



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL VEHICLE PURSUIT ANALYSIS – 2020



TOTAL VEHICLE PURSUITS		
YEAR	2020	NO. OF OFFICERS INVOLVED
1ST QUARTER	1	1
JANUARY	1	1
FEBRUARY	0	0
MARCH	0	0
2ND QUARTER	0	0
APRIL	0	0
MAY	0	0
JUNE	0	0
3RD QUARTER	1	2
JULY	0	0
AUGUST	1	2
SEPTEMBER	0	0
4TH QUARTER	1	3
OCTOBER	0	0
NOVEMBER	0	0
DECEMBER	1	3
TOTAL	3	6

OFFICERS INVOLVED IN VEHICLE PURSUITS	OFFICER ASSIGNMENT
BRUNO, NICHOLAS SERGEANT	1 PATROL
CARRERO, ERIC OFFICER	1 PATROL
FORCENITO, CHRISTOPHER OFFICER	1 PATROL
FOURRE, SAMUEL OFFICER	1 PATROL
WEISS, RYAN OFFICER 191	1 PATROL
WENT, DAVID OFFICER	1 PATROL

VEHICLE PURSUITS BY DAY OF WEEK	
MONDAY	0
TUESDAY	0

WEDNESDAY	1
THURSDAY	1
FRIDAY	1
SATURDAY	0
SUNDAY	0

VEHICLE PURSUITS BY HOUR OF DAY	
0000-0100 (1)	0
0100-0200 (2)	1
0200-0300 (3)	0
0300-0400 (4)	0
0400-0500 (5)	0
0500-0600 (6)	1
0600-0700 (7)	0
0700-0800 (8)	0
0800-0900 (9)	0
0900-1000 (10)	0
1000-1100 (11)	0
1100-1200 (12)	0
1200-1300 (13)	0
1300-1400 (14)	0
1400-1500 (15)	0
1500-1600 (16)	0
1600-1700 (17)	0
1700-1800 (18)	0
1800-1900 (19)	0
1900-2000 (20)	0
2000-2100 (21)	1
2100-2200 (22)	0
2200-2300 (23)	0
2300-2400 (24)	0

VEHICLE PURSUITS BY INVOLVED OFFICERS' SHIFTS	
0600 – 1700 HOURS (DAY)	0
0800 – 1900 HOURS (OVERLAP)	0

1600 – 0300 HOURS (NIGHT)	5
1900-0600 HOURS (MIDNIGHT)	1

VEHICLE PURSUITS BY INITIATING FACTOR	
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	0
DWI	0
OTHER	0
STOLEN VEHICLE	1
SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	1
TRAFFIC VIOLATION	1
WARRANT	0

LOCATION OF INITIATION OF VEHICLE PURSUITS	
COMMERCIAL AREA	1
HIGHWAY	0
INDUSTRIAL AREA	0
OTHER JURISDICTION	0
RESIDENTIAL AREA	2
RURAL	0

LOCATION OF TERMINATION OF VEHICLE PURSUITS	
COMMERCIAL AREA	0
HIGHWAY	2
INDUSTRIAL AREA	0
OTHER JURISDICTION	1
RESIDENTIAL AREA	0
RURAL AREA	0

REASON FOR TERMINATION OF VEHICLE PURSUITS	
OFFICER DECISION	1
OFFICER VEHICLE IN ACCIDENT	0
PURSUED ESCAPED IN VEHICLE	0
PURSUED FORCED TO STOP – VEHICLE DISABLED	0
PURSUED VOLUNTARILY STOPPED & SURRENDERED	0
PURSUED VOLUNTARILY STOPPED; FLED ON FOOT & APPREHENDED	0

PURSUED VOLUNTARILY STOPPED; FLED ON FOOT & ESCAPED	0
PURSUED STOPPED IN ACCIDENT	1
SUPERVISOR DECISION	1

VEHICLE PURSUITS RESULTING IN CRASHES	
NO CRASH	2
CRASH INVOLVING OTHER VEHICLES	1
CRASH INVOLVING POLICE VEHICLES	1
CRASH INVOLVING PURSUED VEHICLES	1

