



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

660 – VEHICLE PURSUITS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

GENERAL ORDER: 2026-09
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REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow
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ACTION: Amends General Order 2025-06 (March 17, 2025)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.11

660.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish guidelines with regard to vehicle pursuits and emergency vehicle operations.

660.05 POLICY

All personnel operating department vehicles shall exercise due regard for the safety of all persons. There are no assignments or tasks of such importance that they justify the reckless disregard of the member's safety or the safety of other persons. Members must be mindful of the balance between achieving the goals of law enforcement while maintaining the public's safety.

660.10 STATUTORY GUIDELINES (WILEAG 6.1.3, 6.1.4)

- A. All emergency vehicle operations shall be conducted in strict accordance with existing statutes. Police members engaged in emergency vehicle response shall simultaneously utilize both audible (siren) and visual (red/blue emergency light(s)) emergency warning equipment unless specifically exempted by statutes.
- B. For maximum visibility at intersections and to avoid injuries, if the only emergency light for an unmarked police squad is a red strobe light, it shall be used only on the roof of the squad. It shall not be used in the interior of the vehicle.
- C. Exemptions to the use of audible and visual emergency equipment are as follows:
 - 1. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03\(4\)\(a\)](#) Officers may exceed the speed limit without giving audible and visual signals when obtaining evidence of a speed violation.
 - 2. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03\(4\)\(b\)](#) Officers may exceed the speed limit without giving audible and visual signals when responding to a call which the officer reasonably believes involves a felony in progress and the officer reasonably believes any of the following:
 - a. Knowledge of the officer's presence may endanger the safety of a victim or other person.
 - b. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to evade apprehension.

- c. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to destroy evidence of a suspected felony or may otherwise result in the loss of evidence of a suspected felony.
- d. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to cease the commission of a suspected felony before the officer obtains sufficient evidence to establish grounds for arrest.

D. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03\(5\)](#)

The exemptions granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by Wisconsin statute do not relieve such operator from the duty to drive or ride with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons, nor do they protect such operator from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

E. [Wis. Stat. § 346.04\(3\)](#)

No operator of a vehicle, after having received a visual or audible signal from a traffic officer, federal law enforcement officer, or marked or unmarked police vehicle that the operator knows or reasonably should know is being operated by a law enforcement officer, shall knowingly flee or attempt to elude any officer by willful or wanton disregard of such signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of the police vehicle, the traffic officer, the law enforcement officer, other vehicles or pedestrians, nor shall the operator increase the speed of the operator's vehicle or extinguish the lights of the vehicle in an attempt to elude or flee.

(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

F. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03\(6\)](#) and International Association of Chiefs of Police Model Policy Guidelines

1. Pursuit is authorized only if the officer has a reasonable belief that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury. In general, pursuits for minor violations are discouraged.
2. The decision to initiate a pursuit must be based on the pursuing officer's conclusion that the immediate danger to the officer and the public created by the pursuit is less than the immediate or potential danger to the public should the suspect remain at large.
3. Unless a greater hazard would result, a pursuit should not be undertaken if the subject(s) can be identified with enough certainty that they can be apprehended at a later time.
4. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a pursuit, the officer shall take the following into consideration:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense;
 - b. Necessity of pursuit by vehicle;

- c. Known information on the suspect;
- d. Road conditions and configuration (e.g. interstate, divided highway, work zone);
- e. Physical location and population density (e.g. residential area, school zone, business district);
- f. Existence of vehicular and pedestrian traffic;
- g. Lighting and visibility;
- h. Weather and environmental conditions;
- i. The relative performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the vehicle being pursued;
- j. Officer training and experience;
- k. Available equipment;
- l. Speed and evasive tactics employed by the suspect;
- m. The presence of other persons (including minor passengers) in the police and/or suspect vehicle;
- n. Elevated risk vehicles that pose a risk of danger during attempted apprehension greater than that of a standard automobile (including, but not limited to, motorcycles, ATVs, bicycles, or nonmotorized vehicles). Members should be aware of the limitations and capabilities of these types of vehicles.
- o. Availability, both in time and distance, of support units (both ground and Airborne Assessment Team) and technology; and
- p. Any other condition or situation that would create an unreasonable risk.

660.15 DEFINITIONS (WILEAG 6.1.4)

A. VEHICLE PURSUIT

1. Eluding / Fleeing

An active attempt by one or more law enforcement officers to apprehend a suspect who is either an occupant of or operating a motor vehicle, during which time the operator of the motor vehicle is attempting to avoid capture by using high speed driving or other evasive tactics such as driving off a highway, or making sudden or unexpected maneuvers.

