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Effective Date: July 1997	Revision Date: June 2019
Amends/Supercedes: 700.10/July 2007	Approved by: Chief Kevin Higdon
Meets Accreditation Standard:	21.2

Section 1200.20- Emergency Vehicle Response and Vehicle Pursuit

Definitions

Vehicle Pursuit - An active attempt by a law enforcement officer operating an authorized law enforcement vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect who is actively attempting to elude the police.

Emergency Response - Any emergency response shall be conducted in accordance with applicable laws when utilizing blue lights and siren. Any emergency vehicle shall be operated with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway. The term "emergency response" includes vehicle pursuits, emergency calls and responses to other types of emergencies.

Policy

It is the policy of the Shively Police Department (SPD) to pursue fleeing vehicles only when there is a serious life-threatening emergency, or a serious violent felony is known to have been committed or there is substantial probable cause to believe that the person being pursued has committed a serious violent felony.

The practice of chasing vehicles that are fleeing from police for minor traffic offense or violations of the law that are less than serious violent felonies will not be an acceptable practice by the SPD. In that, even when in pursuit, officers should consider terminating the pursuit if the risk to the public is too great.

Any supervisor, or acting supervisor is to immediately advise units to terminate pursuits that do not qualify in the above paragraphs.

Emergency equipment such as blue lights should be used when assisting stranded motorists or when required to park in the roadway as an act to allow adequate visibility to traffic.

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Evaluation of Circumstances

All circumstances shall be evaluated before engaging in or prolonging a vehicle pursuit. Should circumstances manifest, which would compromise the due regard for safety of the public the officer shall consider appropriate alternatives to continuing the pursuit situation. Following are some circumstances that shall be evaluated before or during a pursuit:

- Serious violent felony
- Weather conditions
- Density of Traffic/pedestrian
- Visibility of day or night
- Time of Day or night
- Rural or Urban
- Speed of the pursuit

Responsibilities of initiating officer

It shall be the responsibility of the initiating officer in a vehicle pursuit to:

- Evaluate the circumstances of the pursuit situation.
- Convey precise locations to dispatch.
- Use due regard for the safety of others.
- Monitor speed conditions for the roadway used.
- Keep updating pursuit situation with assisting units, especially supervisors.
- Keep pursued vehicle within sight.

Responsibilities of Secondary Units

Secondary Units shall maintain appropriate distances and render support to primary pursuing unit. Secondary units shall assist in collateral control of vehicle pursuits and shall render some of the following support services:

- Use due regard for the safety of others.
- Convey locations to dispatch when necessary.
- Keep radio traffic to a minimum.
- Follow directions of primary unit or supervisor.
- Advise units of conditions ahead.

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Responsibilities of communications personnel

It shall be the responsibility of dispatch personnel to maintain contact with pursuing units. Each dispatcher will utilize proper radio procedures when communicating and documenting the pursuit. Furthermore, the following shall be additional duties of dispatch personnel during a pursuit situation:

- Record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle.
- Immediately notify the shift commander when a pursuit is initiated.
- Notify other jurisdictions that may be affected by pursuit.
- Log and update location of pursuit as it progresses.
- Keep track of all responding units and jurisdictions.
- Keep supervisory and secondary units informed.
- Clear radio channel of any unnecessary traffic and advise all other units that a pursuit is in progress, providing all relevant information.
- Perform relevant record and motor vehicle checks.
- Control all radio communications during the pursuit.
- Coordinate assistance under the direction of the shift commander.

Responsibilities of Supervisory personnel

It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor on duty to monitor the conditions and circumstances of an initiated pursuit. The supervisor has the authority to terminate any pursuit being conducted by the Shively Police Department. The supervisor also has the authority to terminate the supply of any Shively Police assisting officers from another agency in a pursuit. Additionally, supervisors shall have the direct responsibility to:

- Inform their platoon subordinates of current tactics and pursuit policy.
- The shift commander shall assume overall command and control of vehicle pursuits initiated by the Shively Police.
- Upon being notified of the pursuit the shift commander shall verify the following:
 - Serious violent felony or life-threatening emergency.
 - No more than the required or necessary units are involved in the pursuit.
 - Aerial assistance, if available, has been requested.
 - Affected agencies are notified.

