

	HARRISONBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT General Orders	Policy Number: 402
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	Section: Vehicle Pursuits	Issue Date: 01/15/2025
	Issued By: Rod Pollard, Interim Chief of Police	Effective Date: 11/14/2024
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VALEAC Standards: OPR.01.10 (a), OPR.01.10 (b), OPR.01.10 (c), OPR.01.10 (d), OPR.01.10 (e), OPR.01.10 (f), OPR.01.10 (g), OPR.01.10 (h), OPR.01.10 (i), OPR.01.10 (j)		

A. POLICY AND PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved officers, the public and fleeing suspects. It is the policy of this department to weigh the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

All employees are expected to fully comply with the guidelines and timelines set forth in this policy. Responsibility rests with the supervisor to ensure that any violations of policy are investigated, and appropriate training, counseling and/or disciplinary action is initiated. This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

C. DEFINITIONS

Blocking or vehicle intercept - A slow-speed or stationary coordinated maneuver where two or more pursuing vehicles simultaneously intercept and block the movement of a suspect vehicle, the driver of which may be unaware of the impending enforcement stop. Blocking is not considered a road block.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed maneuver designed to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out, stall and come to a stop.

Ramming - The deliberate act of contacting a suspect's vehicle with another law enforcement vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing a law enforcement vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Terminate - To discontinue a pursuit or stop chasing fleeing vehicles.

Stop Sticks - A tire deflation device designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.

Pursuit Trailing - The following of a pursuit at any distance, to include paralleling, intercepting, or tracking.

Vehicle pursuit - A deliberate attempt by an officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect who is actively attempting to elude apprehension.

Failure to Yield – When the officer is attempting to stop a suspect vehicle, and the suspect vehicle fails to stop but is doing so by obeying all traffic laws.

Due Regard - Defined as how a "reasonably careful person, performing under similar circumstances would act in the same manner." These definitions are how you will be judged in a civil court of law.

D. VEHICLE PURSUITS

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized police department emergency vehicles that are equipped with emergency lighting and sirens as required by law ([VA. Code §46.2-1022](#); [VA. Code § 46.2-1061](#)).

Officers shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. However, officers may, when in pursuit of a suspect and provided there is no unreasonable risk to persons and property ([VA Code § 46.2-920](#)):

- a. Exceed the speed limit.
- b. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- c. Park or stop where it is otherwise prohibited.
- d. Disregard regulations governing a direction of movement of vehicles turning in specified directions.
- e. Pass or overtake another vehicle at an intersection.
- f. Pass or overtake stopped or slow-moving vehicles, by going to the left of the vehicle either in a no-passing zone or by crossing the highway centerline.
- g. Pass or overtake stopped or slowing-moving vehicles, by going off the paved or main traveled portion of the roadway on the right.

a. WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

The pursuit shall only begin when the suspect attempts to evade apprehension, who has been given an appropriate signal to stop, and the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger to the officer or the driver of the fleeing vehicle without jeopardizing public safety.

A vehicular pursuit may be justified when the officer knows or has reasonable suspicion to believe the suspect committed, attempted, or threatened to commit one of the following offenses:

- a. Felonies
 1. Murder
 2. Robbery
 3. Rape
 4. Felonious Assault
 5. Felonious Sex Offense
 6. Abduction
 7. Arson involving death or serious injury
- b. Violent misdemeanors
 1. Any crime involving the display or use of a firearm, including misdemeanors involving firearms.

In addition to the offenses above, a number of factors shall be considered, both individually and collectively, when deciding to initiate a vehicle pursuit. They can include:

- a. The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.
- b. The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to officers, innocent motorists, and others.
- c. The safety of the public adjacent to the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones) and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- d. The pursuing officers' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing vehicles and communicator/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- e. Whether weather, traffic and road conditions unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- f. Whether the identity of the suspect has been verified and whether there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- g. The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speed and other conditions of the pursuit.
- h. Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked police department vehicles that may reduce visibility of the vehicle, such as visor or dash-mounted lights, concealable or temporary emergency lighting equipment and concealed or obstructed siren positioning.
- i. Vehicle speeds.
- j. Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders, and hostages).

- k. Whether the pursuing vehicle is carrying passengers other than on-duty police officers.

NOTE: Pursuits of motorcycles and minor traffic violations are prohibited absent exigent circumstances.

b. WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

When a supervisor directs the pursuit to be terminated, officers shall immediately terminate the pursuit.

Officers shall:

- a. deactivate all emergency equipment;
- b. stop following the suspect vehicle;
- c. obey all traffic laws including those related to speed;
- d. notify HRECC of termination location.

This section also pertains to situations where the determination was made to not pursue based on pursuit guidelines.

The factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to terminate a pursuit. Officers and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves and the public when electing to continue a pursuit.

In addition to the factors that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

- a. The distance between the pursuing vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time or distance.
- b. The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- c. The pursuing vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- d. The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.
- e. Hazards posed to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- f. The danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the officers, or the suspect, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.
- g. The identity of the suspect is known, and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit.

- h. Degradation or loss of radio communication between pursuing units and supervisors, ECC, and other involved agencies.