2. Refusal to Stop

An active attempt by one or more law enforcement officers to stop a motor vehicle by use of emergency lights and siren, during which time the operator of the motor vehicle is driving at a reasonable speed (e.g., at or below the established speed limit), but willfully refusing to pull over and stop.

B. PRIMARY PURSUING UNIT

The police unit that initiates a pursuit or any unit that actively assumes control of a pursuit by placing their vehicle in a "primary unit position" in relation to the suspect vehicle.

C. SECONDARY PURSUING UNIT

The police unit that actively participates in a pursuit and is positioned behind the primary unit. A vehicle will only be considered a "secondary unit" once acknowledged by the dispatcher as such. Additional secondary units may be approved by a supervisory officer.

D. PROBABLE CAUSE

Probable cause is the quantum of evidence which would lead a reasonable police officer to believe that the defendant committed a crime. It is more than a hunch or suspicion, but less than the evidence required to convict at trial.

E. DUE REGARD

Due regard is the degree of care that a reasonably careful person, performing similar duties, and acting under similar circumstances would show. There is no exception to the requirement that officer's demonstrate due regard for the safety of others. Failing to drive with due regard may subject a police member to civil and/or criminal liability in addition to other administrative consequences.

(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

F. RECKLESS DRIVING ([Wis. Stat. § 346.62\(2\)](#) and [939.25](#))

No person may endanger the safety of any person or property by the negligent operation of a vehicle. Criminal negligence means the creation of a substantial and unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another, of which the actor should be aware.

660.20 VEHICLE PURSUITS (WILEAG 6.1.4, 6.2.11)

- A. Police members are empowered to disregard certain traffic laws when they are attempting to apprehend actors for a violation of the law. It is imperative that police members do so in a safe manner and the necessity of apprehending the offender outweighs the risks of the pursuit. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03](#) explicitly states the statutory requirements for vehicle pursuits.
- B. Justification for engaging in a vehicle pursuit must be based on facts known by the police member when the decision is made to engage in a pursuit. Information not

established as fact at the time the pursuit was initiated cannot be considered later in determining whether the pursuit was justified. In all instances of vehicle pursuits, the initiating officer must be able to clearly articulate the reason(s) why a pursuit was initiated.

C. Vehicle pursuits are justified when the police member knows or has probable cause to believe:

1. The occupant(s) has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent felony (e.g., armed robbery, recklessly endangering safety, and other crimes against a person in which violence is an element to the felony offense); or
2. The specific vehicle was used in or taken during the attempt or commission of a violent felony (e.g., armed robbery, recklessly endangering safety, and other crimes against a person in which violence is an element to the felony offense); or
3. The vehicle or occupant(s) present a clear and immediate threat to the safety of others and therefore the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the vehicle pursuit (e.g., misdemeanor shots fired incident in which a specific vehicle is described as being involved); or
4. The occupant(s) of the vehicle are engaged in drug dealing proximate in time to the initiation of the vehicle pursuit.

Note: This subsection is limited to only incidents in which the observed drug dealing is directly related to a substantive drug investigation or long term investigation. Members may initiate a vehicle pursuit under this subsection if the suspect flees while driving in a reckless manner after an attempted traffic stop or for a “refusal to stop” pursuit, as previously defined within this policy.

5. The necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the vehicle pursuit, as in the case of the vehicle engaging in reckless driving.

Note: Members may initiate a vehicle pursuit for either (1) reckless driving observed by the member prior to the initiation of a traffic stop or (2) if the suspect vehicle flees while driving in a reckless manner after an attempted traffic stop for any state law or ordinance violation.

