



# TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 Vehicle Pursuit Report

To: Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: Annual Vehicle Pursuit Report, CY 2020

Chief,

As required by our Vehicle Pursuit Policy, please find here a summary of the annual Vehicle Pursuit data for calendar year 2020.

In 2020 there were 5 reported vehicular pursuits. There were no reported officers or civilians injured, including from offenders captured. The only property damage reported was to the vehicle of one of the suspects.

The operators of two of the fleeing vehicles were captured and referred to the criminal court system for prosecution. Mental Health did not appear to be considerations in either incident. One subject was suspected of drunk driving, and the other fled as his vehicle was not properly registered.

We believe that two of the pursuits were Larceny/Breaking and Entering Suspects from Hartford area theft rings. The fifth and final pursuit of the year was also suspected to be from Connecticut, although the reason for the stop was erratic operation, and upon running a query of the registration plate, it was learned that the plate was stolen.

As a result of continuing Breaking and Entering subjects from Connecticut coming in to the Western Massachusetts area, the department purchased three Stinger Tire Deflation devices which officers will begin to utilize in 2021. We are hopeful that not only will it assist in stopping dangerous pursuits and capturing offenders, but we are also hopeful that it will become common knowledge that our department possesses them and will reduce the targeting of our town by offenders.

### ***Demographics***

Of the two subjects that were known, both were Caucasian, one was male (age 34) and one was female (age 26). Neither were Hadley Residents.

### ***Continuation/Discontinuation***

In four of the pursuits, the offender's negligent operation ensued immediately upon the officer activating the cruiser blue lights, and in one pursuit, began to do so upon seeing the police cruiser even



## TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

before the blue lights were activated. Of the pursuits where the offender was captured, both were captured within one mile of where there were initially observed by officers.

Of the three offenders that evaded capture, discontinuation was affected by the pursuing officers and Supervisor/OIC involvement was not necessary to terminate the pursuit. All three pursuits had various time frames before they were self-terminated by the officer; one of which was terminated in about 15 seconds once the vehicle was clearly operating at extremely high speeds. The other two pursuits proceeded for no more than three miles or so, both of which were terminated at or near the Coolidge Bridge.

### *Justification*

In each case, criminal conduct, as opposed to civil motor vehicle infractions (such as equipment violations, inspection sticker, red light violation, etc.), were the reason for the initiation of contact by the officer. Following the initiation of each stop, each offender continued to operate negligently where the operation endangered the public, or immediately began operating negligently, justifying the continuation of each pursuit.

### *Conclusion*

Based on the information compiled here for CY 2020, I have determined that each officer used reasonable care and caution while assessing each pursuit. This care and caution resulted in a majority of pursuits being terminated, with the remaining resulting in the offender being captured in short periods of time. With zero injuries and minor property damage to one offender's vehicle, and tire deflation devices to be used in 2021, I have no suggestions for policy adjustment or specific retraining.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Mitchell Kuc