E. PURSUIT VEHICLES

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police department emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable.

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three police department emergency vehicles (two pursuit vehicles and the supervisor vehicle). However, the number of vehicles involved will vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request that additional vehicles join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of officers involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the number of suspects. All other officers shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any officer who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the pursuit termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

a. MOTORCYCLES

When involved in a pursuit, police department motorcycles shall be replaced by marked emergency vehicles as soon as practicable.

b. VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Officers operating vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Officers in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing vehicles as long as the vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws. Those officers should discontinue such support immediately upon the arrival of a sufficient number of authorized emergency police department vehicles or any air support.

c. K-9 VEHICLES (WHEN OCCUPIED WITH K9)

Due to the possible harmful environment to the K-9 and distraction to the handler when involved in a pursuit, K-9 vehicles occupied by a K9 should be replaced by other marked emergency vehicles or relegated to a secondary position as soon as possible and then to a trailing position if other units are available.

When authorized to trail, K9 officers will follow the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. Trailing vehicles will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles to indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit. This will allow the K9 to be utilized as a resource at the termination of the pursuit if needed.

d. POLICE VEHICLE WITH PASSENGERS

If a non-police occupant (i.e., prisoner, witness, complainant, citizen, ride-along, etc.) is in the vehicle, the officer will not engage in a pursuit, unless that passenger is discharged at a safe location.

e. USE OF SPOTLIGHTS

[VA Code Section §46.2-1019](#) and [VA Code §46.2-1029](#) governs the use of spotlights by law enforcement officers. Spotlights will not be used to blind a suspect during a vehicle pursuit.

f. PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing officer will be designated as the primary pursuit vehicle and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless he/she is unable to remain reasonably close to the suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonable danger to him/herself or others.

The primary pursuing officer should notify the Emergency Communications Center, starting with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including, but not limited to:

- a. The location, direction of travel and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.
- b. The description of the suspect's vehicle including the license plate number, if known.
- c. The reason for the pursuit.
- d. The use of firearms, threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.
- e. The number of occupants and identity or description.
- f. The weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- g. The need for any additional resources or equipment.
- h. The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Until relieved by a supervisor or a secondary pursuing officer, the officer in the primary pursuit vehicle shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing officer should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to an officer in a secondary pursuit vehicle to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing officer to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

g. CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect following the pursuit. Officers should consider the safety of the public and

the involved officers when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspect.

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

h. SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary pursuit vehicle and is responsible for:

- a. Immediately notifying the Emergency Communications Center of his/her entry into the pursuit.
- b. Remaining a safe distance behind the primary pursuit vehicle unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.
- c. Broadcasting information that the primary pursuing officer is unable to provide.
- d. Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit, updating known or critical information, and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- e. Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
- f. Serving as backup to the primary pursuing officer once the suspect has been stopped.

i. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Available supervisory and management control will be carried out over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this department. Supervisors shall review all calls for service, to include body worn camera and fleet video, involving a failure to yield or pursuit.

The field supervisor of the officer initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest on-duty supervisor will be responsible for:

- a. Acknowledging they are aware of the pursuit and are listening to the radio traffic.
- b. Immediately notifying involved officers and the Emergency Communications Center of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit. This is to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.
- c. Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- d. Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- e. Ensuring that no more than the required law enforcement vehicles are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- f. Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- g. Ensuring that assistance from canines or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.

- h. Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- i. Ensuring that the Patrol Commander is notified of the pursuit, as soon as practicable.
- j. Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this department.
- k. Controlling and managing Harrisonburg Police Department officers when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.

j. PATROL COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Patrol Commander should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy.

k. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Emergency Communications Center will work to provide support and assistance during law enforcement pursuit situations. Law Enforcement pursuits shall be considered high priority events and require the immediate clearing of the operational radio talk group. Communicators shall concentrate on this single event and will typically not be responsible for traffic on other talk groups. This includes both vehicle and foot pursuits.

If the pursuit is confined within the city limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or communicator. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved officers should, whenever available, switch radio communications to a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies.

Talk groups may be patched during multi-jurisdictional pursuit situations.

Upon notification or becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the communicator is responsible for:

- a. Clearing the radio channel of non-emergency traffic.
- b. Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved officers.
- c. Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- d. Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- e. Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- f. Notifying the Patrol Commander as soon as practicable.
- g. Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

l. OFFICERS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

The primary pursuit vehicle, secondary pursuit vehicle and supervisor vehicle should be the only vehicles operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other officers are assigned to the pursuit.

Officers who are not directly involved in the pursuit should remain in their assigned districts, should not parallel the pursuit route, and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor. Uninvolved officers are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Those officers should attempt to place their vehicles in locations that provide some safety or an escape route in the event of an unintended collision or if the suspect intentionally tries to ram the police department vehicle.

Non-pursuing officers needed at the pursuit termination point should respond in a non-emergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

Available officers not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.