However, vehicle speed in and of itself is not enough for a member to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving for either (1) or (2). Members shall also have at least one of the following, but not limited to, factors present to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving (e.g., behaviors that show substantial and unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another beyond just speeding):

1. Collisions with other vehicles or objects;
2. Forcing other vehicles to take evasive action to avoid collision;

3. Failure to stop at controlled intersections without slowing or stopping.

6. A “refusal to stop” pursuit, as previously defined within this policy, may be initiated and maintained for a lesser offense than described above.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

D. DECISION TO INITIATE VEHICLE PURSUITS

1. The decision to initiate a vehicle pursuit, which is limited by this policy, rests in the sole discretion of the individual police member. In order to diminish the likelihood of a pursuit, police members intending to stop a vehicle should, when practical, be within close proximity to the vehicle prior to activating the emergency lights and siren.
2. During the course of enforcement activities, incidents may escalate to a “refusal to stop” pursuit or to an “eluding / fleeing” pursuit. In either instance, vehicle pursuit policy and procedures apply.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

E. PURSUIT PROCEDURES

1. The police member initiating a pursuit shall notify the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) as soon as reasonably possible that a pursuit is underway and provide the following information:
 - a. Police unit identification
 - b. Location, speed, and direction of travel
 - c. Reason for the pursuit
 - d. Pursued vehicle description, including license number, if known
 - e. Number of occupants
 - f. Road conditions
 - g. Traffic density
 - h. Existence of any information concerning the presence/use of firearms, overt threat of force, or other unusual hazard.
2. Failure to provide the above information may be cause for the field supervisor to order termination of the pursuit. Police members involved in pursuits shall take necessary steps (e.g., roll windows up, operate the siren on “automatic”) to ensure the dispatcher understands their radio transmissions.
3. Police members shall, as often as practicable, provide updated information to the dispatcher, such as the speed and direction of the suspect vehicle and the police

vehicle, traffic density, and any other pertinent information.

4. A field supervisor or higher authority must acknowledge that he/she is aware of and monitoring the pursuit as soon as practicable after a pursuit is initiated.
5. If a supervisor fails to acknowledge the pursuit within a reasonable period of time after initiation, as determined by the DEC supervisor, the DEC supervisor will notify the work location's shift commander and the shift commander shall terminate the pursuit.
6. The primary unit shall bear operational responsibility for the pursuit unless relieved by a supervisor.
7. No pursuits may be undertaken by a civilian operator or by a department vehicle containing a citizen occupant, including but not limited to, arrestees, victims, witnesses, or civilian department members.
8. Unmarked police vehicles (provided the vehicle is equipped with emergency light(s) and siren) may initiate a vehicle pursuit. Whenever a marked vehicle becomes available to take over the pursuit as the primary unit, the unmarked vehicle shall withdraw from active pursuit.
9. Police motorcycles may participate in a vehicle pursuit only until a marked vehicle becomes available to take over the pursuit as the primary unit. The motorcycle shall then withdraw from active pursuit.
10. Seat belts shall be worn at all times, except when doing so would endanger the safety of the operator or another, or when he/she has provided medical certification that he/she is unable to do so.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.1, 6.1.4.2, 6.1.4.3)

F. DECISION TO CONTINUE PURSUIT

1. The authority of the primary unit to continue the pursuit is, at all times, subordinate to the command of:
 - a. The watch commander, if on duty.
 - b. His/her immediate district/division commander.
 - c. His/her immediate shift commander.
 - d. His/her immediate field supervisor.
 - e. The field supervisor assigned by DEC in the event there is no district field supervisor available from the primary unit's district or division.
 - f. Any supervisor of a higher rank.
2. The primary unit may maintain pursuit as long as it is safe to do so; until the primary unit determines to terminate the pursuit; until directed to terminate the pursuit by a

supervisor; or until the suspect vehicle is stopped.

- G. If the suspect voluntarily stops their vehicle during the vehicle pursuit or if the suspect crashes their vehicle at the conclusion of a vehicle pursuit, members shall conduct a high risk vehicle contact in accordance with SOP 085.30 (Vehicle Contacts). Members shall not approach the vehicle without determining that is reasonably safe to do so.

H. DECISION TO TERMINATE THE PURSUIT

1. Police members who are engaged in a pursuit, and the field supervisor must continually evaluate the risk assessment criteria listed in SOP 660.10(F)(4) and determine whether the seriousness of the incident justifies continuing the pursuit.

Note: Police members will not face disciplinary action for deciding to terminate a pursuit if in their opinion the risk of pursuing outweighs the risk to the safety of the public, other department members, and/or the suspect.