The shift commander will continue to direct the pursuit and approve or order alternative tactics and maintain control until the pursuit is terminated. In absence of adequate information from the primary or secondary units, the shift commander may order termination of the pursuit.

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It shall be necessary that the shift commander be physically present at the termination point of a pursuit that ends in the custody of the suspect. It is imperative that the supervisor remain objective and handle the physical confrontation in a responsible manner. High emotions and adrenaline run strong even at the end of a short pursuit, so the supervisor's main goal at the end point of pursuit shall be to:

- Keep emotions under control at the end point of pursuit.
- Try to avoid the pursuing officer from making direct contact with suspect.
- Direct secondary or backup units in making physical contact or arrest, if possible.

Forced Stopping

Forced stopping of a vehicle in pursuit is strictly prohibited. A "forced stop" is when an officer uses a patrol vehicle to collide with another vehicle with the intent to stop or impede a pursued vehicle. Maneuvering a patrol vehicle into the path of a fleeing vehicle with the intent to stop or impede that vehicle is strictly prohibited.

Alternatives of a Forced Stop

Officers are permitted to use alternative methods to stop a vehicle under pursuit. Examples of these methods are as follows:

- Spike strips
- Rolling roadblocks
- Containment without contact

Roadblocks

Most pursuits encountered in our suburban or urban areas do not afford an opportunity to establish roadblocks to terminate a pursuit. However, roadblocks may be used as a viable alternative when conditions are most favorable. In that, roadblocks should be considered to control secondary traffic concerns. The roadblocks may be established to divert traffic or to clear the way for pursuing units. Using an occupied patrol vehicle to establish a stationary roadblock is strictly prohibited.

Jurisdictional Pursuits

From time to time the Shively Police Department may be called upon to assist other agencies during pursuits. The Shively Police Department may assist other agencies as:

- Non-pursuing support units
- Traffic control units
- Crime scene units

Shively Police Units are prohibited from taking a pursuit position in any outside agency pursuit. The on-duty supervisor shall terminate any pursuit where a Shively Police Unit takes over as the pursuing vehicle.

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Shively Police Units may pursue vehicles into other jurisdictions within statutory limits:

- Within Jefferson County
- Outside Jefferson County
- From Kentucky into State of Indiana

Termination of Pursuit

The decision to abandon pursuit may be the most intelligent course of action. Officers must evaluate whether the seriousness of the crime justifies continuing the pursuit. An officer will not be censured when, in the officer's opinion, continued pursuit constitutes an unreasonable risk.

The cessation of a vehicle pursuit should be brought about as safely and as quickly as possible. There are several ways a pursuit could be terminated. Below are the most common acceptable ways to terminate a vehicle pursuit:

- Primary Officer terminates for due regard for safety of others.
- Supervisor orders termination for whatever reason based upon safety of public and of officers.
- Vehicles stop and suspect(s) detained.
- Officers decide not to pursue at all based upon "Evaluation of Circumstances".
- Emergency equipment fails.
- Fleeing vehicle is lost sight of.

Emergency Equipment

Emergency lights and sirens shall be in full and continuance use during the duration of a vehicle pursuit or emergency response. A vehicle pursuit or emergency response is prohibited if emergency equipment is not operable. This includes:

- Red/Blue or Blue lights.
- Audible siren.
- Portable or mobile police radio.

Public Address System (PA)

PA system in the police vehicle should be used to give verbal directions on felony stops.

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Traffic Control Devices

Extreme caution must be used whenever officers disregard traffic signs or signals, even though statutes may specifically permit such conduct. Officers shall make use of all available warning devices to alert other motorists and pedestrians.

- Primary Vehicles shall stop at and clear all intersections before continuing pursuit.
- Secondary vehicles shall stop at and clear all intersections before continuing pursuit.

Unmarked Police Vehicle

Officers operating unmarked vehicles (provided the vehicle is equipped with emergency lights and siren) are discouraged from engaging in vehicle pursuits as a primary unit. However, whenever an unmarked vehicle becomes engaged in a pursuit it is best that a marked unit take over the pursuit as soon as possible.

Yearly Review

This policy is reviewed by the Chief of Police on a yearly basis.