VEHICLE PURSUITS RESULTING IN INJURY	
NO INJURY	2
INJURY TO OFFICERS IN PURSUING VEHICLES	1
INJURIES TO PEDESTRIANS	0
INJURY TO PERSONS IN OTHER VEHICLES	0
INJURY TO PERSONS IN PURSUED VEHICLES	0

VEHICLE PURSUITS RESULTING IN ARRESTS	
ARREST	1
NO ARREST	2

AGENCY INITIATING VEHICLE PURSUITS	
OTHER AGENCY	0
THIS AGENCY	3

ANALYSIS COMMENTS:

All vehicle pursuits documented in this annual analysis were initiated by this agency. Additionally, all vehicle pursuits documented in this annual analysis were initiated by patrol officers assigned to night-time shifts of duty (1600-0300 hours & 1900-0600 hours) and involved stolen vehicles. These were the only predictive factors identified as a result of this analysis.

Stolen vehicles (2) and suspected criminal activity (1), specifically suspects fleeing the scene of a reported crime, were the leading causes of vehicle pursuits initiated by this agency.

All three (3) vehicle pursuits involved vehicles either immediately known to be or subsequently determined to be stolen from other jurisdictions. Vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries remain a persistent criminal problem for the Town of Westfield. In 2020, there were twenty-six (26)

vehicle thefts and seventy-three (73) vehicle burglaries reported to this agency. Most, if not all, of the vehicle burglaries were likely attempted vehicle thefts.

Information acquired as a result of investigations indicates that suspects in stolen vehicles search residential neighborhoods in Westfield adjacent to highways in search of unlocked vehicles with their keys or key fobs in them. Once located, said vehicles are stolen by suspects with ease, who then flee at high speeds via nearby highways.

Follow-up investigations conducted by this agency's Detective Bureau have determined that many vehicles stolen in this jurisdiction are used in the commission of violent crimes, such as shootings, armed carjackings and armed robberies, which occur in other jurisdictions, predominantly in Essex County, and in particular, the City of Newark.

Such learned information strongly intimates that perpetrators were likely armed at the time of the initial vehicle thefts occurring in this jurisdiction, and that said persons should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Officers must exercise extreme caution at all times.

Officers and supervisors have demonstrated sound decision-making with vehicle pursuits. One (1) vehicle pursuit was terminated by the officer involved, this due to the increasing distance between the pursuing police vehicle and the violator's vehicle, and one (1) vehicle pursuit was terminated at the direction of a supervisor, this due to the danger presented by same, which outweighed the necessity for immediate apprehension of the violator. Both of these vehicle pursuits were terminated on highways and involved vehicles immediately determined to be stolen.

One (1) vehicle pursuit ended as a result of a crash, which involved the pursued vehicle, one (1) of the pursuing police vehicles, and another vehicle. The pursued vehicle was observed fleeing the scene of a reported crime and was subsequently determined to be stolen. The officer driving the primary police vehicle involved was injured as a result.

Following this crash, it was determined that all four (4) of the occupants in the pursued vehicle, to include the driver, were under the influence of an opioid (heroin). One (1) of the vehicle's passengers lost consciousness and suffered a seizure at the scene of the accident - the apparent effects of an opioid overdose. He was administered naloxone by officers on scene. Two (2) other passengers lost consciousness after being transported to a local hospital - also the apparent effects of an opioid overdose. They, too, were administered naloxone by hospital staff.

Pursuant to agency General Order 2020-06 (Issued: June 2020), each vehicle pursuit is subject to a "Meaningful Review," by supervisors, which is a formal documented process to determine whether policy, training, equipment or disciplinary issues need to be addressed. As a result of those reviews and this annual analysis, no training needs or equipment improvements or acquisitions were identified, and no modification to any agency standard operating procedures were deemed necessary.

There is no doubt vehicle pursuits are extremely dangerous and the safety of officers and the general public must always be of paramount concern. It has been determined that all involved officers and supervisors involved in these vehicle pursuits acted in full accordance with their

training and the agency's Pursuit and Forcible Stopping Guidelines Standard Operating Procedure and should be commended for such.

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY:

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____

Christopher Battiloro, Chief of Police

ANALYSIS APPROVED BY:

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____

Christopher Battiloro, Chief of Police