2. When a decision is made to terminate a pursuit, police members shall:
 - a. Immediately pull over, turn off their emergency lights and siren, radio their position to the dispatcher, and verbally acknowledge the order to terminate the pursuit.
 - b. No longer follow the suspect vehicle, nor may they violate any traffic laws in an effort to catch up to, or parallel the suspect vehicle.
 - c. Remain at the termination point for the responding field supervisor so that a debrief may occur and the field supervisor can collect the necessary information in order to complete a pursuit report.
3. A vehicle pursuit shall be terminated by the pursuing police member or supervisor under any of the following circumstances:
 - a. If the reason(s) for the pursuit do not meet the established criteria in section 660.20 of this policy.
 - b. If the suspect's identity has been established to the point that later apprehension can be accomplished and there is no longer any exigent need for immediate apprehension.
 - c. If the prevailing traffic, roadway, or environmental conditions so enhance the risk involved in continuing the pursuit that termination is warranted.
 - d. If the pursued vehicle's location is no longer known or the distance between the police member and suspect is such that, in order to continue the pursuit, it would require exceptional speeds that would place the police member and public in serious danger.
 - e. If the pursuing police member knows that the fleeing vehicle is being operated by a juvenile who is driving in such an unsafe manner that it is obvious the juvenile

does not have the maturity to deal with the danger involved.

- f. If the pursuing police member's vehicle or emergency equipment malfunctions.
 - g. If it is necessary to stop and render aid to one or more injured persons and no other unit is available to do so.
 - h. If directed to terminate the pursuit by a member of higher rank.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.5)
- I. MEMBER LOSES SIGHT OF SUSPECT VEHICLE
1. If the member simply loses sight of the suspect vehicle and the pursuit was not terminated because the suspect's driving is so reckless that continuing the pursuit would put the officers and public in unnecessary danger, the member may check the immediate area where the suspect vehicle was last seen for a reasonable period of time to determine if the suspect vehicle crashed or was abandoned.
 2. The member must turn off their emergency lights and siren and shall not operate as an emergency vehicle while checking the immediate area and must advise the dispatcher of the address/area where they last observed the suspect vehicle, that they are no longer in pursuit of the suspect vehicle, and that they are checking the area for the suspect vehicle.
 3. Upon completing their search for the suspect vehicle, the member shall return to the termination point for the responding field supervisor so that a debrief may occur and the field supervisor can collect the necessary information in order to complete a pursuit report.

J. PASSENGER RESPONSIBILITIES

Any officer who is a passenger involved in a vehicle pursuit or engaged in emergency vehicle operations (in accordance with SOP 660.10 and 660.35) who personally observes the driver of the department vehicle they are in to not be in compliance with this policy shall reasonably attempt to convey this concern to the driver, if the observing officer is in a position to do so, and if any such intervention does not jeopardize safety. Any such passenger officer shall promptly report their observations, along with his/her own intervening actions to a supervisor. A failure to intervene when a member observes a violation of this policy, when there is an opportunity to do so is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

K. SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

1. Assistance will be coordinated by the DEC. The field supervisor and primary unit will be advised of the identity and location of the secondary unit(s) who can assist.
2. The active pursuit will normally involve no more than two units, the primary unit and one secondary unit. If more assistance is specifically requested, the amount will be determined by:

- a. The nature of the offense.
 - b. The number of suspects.
 - c. Whether the participating units have more than one officer.
 - d. Other clear and articulated facts that would warrant the increased number of units.
3. A supervisor may authorize more than two units to be in active pursuit.
 - a. All other available units shall remain aware of the direction and progress of the pursuit but shall not actively participate, and shall not respond to or parallel the pursuit on adjacent streets unless specifically authorized to do so.
 - b. These units may assist with a high risk vehicle contact in accordance with SOP 660.20(G) or respond to any crash that occurs related to the pursuit.
 4. The secondary unit, upon joining the pursuit, shall as soon as practicable notify the DEC of its identity. If the primary unit is a one-officer unit, the secondary unit should assume radio communications responsibility, allowing the primary unit to devote full attention to driving.
 5. The secondary unit(s) shall maintain a safe distance behind the primary unit, but be close enough to render backup assistance if required.
 6. The secondary unit(s) shall avoid intersecting the path of a high-speed vehicle.
 7. If the primary unit becomes disabled, the secondary unit shall become the primary unit. The DEC will advise the field supervisor and other approved units that a new secondary unit is needed and the next unit to join the pursuit will be designated the secondary unit.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

L. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The primary responsibility of the field supervisor is to direct the primary and secondary unit(s) in a pursuit and, most importantly, in the decision whether or not to terminate the pursuit.
2. The field supervisor shall assess the necessity of the pursuit in progress, using the considerations regarding continuation of the pursuit, and should give strong and continuing consideration to terminating the pursuit, if, in his/her judgment, the necessity of apprehension is outweighed by the level of danger. Upon being notified of the pursuit, the field supervisor shall verify the following:
 - a. That no more than the required or necessary units are involved in the pursuit.
 - b. That the proper radio frequency is being used.

