

Select a Position: Support

From: Tiffany Stark-I will be present at the 06/11 committee meeting

My name is Tiffany Stark. I am an Acute MH Social Worker, Community Activist, member of MAARPR and have been personally impacted by SOP 660.

I'm in support of the recommendation of SOP 660 and SOP 575 made by the FPC on 04/16/25. As I'm writing this E-Comment today on 06/09/26 it is the second anniversary of the vehicle police pursuit chase that changed my daughter's father life forever. On 06/09/24 a vehicle being chased by the police slammed into my daughter's father Anthony Higgins, Jr causing him to have a spinal cord injury, which left him paralyzed from the neck down. He lived the next 16 months as a vegetable, miserable needing 24/7 care until he passed away on 10/24/25 from complications from the police vehicle pursuit on 06/09/26. Jaylen Lock was charged with causing bodily harm and sentenced in September 2025 with a 10 year sentence of 7 years in prison and 3 years of supervision. Jaylen Lock had no prior record. He had a learner's permit, he was scared and decided to flee police. After Mr. Higgins passed away on 10/24/25 Jaylen Lock was charged with second degree reckless homicide. He was just sentenced on 06/04/26 with a reduced sentence of 10 year sentence of 5 years in prison and 5 years on probation. This is a wild and unjust sentence to me and my daughter's life will be forever changed. We had to grieve not once, but twice. And we are still grieving every time there is another senseless police vehicle pursuit where another innocent person is injured or life has been taken away from their family and loved ones. I have been a long-time community activist for others and now I find myself personally impacted in the same matters I have been advocating for years. I actually have been attending the FPC meetings for years. **See link below of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Story 12/15/25 & for WISN Story featured on 05/20/26**

I ask where is the accountability for the police? Combating reckless driving with more reckless driving is NOT keeping our community safer, it's actually making it more dangerous.

Over the course of attending the FPC meetings for the last 8 months we learned that fewer than half of these pursuits have resulted in arrests. 6 out of 9 community members were innocent victims that died in 2025 just by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

More and more people are dying since the restrictions on police pursuits were expanded, costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in settlements. A presentation from October 2025 by Assist and Chief of Police Craig Sarnow mentioned a report from the DOJ from which the MPD has taken many of the recommendations. This same report calls out Milwaukee as an example of what happens when pursuit restrictions broaden, causing more accidents and deaths. It goes on to state that there is no correlation between a policy that does not allow pursuits for reckless driving & an increase of crime. **See link below of DOJ Report**

On December 18, 2025 NYU School of Law Policing Project came to the FPC meeting and gave a detailed report on police vehicle pursuits reporting these pursuits are harmful and recommend alternative options of such as Star-Chase, On-star, automated license plate readers, tire-deflation devices and intelligent

speed assist. We also learned that Milwaukee is the capital of police chases in the nation compared to other cities in the country. Chief Norman's response was that those alternatives are with a big price tag, but will continue to research it. **See link below of NYU Report**

On February 6, 2026 MPD made changes to SOP 660 where they will initiate a police vehicle pursuit based on speed alone. The FPC and community members I myself did not feel the policy as it stands went far enough with restrictions and that the people that already lost their lives in 2024/2025 would have still died. On February 26, 2026 a lawsuit was filed in the death of Amari Smith who died in a police vehicle pursuit in April 2024 and is still pending.

On 04/08/26 the FPC's final version was released in regards to SOP 660 with having more restrictions on police vehicle pursuits and changes to SOP 575 to include vehicle pursuits of video release when great bodily harm or death to provide community transparency.

Allowing pursuits only when each of these conditions is satisfied :

Probable cause of a violent crime, or in rare cases, OWI/reckless driving
Substantial risk of serious injury if suspect not immediately apprehended
Apprehension can't be safely accomplished later
Safety of not apprehending-safety risks of pursuit

MPD did agree to 6 month data reporting to the FPC regarding vehicle police pursuits starting in July 2026.

On 04/16/26 the FPC policy recommendation was voted and unanimously passed by the every FPC member. However, on 05/08/26 Chief Norman declined to adopt these recommended changes. Now due to Act 12 here we are in a new confusing state. I was part of the passage of SOP 575, which led to this controversy we are in now. If it wasn't for Act 12 the motion that passed unanimously on 04/16/26 would be the policy. I do not know why Chief Norman cannot meet us half way! We are not asking for all vehicle police pursuits to stop, but just want more restriction to make sure the community is safe and someone can drive down the street and they can make it home to their loved ones. These last two years have been absolute hell and for what? No one should die over a misdemeanor like a suspended license plate! No one! Please support this motion and let the full City Common Council have a say the constituents of this city!

Thank You,