFICER HAS SUPERVISORY CONTROL OF THE PURSUIT. (CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS EXIST FOR JURISDICTIONS WITH FEWER THAN 15 COMMISSIONED OFFICERS).
- DEFINES A VEHICULAR PURSUIT.
- PROHIBITS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FROM FIRING A WEAPON AT A MOVING VEHICLE, WITH ONE NARROWLY TAILORED EXCEPTION.



In 2023, the College Place Police Department (CPPD) was involved in ten (8) pursuits as a primary unit and two (2) agency assists. Most pursuits were quickly terminated. However, two drivers were later stopped and taken into custody, one was tracked to a local hotel and two were apprehended after fleeing on foot. Another suspect was apprehended a short time after terminating the pursuit when involved in a collision.

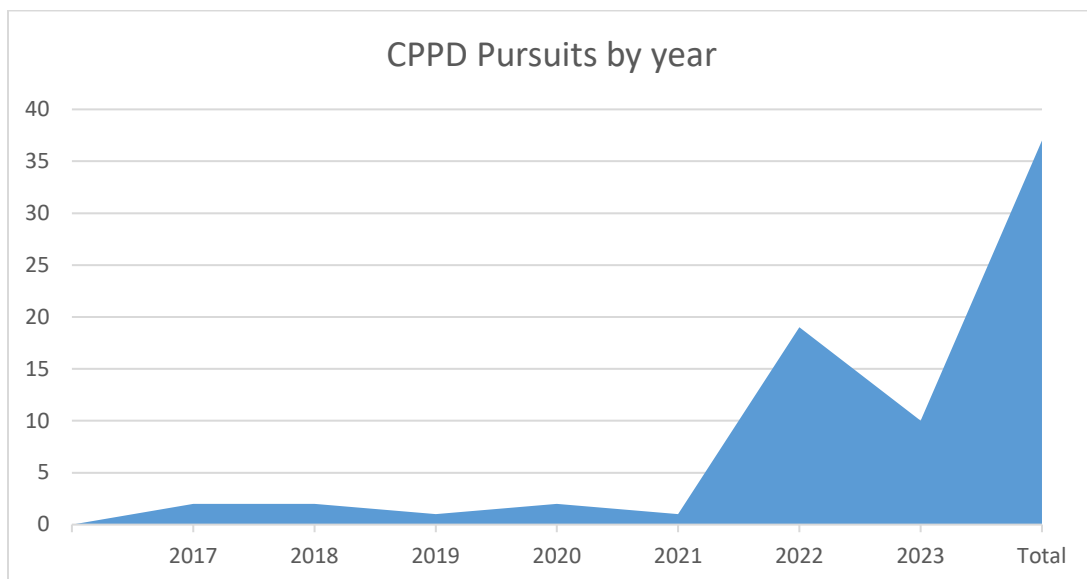
On New Years Eve, with supervisor approval, Officer Cole pursued a suspect for suspicion of DUI. The suspect stopped, fled on foot and was apprehended after a short chase. The suspect was arrested for DUI, possession of controlled substance, elude and obstruction.

The CPPD was 100% trained under the new law and our Lexipol Policy for Vehicular pursuits was updated to reflect the new law (Lexipol 308).

The CPPD had 100% attendance of Emergency Vehicle Operators Course training in 2023. Two officers required a make-up session. This involved a skills course set up at the Walla Walla drag strip. The training syllabus is available for review on the Command drive.

All of the CPPD officers reviewed our Stop Stick policy (Lexipol 308.1.9) and physically practiced throwing stops sticks at moving vehicles. A copy of the training roster is available on the command folder for review.

CPPD Pursuit Tracking by year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Number of pursuits	2	2	1	2	1	19	10	37
Authorized	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	10
Unauthorized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IA Investigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





The CPPD has seen a dramatic increase in pursuits over the last few years with the change and/or restrictions in the law. CPPD has demonstrated compliance with the law as seen from our data. Every pursuit has been tracked and documented with a pursuit tracking form for additional information.

Training recommendations: Ongoing EVOC training along with policy review and discussion to impress the importance of being selective in the reasoning and legal justification for pursuing a fleeing vehicle under current law.

Equipment needs: There were no apparent equipment needs resulting from this analysis.

Policy revision recommendation: Policy revised with new law, July 2023.

Other Recommendations: Continue to work with Legislators to change current pursuit law.

Sergeant Dylan Schmick