3. The field supervisor shall continue to direct the pursuit, approve, or order those alternative tactics that he/she is authorized to approve, and maintain control until the pursuit is terminated. In the absence of adequate information from the primary or secondary unit, the field supervisor should order termination of the pursuit.
4. The assigned field supervisor shall immediately proceed to the termination point to provide guidance and necessary supervision. The supervisor shall then complete a *Vehicle Pursuit* report, via the personnel management software, regardless of how the pursuit was terminated. If the field supervisor is unable to proceed to the termination point and orders the officer(s) to another location to report the pursuit, the supervisor shall document in the Narrative section of the *Vehicle Pursuit* report the reason(s) why they could not proceed to the termination point.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.1, 6.1.4.2)

M. SHIFT COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The shift commander shall notify the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) at extension [REDACTED] of a vehicle pursuit under the following circumstances:
 - a. When an occupant of the fleeing vehicle is taken into custody;
 - b. When a fleeing vehicle is recovered (regardless if any occupants are taken into custody); or
 - c. When a vehicle published on the Felony Vehicle Bulletin is pursued (regardless if the vehicle was recovered or if any occupants are taken into custody).
2. A CIB supervisor shall make the determination if a CIB response is required. The CIB supervisor shall consider available CIB resources, the nature of the pursuit, the type of offense the vehicle and/or occupants are involved in, the evidence recovered (e.g., firearms, large quantities of controlled substances), and the criminal history of the suspects taken into custody when making a determination on a CIB response.

N. LIMITATIONS ON EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURSUITS AND TACTICS

1. Police Vehicle Speed

Pursuing members must at all times recognize the threat to the general public represented by a high-speed pursuit. The suspect vehicle's speed does not automatically justify a police member matching that speed. The pursuing member(s) and field supervisor shall consider the established risk assessment criteria listed in SOP 660.10(F)(4), giving preeminent consideration to the danger created by continuing the pursuit. This applies to all units engaged in or responding to the pursuit.

2. Intervention Options

In the course of a vehicle pursuit, deliberate contact between vehicles or forcing the pursued vehicle into parked cars, ditches, or any other obstacle, boxing in, heading off, ramming, driving alongside the pursued vehicle while it is in motion, or the use of

roadblocks is prohibited.

Note: Members who have been trained in the administration of stationary vehicle containment, vehicle assault techniques, and stationary vehicle blocking maneuvers may only employ these tactics as trained if they are currently assigned to or supervise a division, unit, or task force within the CIB that has been authorized by the assistant chief or inspector of the CIB to employ these tactics. A *Stationary Vehicle Contact* report shall be completed in the personnel management software by a supervisory officer of a higher rank than the member(s) who employed one of these tactics during the pursuit.

(WILEAG 6.1.4.4, 6.2.11.3)

3. Passing

Passing of field units involved in the pursuit is prohibited unless the operator of the passing vehicle receives specific permission from the primary unit or the field supervisor.

4. Distance

Spacing, whether the vehicle in front of the unit is the suspect vehicle or another police vehicle, shall be at a distance that will allow for proper braking and reaction time in the event the lead vehicle stops, slows, or turns.

5. Direction (Wrong Way)

Police members shall not pursue suspects the wrong way on interstate or other controlled access highways or divided highways unless specifically authorized by the field supervisor or higher authority.

6. Suspect's Driving

Reckless or hazardous driving maneuvers by the suspect vehicle shall not be duplicated by any pursuing vehicle.

O. VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT REQUIRED

1. The pursuit report shall be completed by a supervisory officer of a higher rank than the member(s) engaged in the pursuit, except for supervisors assigned to the Internal Affairs Division who can investigate and complete a *Vehicle Pursuit* report for any department member.
2. The supervisor responsible for filing a *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall obtain a number in the personnel management software prior to securing from duty on the date in which the incident occurred. The member(s) and subject(s) names, date, time and location of the incident shall also be entered on the same date the number was generated.
3. The supervisor shall complete the following, but not limited to, mandatory fields in the

Vehicle Pursuit report:

- a. Reason for the initial contact.
 - b. Reason for the pursuit.
 - c. Location where the pursuit started.
 - d. Location where the pursuit was terminated.
 - e. Suspect information including the suspect's probation / parole status, driver license status, and any criminal charge(s) and ordinance violation(s) the suspect is being arrested for pursuant to the pursuit.
 - f. If any video evidence was captured and who reviewed the video.
4. The supervisor shall document in the Narrative section of the *Vehicle Pursuit* report the following, but not limited to, information:
- a. Statements shall be separately obtained and documented from officers, witnesses, and suspects.
 - b. Review of body worn camera video and mobile data video / audio recording equipment. Supervisors shall include a time stamp(s) in their report indicating the specific times of significant events captured by video. Supervisors shall verify the officer(s) statements reflect what occurred in the video evidence.
 - c. If video evidence of the pursuit is not available, document the route of the pursuit.
 - d. Evidence observed and/or collected at the scene.
5. *Vehicle Pursuit* reports are to be completed and submitted to the appropriate supervisor/shift commander within 8 days of the incident.
6. The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall be reviewed by the supervisor / shift commander within 10 days following the receipt from the supervisor who completed the report (within 18 days of the incident). The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall then be submitted by the supervisor / shift commander to their commanding officer.
7. The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall be reviewed by the commanding officer within 17 days following the receipt from the supervisor / shift commander (within 35 days of the incident).
8. Reports shall be thoroughly completed and reviewed within 35 days following the date the incident occurred and then submitted to the Internal Affairs Division.
9. Internal Affairs Division shall review the reports within 21 days following the receipt from the commanding officer of the work location.

10. In addition to completing the *Vehicle Pursuit* report, it is the field supervisor's responsibility to address any deficiencies in a timely manner in accordance with SOP 870.50 (Non-Disciplinary Corrective Action).
11. The supervisor shall ensure the body worn camera and mobile data video / audio recording video is categorized as a "Vehicle Pursuit" in the Axon system.

P. COMMANDING OFFICER'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

1. The member's commanding officer shall review the *Vehicle Pursuit* report and enter a recommendation regarding compliance with policy in the notes field. These reports shall be forwarded directly to the appropriate supervisor of the Internal Affairs Division.
2. If there are serious injuries requiring admission to a hospital or if death occurs as a result of a pursuit, the commanding officer shall also share the reports via the personnel management software with their respective bureau commander. Commanding officers may share pursuit reports with their bureau commander at any other time they believe notification is warranted.
3. Commanding officers shall contact the Internal Affairs Division in a timely manner if they recommend an internal investigation should be conducted to ensure there is not a significant delay between the incident and the internal investigation.

Q. VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT REQUIRED FOR CRITICAL INCIDENTS

A supervisor from the Homicide Division will determine if the *Vehicle Pursuit* report related to a critical incident will be filed by a Homicide Division supervisor or a district/division supervisor.

(WILEAG 6.1.4.7)

660.25 DECISION NOT TO PURSUE

- A. Vehicles that flee or otherwise attempt to elude officers shall not be pursued lacking the prerequisite knowledge or probable cause as outlined in section 660.20(C).
- B. In such instances where a stop is attempted, the vehicle continues, and a pursuit is not initiated, members shall do the following:
 1. Immediately notify the dispatcher of the non-pursuit circumstances, to include a detailed description of the vehicle, license plate number (if there is one), and description of the vehicle's driver if the member was able to observe the driver prior to flight. DEC will assist in updating the CAD event type to Non-Pursuit;
 2. Report the circumstances of the event to a field supervisor who will confer with the member and provide further guidance as needed to commence an investigation;
 3. If there is a license plate number obtained and it is a valid plate (not reported stolen), the officer will commence a full investigation within 72 hours for the violation of [Wis.](#)

[Stat. § 346.175](#) (Vehicle Owner's Liability for Fleeing a Traffic Officer);

4. If the investigating officer is able to identify the driver of the vehicle, the applicable citation(s) will be issued to the driver (not the owner of the vehicle). If the driver is not identified, the member shall issue the owner's liability citation to the registered owner of the vehicle pursuant [Wis. Stat. § 346.175](#) if all statutory requirements are met;
5. The investigating officer will utilize every available internal data base and other available records to identify and locate the owner of the vehicle;
6. If the investigation results in the identification of the driver, the investigating officer will issue the appropriate municipal citations, or when applicable, state criminal charges;
7. If the investigation results in the issuance of a citation to the owner of the vehicle it must be issued with 96 hours of the incident;
8. The investigating officer will make every effort to provide in-person service of an owner's liability citation, however, when not possible, the citation may be left at the owner's usual place of abode with a person age 14 or older, or as a last resort sent via certified mail to the owner's last known address (see statute for specific details); and
9. Officers shall document the reason for the non-pursuit in CAD in the remarks field.

