



# TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 Vehicle Pursuit Report

To: Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: Annual Vehicle Pursuit Report, CY 2021

Chief,

As required by our Vehicle Pursuit Policy, please find here a summary of the annual Vehicle Pursuit data for calendar year 2021.

In 2021 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 one offender's vehicle where tire deflation devices were used by Mass. State Police.

The operators of three of the fleeing vehicles were captured and referred to the criminal court system for prosecution. Of those three, one of the pursuits was terminated in Hadley after the vehicle fled into Northampton at a high rate of speed, and the offender was later captured by Mass. State Police. Of the remaining two offenders that were captured, one suffered from a substance use disorder and fled because they had drugs. He was captured in Northampton by Hadley Officers. The final offender that was captured is a so called "Sovereign Citizen". Sovereign Citizens believe that they have rights under our system of laws, although do not have to abide by the laws; most commonly police encounter sovereigns due to motor vehicle violations as they do not believe in registering vehicles or maintaining driver's licenses. This particular pursuit should more be defined as a Failure to Stop as there were no high speeds involved, and the incident was terminated when tire deflation devices were used.

The two remaining incidents where the offenders were not captured were as a result of the pursuits being terminated. One incident involved two mopeds/mini-bikes that were reportedly operating on the Norwottuck Rail Train. When the offenders were located, they fled into Northampton where the pursuit was discontinued. The last of the five pursuits was on Route 116 where the operator upon seeing blue lights fled northbound at a high rate of speed. The officer terminated the pursuit as the original reason for the stop was for a minor traffic violation.

### ***Demographics***

Of the three subjects that were known, two were Caucasian, one age 36, the other 33. The third was Hispanic and was 18 years old. None were Hadley Residents.



## TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

In all of the pursuits, the offender's negligent operation ensued immediately upon the officer activating the cruiser blue lights, allowing continued pursuit per department policy. Of the pursuits where the offender was captured by Hadley Officers, both were captured within 2-3 miles. One offender was captured in Hadley, and the other was captured at Hampshire Heights Apartment complex in Northampton.

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. Both pursuits had short time frames, less than two minutes, before they were self-terminated by the officer.

### ***Justification***

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 2021, I have determined that each officer used reasonable care and caution while assessing each pursuit. This care and caution resulted in pursuits being terminated when they were unsafe, 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, I have no suggestions for policy adjustment or specific retraining.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Mitchell Kuc