



# TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

15 East Street, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035 Telephone 413-584-0883 Fax 413-582-9053

*MICHAEL A. MASON*  
Chief of Police

## 2022 Vehicle Pursuit Report

To: Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: Annual Vehicle Pursuit Report, CY 2022

Chief,

As required by our Vehicle Pursuit Policy, please find here a summary of the annual Vehicle Pursuit data for calendar year 2022. Vehicle pursuits are defined of clear incidents of motorists attempting to evade capture by using high speeds and other abrupt and illegal actions to defeat traffic in order to facilitate escape. Incidents where officers are attempting to catch up to vehicles and there is no clear indication of attempts to evade are not considered motor vehicle pursuits and are not considered for this report.

2022 started off with a spike in vehicular pursuits, with almost as many in 2021 by the end of February. This spike led us to review, and ultimately restrict our vehicular pursuit policy. The restriction essentially requires that officers default to not pursuing, unless certain circumstances are present, and for supervisors to default to termination unless certain circumstances are present. Previously, officers were initially allowed to pursue and assess, and supervisors were allowed to monitor a pursuit and determine if discontinuation was appropriate.

In 2022 there were seven reported vehicular pursuits. No injuries of officers were reported, and no cruisers were damaged. One of the offenders crashed and totaled his vehicle on Interstate 91 in Holyoke after fleeing a motor vehicle stop in Hadley. He and his passenger suffered minor injury, although the pursuit had been terminated several minutes prior to the crash in Northampton, and the pursuing Hadley cruiser was several minutes behind and nowhere in sight when the crash occurred.

The operators of four of the seven incidents were referred to the criminal court system for prosecution. The three remaining incidents were never captured or identified.

The first pursuit occurred on 1/16/22 after the vehicle was operating recklessly on Route 9. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, and ultimately terminated the pursuit on Interstate 91. The next occurred on 1/28/22 which was the previously mentioned crash on Interstate 91 in Holyoke. Another pursuit occurred on 2/22/22 and the offender was driving a stolen motor vehicle. The pursuit was terminated once the vehicle was in Amherst. On 2/24/22, our updated motor vehicle pursuit went into effect. On



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05/02/22, our dispatch received a call a fleeing shoplifter. Officers located the vehicle who attempted to evade officers, and officers terminated once a license plate was obtained. On 7/26/2022, a member of the Felony Lane Gang (a regional identity theft crime ring) attempted to cash a check at the Easthampton Savings Bank. Upon arrival of police, the offender fled and officers terminated once the vehicle got into Northampton. On 9/15/22 a fleeing shoplifter was located by on-duty officers and refused to stop until after discarding the stolen items. The last incident occurred on 12/4/22 where a party contacted dispatch to report a vehicle parked on a roadway and the driver appeared asleep. Upon being woken by the officer, the driver sped away at a high rate of speed and could not be located after a short pursuit.

### ***Demographics***

Of the five subjects that were known, four were Caucasian and the fifth was African American. None were Hadley Residents.

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

In all but one pursuit, officers self-terminated their pursuits and were able to identify the drivers through subsequent investigation. The remaining pursuit that was not terminated as the driver stopped just prior to termination of the pursuit.

### ***Justification***

In all but one incident, each driver was engaged in criminal conduct prior to the initiation of each attempt to stop. The last of the pursuits involved the driver who was asleep behind the wheel who sped away from the responding officer.

### ***Conclusion***

Based on the information compiled here for CY 2022, I have determined that each officer used reasonable care and caution while assessing each response.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Mitchell Kuc