660.30 INTER-JURISDICTION VEHICLE PURSUITS (WILEAG 6.1.4)

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to establish guidelines for radio communications when it appears a Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) vehicle pursuit is approaching another jurisdiction or when an outside agency vehicle pursuit is approaching the city of Milwaukee.

B. GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

1. The Milwaukee County Sheriff Department (MCSD) has authorized the use of "OACHASE" on the Milwaukee County 800 MHz radio system as the communication frequency to be used during a vehicle pursuit that is likely to enter or has entered another jurisdiction.
2. Dispatching and the management of the incident shall remain the responsibility of the initiating agency, unless another jurisdiction has taken over the pursuit.
3. The MCSD Dispatch Center's responsibilities during a pursuit initiated by another agency will generally be limited to restricting the use of "OACHASE" by other users.
4. As soon as possible after the termination of the active pursuit stage, the use of

“OACHASE” should conclude. Mobile units should return to their primary frequency, talk group channels, or one of the four countywide mutual aid talk groups.

5. When “OACHASE” is being used for a pursuit, the primary contact point for initial inter-agency communications automatically switches to “County 1”.
6. When involved in an inter-agency pursuit, police members shall begin each transmission with their agency name.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.6)

C. MPD VEHICLE PURSUIT ENTERING ANOTHER JURISDICTION

1. Should a MPD vehicle pursuit cross the city of Milwaukee boundary and enter into another jurisdiction, the primary and secondary unit(s), the managing supervisor, and the watch commander, if on-duty, are authorized to leave the city and continue the pursuit.
2. The pursuing police member shall begin radio transmissions with MILWAUKEE POLICE SQUAD # ___ and continue to broadcast the pursuit information as necessary with regard to changes in location, speed, direction of travel, and the reason(s) for the pursuit.
3. If the pursuit appears to be proceeding into another jurisdiction that is unaware of the pursuit, the DEC will assist in contacting the appropriate jurisdiction via OALAWCALL and notify them of the pursuit.
4. The MPD supervisor shall, at all times, remain in command of MPD personnel if the pursuit enters another jurisdiction. Supervisors from other agencies are responsible for their personnel and for following their individual agency’s policies and procedures.
5. If, during the pursuit, the primary and secondary roles are relinquished to another jurisdiction, operational command of the pursuit shall also be turned over to a supervisor of that jurisdiction.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.6)

D. OUTSIDE AGENCY VEHICLE PURSUIT ENTERING THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

1. Should another agency’s vehicle pursuit enter into the city of Milwaukee, department members shall not actively engage in the pursuit unless the initiating agency requests our assistance. If assistance is requested, MPD supervisors shall have the final authority over the involvement, if any, of MPD members in outside agency pursuits. MPD members must have supervisory approval to actively participate in an outside agency vehicle pursuit occurring in the city of Milwaukee. Active participation in another jurisdiction’s pursuit, whether as a primary or secondary unit, must be justified based upon the department’s established pursuit guidelines (see section 660.20).
2. The DEC will patch the pursuit channel/talk group to the “OACHASE” talk group to

facilitate communications with the outside agency and the MPD.

3. Police members shall monitor the location of the pursuit and assist with traffic control along the path of an outside agency pursuit in order to promote public safety. In addition, police members shall provide assistance at the point of termination, to include suspect apprehension, accident investigation, perimeter containment, area searches, etc.
4. MPD supervisors may, at any time, withdraw MPD members from participation in a pursuit initiated by another jurisdiction.
(WILEAG 6.1.4.6)

E. COORDINATION AND REPORTING

1. Supervisory personnel from pursuing and assisting agencies shall coordinate the post-pursuit details and reporting.
2. It is the responsibility of the initiating agency to report any inter-agency pursuit to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (State Patrol) no later than August 15 of each year, per [Wis. Stat. § 85.07\(8\)\(b\)](#).
(WILEAG 6.1.4.7)