F. PURSUIT DRIVING

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the officer considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for officers who are involved in the pursuit:

- a. Officers, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to unusual maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- b. Because intersections can present increased risks, pursuing officers shall exercise due regard and slow down as may be necessary when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- c. Officers shall not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong direction on a roadway, highway, or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 1. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling the vehicle while driving on the correct side of the roadway.
 2. Request other officers to observe exits available to the suspect.
- d. Notify the Virginia State Police or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.
- e. Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other pursuing vehicles unless the situation indicates otherwise, or they are requested to do so by the pursuing officer and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved officers.

a. PURSUIT TRAILING

Pursuit trailing is prohibited unless authorized by a supervisor. When authorized, trailing officers will follow the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow speed, trailing vehicles will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

G. PURSUIT INTERVENTION METHODS

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to stop the suspect's ability to continue to flee in a vehicle through an application of technology, tire deflation devices, blocking or vehicle intercept, boxing-in, the PIT, ramming or roadblock procedures.

Pursuit intervention shall only be performed by those officers trained in these techniques with supervisor approval.

a. WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED

Whenever practicable, an officer shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors should balance the risk of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the officers, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With this in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the officer at the time of the decision.

b. INTERVENTION CONSIDERATIONS

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, the public or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Application of intervention tactics will be considered a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to policies guiding such use. Officers shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- a. Blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to the public's safety, and when officers reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risks involved, this intervention tactic should only be employed by properly trained officers and after giving consideration to the following:
 - 1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or others.
 - 2. All other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.
 - 3. Employing the blocking or vehicle intercept maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk of danger to those involved or the public.
 - 4. The suspect vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.
 - 5. Only law enforcement vehicles should be used in this tactic.
- b. The PIT is limited to use by properly trained officers with the approval of a supervisor and upon assessment of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.

- c. Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the officer's disposal have been exhausted or would not be effective, and immediate control is necessary. Ramming should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized.
 - 1. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, the following factors should be present:
 - a. The suspect is an actual or suspected felon, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.
 - b. The suspect is driving with wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner or using the vehicle as a weapon.
- d. Boxing-in a suspect vehicle should only be attempted upon approval by a supervisor. The use of such a tactic must be carefully coordinated with all involved vehicles, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Officers and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.
- e. Tire deflation devices should be deployed only after notification of pursuing officers and the supervisor of the intent and location of the intended deployment, and in a manner that:
 - 1. Should reasonably only affect the pursued vehicle.
 - 2. Provides the deploying officer adequate cover and escape from intentional or unintentional exposure to the approaching vehicle.
 - 3. Takes into account the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risk to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
 - 4. Takes into account whether the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials or a school bus transporting children.
- f. Roadblocks can involve potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop. In situations involving placing police vehicles at the end of a driveway, and where slow speed would be involved, and as such involves low risk to the officer and/or suspect, this may be a prudent maneuver to end a pursuit. However, when traditional roadblocks are placed on roads and highways, they usually bring with them the potential for higher speeds and greater risk to all participants. Therefore, the intentional placement of these traditional roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is considered deadly force and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor. If roadblocks are deployed, it should only be done under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, officers, or the public.

H. INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary pursuing officer or supervisor, taking into consideration the distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit.

It is generally recommended that the primary pursuing officer or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether the jurisdiction is expected to assist.

a. ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Harrisonburg Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved officers may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports.

The roles and responsibilities of officers at the termination point of a pursuit initiated by this department shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the needs of the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local law enforcement agencies, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibility for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this department, the other agency should relinquish control.

b. PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Officers from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency and with approval from a supervisor.

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of the Harrisonburg Police Department, the supervisor should consider:

- a. The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- b. The safety of the pursuing officers.
- c. Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.

- d. Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- e. The ability to maintain the pursuit.

As soon as practicable, a supervisor or the Patrol Commander should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Patrol Commander or supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing agency by officers of this department will conclude at the City limits, provided that the pursuing agency has sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that the termination point of a pursuit from another agency is within this jurisdiction, officers shall provide appropriate assistance including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

I. CRASHES RELATED TO PURSUITS

If the pursuing officer or related units become involved in a crash while in a pursuit, that officer's supervisor shall be responsible for investigating the crash. However, instances of fatality, or life-threatening injury, a traffic accident investigator from Special Operations, Traffic Unit shall be instructed to conduct an investigation of the crash.

The Department's Professional Standards Unit must be notified in all cases of pursuit fatalities or injury that has a high likelihood of death.

J. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports shall be completed to comply with appropriate laws and policies or procedures.

- a. The primary pursuing officer shall complete appropriate IBR reports.
- b. The primary pursuing officer or supervisor shall complete the appropriate designated tracking software report and note a synopsis of the pursuit on the end of shift report.
- c. Reports should include:
 - 1. Date and time of the pursuit.
 - 2. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
 - 3. Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.
 - 4. Involved vehicles and officers.
 - 5. Alleged offenses.
 - 6. Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.
 - a. Any use of force shall be reported and documented in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
 - 7. Arrestee information, if applicable.
 - 8. Any injuries and/or medical treatment.
 - 9. Any property or equipment damage.
 - 10. Name of supervisor at the scene or who handled the incident.

11. A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or that additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.
- d. Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of department vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

K. REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all officers will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public. Training will include recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others.