660.35 VEHICLE PURSUIT COMMITTEE

- A. A Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall conduct periodic comprehensive reviews of all vehicle pursuit issues affecting the department.
- B. The Chief of Police shall appoint police members to the Vehicle Pursuit Committee, along with a graduate, in good standing, from the Citizen Academy who is also a resident of the City of Milwaukee that is identified by the Community Relations, Engagement and Recruitment Manager and subsequently approved by the Chief of Police, who shall serve a one-year term, subject to extension at the discretion of the Chief of Police.
- C. A supervisor from the Internal Affairs Division and a supervisor from the Office of Management Analysis and Planning shall be standing members of the Vehicle Pursuit Committee and shall not be subject to the aforementioned term limit.
- D. The Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall meet at least bi-annually, or as otherwise directed by the Chief of Police, and shall focus on, but not be limited to, the following:
 1. Justification of the pursuit by department members.
 2. Proper field supervision and supervisory review of pursuit incidents.
 3. Application and effectiveness of department policies and procedures concerning vehicle pursuits, including whether there has been a violation of SOP 660.05 (Due Regard).
 4. Proper use of department equipment (vehicle).

5. Effectiveness of Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) Training.
 6. Identification of training needs and opportunities for department members.
- E. The Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall prepare a written report of the committee's finding and/or recommendations, and submit such report to the Chief of Police within ten (10) days of the completed bi-annual or directed review. The Chief of Police, or designee, shall submit a copy of this report to the Fire and Police Commission executive director within thirty (30) days of the completed bi-annual or directed review. This report may be obtained through procedures established under Wisconsin Statutes related to public records.
- F. The Chief of Police, or designee, shall send correspondence to the Fire and Police Commission executive director if the Vehicle Pursuit Committee bi-annual meeting was not held.
- G. Any recommendations or other matters for consideration by the Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Office of the Chief.

660.40 EMERGENCY OPERATION PROCEDURES (WILEAG 6.1.3)

A. EMERGENCY DRIVING GUIDELINES

1. Department members shall consider the following factors when engaged in emergency operation of a department vehicle and responding to assignments of an emergency nature including, but not limited to:
 - a. The volume, type, speed and direction of the traffic.
 - b. The nature of the area, whether residential, commercial, school zone, open highway, etc.
 - c. The population density.
 - d. The weather and road conditions, e.g., the width and curves of the roadway, stopping and sight distances.
 - e. The police member's driving skills and condition of the police vehicle.
 - f. The incident/offense severity.
2. Department members shall exercise due regard for the safety of all persons when engaged in emergency operation of a department vehicle and responding to assignments of an emergency nature.

B. EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE MODES

Police members shall use emergency warning equipment in accordance with applicable statutes.

C. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL PATROL UNITS

1. When a police member in the field is involved in any situation where help is needed, they must be aware that a nonspecific request will result in an uncoordinated response. This may result in a greater hazard to life and property than the originating incident. This hazard may be minimized when possible by giving the following information:
 - a. Unit number.
 - b. Exact location.
 - c. Reason for the request.
 - d. Specify "emergency" if required (10-17).
 - e. Specify "backup" if required.
 - f. Number of units required to handle the situation.
 - g. Safe entry route.
 - h. Description of suspects and direction of travel.
2. The police member making the request shall remain near the radio long enough to determine if the call has been received by the DEC. Additionally, the police member shall establish a radio command post as soon as possible to provide status reports, coordinate the efforts of arriving units, and confirm that adequate assistance actually arrives.
3. All responding units shall identify themselves to the dispatcher.
4. Primary response units shall proceed to the designated location/command post in accordance with the response mode specified. They shall give the DEC an estimated time of arrival based on distance, traffic, and weather conditions.
5. Primary response units shall immediately notify the DEC upon arrival at the scene and provide a status report as soon as possible.
6. Upon receipt of a termination notice, responding units shall discontinue emergency operation and return to their assigned area unless specifically requested to continue to the location under normal driving conditions.

D. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The field supervisor, upon notification of a request for emergency assistance, shall note the classification/designation assigned by the DEC, and shall change the directed response mode if a different response mode is called for.

2. The field supervisor shall monitor the response until it has stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing specific units into or out of the response if necessary.
3. Upon being notified that an emergency response has been initiated, the field supervisor shall verify the following:
 - a. Proper response classification has been made.
 - b. No more than the required number of units is involved in the response.
 - c. The shift commander and affected allied agencies are being notified.

660.45 ROUTINE NON-EMERGENCY CALLS (WILEAG 6.1.3)

Department members shall operate department vehicles in a safe manner, complying with applicable traffic laws when responding to calls for service of a non-emergency nature. Operators of department vehicles shall operate vehicles in a courteous manner even though prompt response is required for routine non-emergency calls for service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk