


<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.0</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURPOSE AND POLICY</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURPOSE


Fairfax County is a rapidly urbanizing jurisdiction creating new safety challenges for motorists, pedestrians, and officers utilizing our roadways, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for all officers, supervisors, and commanders when making the critical decision to initiate a pursuit, continue a pursuit, or end a pursuit.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department that officers hold the highest value for the sanctity of human life. Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-77 (Escape, flight and pursuit; arrest anywhere in Commonwealth) authorizes a law enforcement officer, with or without a warrant, to pursue such person anywhere in the Commonwealth. Officers, controlling pursuit supervisors, and commanders must always balance the need for immediate apprehension with the danger created by the pursuit as the preservation of all human life is paramount. If an officer has any doubts on whether the need for immediate apprehension outweighs the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers, then the officer shall defer to the safety of all and not pursue.

Pursuit management is critical to the safety of all individuals. Therefore, the controlling pursuit supervisor shall ensure that only those authorized directly and indirectly involved units participate in the pursuit. Over-response poses an unnecessary risk to the officers and the public and shall be continually monitored.


Officers, controlling pursuit supervisors, and commanders shall have a duty to intervene to terminate any pursuit when the danger created by the pursuit outweighs the need for immediate apprehension. In all situations, every officer is expected to act within their training and exercise sound judgment. Every pursuit will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The officer initiating a pursuit and the authorizing controlling pursuit supervisor must be able to clearly articulate that

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.0
	TOPIC: PURPOSE AND POLICY	

the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers.


Throughout the pursuit, officers have a duty to ensure that medical aid is rendered or access to medical treatment is provided to any individual who complains of injury, has obvious injuries, or who requests medical attention as a direct result from actions during the pursuit.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.1
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: DEFINITIONS		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
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I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Controlling Pursuit Supervisor: The sworn supervisor who is in control of the pursuit.
- B. Directly Involved:
1. All officers who are engaged in the act of following another vehicle, with emergency lights and siren activated, in order to apprehend the driver who has disregarded the signal to stop.
 2. Officers responding, with emergency lights and siren activated and/or who are response driving, to a pursuit with the intent to participate in the pursuit.
 3. Any officers utilizing their emergency lights and siren to maintain proximity to the pursuit.
- C. Indirectly Involved: Officers who are not directly involved in the pursuit but are responding to a specific location to assist the directly involved officers with a some specific law enforcement-related act (ex: utilizing Stop Sticks, closing intersections, etc.).
- D. Initiating Officer: The officer who initially attempts to stop the fleeing vehicle.
- E. Lead Unit: The officer who is directly behind the fleeing vehicle. Throughout a pursuit, the lead unit might change.
- F. Other Agency Pursuit: A law enforcement officer from a law enforcement agency, other than the Fairfax County Police Department, pursuing a vehicle within Fairfax County's jurisdiction.
- G. Probable Cause: Facts and circumstances which, taken together with rational inferences therefrom, would lead a prudent individual to believe that a crime

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.1
	TOPIC: DEFINITIONS	


or a traffic infraction is being, or has been, committed, and that a particular person committed it.

- H. Pursuit: An attempt by an officer to apprehend the driver of a vehicle who is disregarding the signal to stop. A pursuit lasts only from the moment an officer initiates a pursuit to the pursuit conclusion, whether the conclusion results from the fleeing driver stopping, use of a vehicle stopping technique, pursuit termination, or authorization to pursue is declined. Any response to incidents, such as a bail out, occurring after the pursuit conclusion is not considered part of the pursuit.
- I. Pursuit Termination: When officers are no longer attempting to apprehend the driver as a result of an order by the controlling pursuit supervisor/lead unit, by actions of directly/indirectly involved officers, or the pursued vehicle stops.
- J. Pursuit Withdrawal: Whenever an involved unit in a pursuit removes themselves from the pursuit.
- K. Pursuit Driving: The act of following another vehicle, with emergency lights and siren activated, in order to apprehend the driver who has disregarded the signal to stop. This is applicable regardless of the distance, speed, duration, or number of police vehicles directly involved and whether or not an apprehension is made.
- L. Pursuit-Rated Vehicles: Any Fairfax County owned vehicle that has full emergency equipment (lights and siren) and has been approved to be directly involved in pursuits by the Criminal Justice Academy and the Resources Management Bureau and denoted by a "Pursuit Driving" sticker next to the cruiser number on the door frame.
- M. Reasonable Articulable Suspicion: Facts and circumstances which, taken together with rational inferences therefrom, would cause a reasonable police officer to suspect that a person is, has been, or is about to be, involved in criminal activity or a traffic infraction.
- N. Response Driving: The act of operating a police vehicle consistent with the exemptions in Va. Code Ann. § 46.2.-920 (Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements).
- O. Second Unit: The officer who is directly behind the lead unit. Throughout a pursuit, the second unit might change.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.1
	TOPIC: DEFINITIONS	

- P. Third Unit: The officer who is directly behind the second unit. Throughout a pursuit, the third unit might change.


DRAFT

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.2
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY		
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I. PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County is a highly congested, urbanized area requiring a high level of justification to engage in a pursuit. Prior to engaging in a pursuit, officers shall consider their pursuit training, experience, and ability and potential associated risk factors such as environmental conditions (including weather, road conditions, critical infrastructure, etc.), direction of the pursuit (including traffic conditions, pedestrian traffic, school crossings, type of roadway, etc.), the safety of all (especially officers, public, and any passengers, etc.), seriousness of offense, and the danger the offender poses to public safety. Therefore, the following are the pursuit parameters within Fairfax County:

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- A. Officers may initiate a pursuit and pursue within Fairfax County to include the Town of Vienna, the Town of Herndon, and the Town of Clifton.
 - B. The decision to pursue must be based upon facts and circumstances known to the officer at the time the officer initiates a pursuit.
 - C. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-817 (Disregarding signal by law-enforcement officer to stop; eluding police; penalties) shall not be the sole justification to pursue or continue to pursue a fleeing vehicle.
 - D. Officers may pursue within Fairfax County when all the following criteria are met:
 - 1. The officer has reasonable articulable suspicion that the driver, including passengers, has committed, has attempted to commit, is committing, or has threatened to use violence to commit a violent felony against a person; other criminal offense; or a traffic infraction; AND
 - 2. The driver refuses to stop when given the signal to do so; AND
 - 3. The need for apprehension outweighs the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers.

<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	<p>SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>	<p>NUMBER: 503.2</p>
	<p>TOPIC: PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY</p>	

E. A violent felony is defined by Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-297.1 (Sentence of person twice previously convicted of certain violent felonies) as:

- First and Second Degree Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter under Article 1 (§ 18.2-30 et seq.);
- Mob-related felonies under Article 2 (§ 18.2-38 et seq.);
- Any kidnapping or abduction felony under Article 3 (§ 18.2-47 et seq.);
- Any malicious or felonious assault or malicious bodily wounding under Article 4 (§ 18.2-51 et seq.);
- Robbery under §18.2-58 and carjacking § 18.2-58.1;

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- Criminal sexual assault punishable as a felony under Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.);
- Arson in violation of § 18.2-77 (Burning or destroying dwelling, house etc.) when the structure burned was occupied or a Class 3 felony violation of § 18.2-79.

F. The officer initiating a pursuit shall immediately notify the dispatcher, via the police radio, the following:

1. They are in pursuit
2. Specific charges
3. Unit number, and
4. Location (including direction of travel)


G. Officers are encouraged to provide further information when practical and safe to do so, such as:

1. Detailed vehicle description (make, model, color, license plate, etc.)
2. Number of occupants
3. Weapons, if known

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.2
	TOPIC: PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY	

4. Speed

- H. If an officer has any doubts on whether the need for apprehension outweighs the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers, then the officer shall defer to the safety of all and not pursue.
- I. Only sworn police officers in authorized vehicles (General Order 503.4, Pursuit Vehicles, Section I, Subsection A) may initiate and be directly involved in a pursuit.
- J. There shall be no more than three police units directly involved in a pursuit unless approved by the controlling pursuit supervisor. Canine units are not included when determining the authorized number of cruisers. However, only one canine unit may be directly or indirectly involved in the pursuit, unless the controlling pursuit supervisor determines otherwise based on articulable sanctity of life circumstances.
- K. Officers pursuing a motorcycle shall recognize that motorcycles often have capabilities which exceed those of our pursuit rated vehicles. Therefore, the most prudent decision in motorcycle pursuits may be that of termination.
- L. Any police vehicle crash will be investigated and documented in accordance with General Order 505, Police Vehicle Crashes.
- M. In accordance with this General Order, pursuits may be pre-approved through an operations plan and with prior approval of the bureau commander. An operations plan and threat analysis shall be completed, approved, and distributed to the Duty Officer, Police Liaison Commander, helicopter, canine, and any affected station commander. There shall be an expiration date and time included in the operations plan. The operational plan shall be specific to an on-going criminal investigation and where a pursuit might occur.
- N. Officers are prohibited from being directly or indirectly involved in a pursuit when:
 1. Transporting prisoners.
 2. There is a juvenile in their cruiser, to include a juvenile ride-along.
 3. There is a passenger in their cruiser, excluding sworn law enforcement personnel.


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.3
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUITS OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY (WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2		
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUITS OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY (WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)

Pursuits shall be permitted anywhere within the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, and in accordance with the following requirements:

A. Pursuits that originated within Fairfax County shall be permitted and justified to continue into another jurisdiction with prior authorization from the controlling pursuit supervisor and when the officer has probable cause that the offender, including passengers, has committed, has attempted to commit, is committing, or has threatened the use of violence to commit, a violent felony against a person as defined in Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-297.1 (Sentence of person twice previously convicted of certain violent felonies):

- First and Second Degree Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter under Article 1 (§ 18.2-30 et seq.);
- Mob-related felonies under Article 2 (§ 18.2-38 et seq.);
- Any kidnapping or abduction felony under Article 3 (§ 18.2-47 et seq.);
- Any malicious or felonious assault or malicious bodily wounding under Article 4 (§ 18.2-51 et seq.);
- Robbery under §18.2-58 and carjacking § 18.2-58.1;
- Criminal sexual assault punishable as a felony under Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.);
- Arson in violation of § 18.2-77 (Burning or destroying dwelling, house etc.) when the structure burned was occupied or a Class 3 felony violation of § 18.2-79.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.3
	TOPIC: PURSUITS OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY (WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)	

B. Under the following operational plans:

Any specific instance not mentioned above with prior approval of the bureau commander. An operations plan and threat analysis shall be completed, approved, and distributed to the Duty Officer, Police Liaison Commander, helicopter, canine, and any affected station commanders. There shall be an expiration date and time included in the operations plan. The operational plan shall be specific to an on-going criminal investigation and where a pursuit might occur.

C. When an officer in pursuit believes that the pursuit will enter another jurisdiction within the Commonwealth of Virginia, the officer shall immediately notify the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) of the jurisdiction being entered. Pursuit updates should be continually provided to DPSC to assist the responding officers of the entered jurisdiction in locating and aiding in the pursuit.

D. Unless authorized by the controlling pursuit supervisor, no more than three directly involved units plus one canine unit may enter another jurisdiction.


E. Officers should be cognizant that their actions during the pursuit occurring outside Fairfax County are subject to review by that jurisdiction's lead law enforcement agency and that jurisdiction's Commonwealth's Attorney.

F. If an arrest is made in an adjacent city or county to that of Fairfax County, the arrested shall immediately be returned to a special magistrate within Fairfax County.

G. If an arrest is made in a city or county not adjacent to Fairfax County, the arrested shall be transported to the magistrate of the city or county in which the arrest occurred.

1. In accordance with Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-76 (Arrest outside county or city where charge is to be tried), should the arrest take place with a warrant, the judicial officer will either commit the accused to the custody of the arresting officer for immediate transfer to Fairfax County, commit the accused to jail for transfer as soon as possible, or release the accused according to law (bail, personal recognizance).


2. In accordance with Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-77 (Escape, flight and pursuit; arrest anywhere in Commonwealth), should the arrest take place without a warrant, the arresting officer shall obtain a warrant from the judicial officer

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.3
	TOPIC: PURSUITS OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY (WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)	

where the arrest was made, charging the accused with the offense(s) committed in Fairfax County.

3. Offenses that are observed by the pursuing officer(s) occurring beyond Fairfax County, but within the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be reported to the authorities in the jurisdiction where the offenses were observed. The pursuing officer(s) shall offer all reasonable assistance to further that jurisdiction's investigation and any resulting prosecution.

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<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.4</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURSUITS INTO MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		


I. PURSUITS INTO MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In accordance with Maryland Criminal Procedures § 2-305 (Authority of officers of other states to arrest in State) and District of Columbia Code § 23-901 (Arrests in the District of Columbia by officers of other States), Virginia law enforcement officers have statutory authority to pursue into Maryland and the District of Columbia to effect arrests, provided that probable cause exists involving the occurrence of an offense that is a felony in the Commonwealth of Virginia.


Pursuits shall be permitted to enter Maryland and the District of Columbia in accordance with the following requirements:

A. Pursuits that originated within Fairfax County shall be permitted and justified to continue into another jurisdiction with prior authorization from the controlling pursuit supervisor and when the officer has probable cause that the offender, including passengers, has committed, has attempted to commit, is committing, or has threatened the use of violence to commit, a violent felony against a person as defined in Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-297.1 (Sentence of person twice previously convicted of certain violent felonies):

- First and Second Degree Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter under Article 1 (§ 18.2-30 et seq.);
- Mob-related felonies under Article 2 (§ 18.2-38 et seq.);
- Any kidnapping or abduction felony under Article 3 (§ 18.2-47 et seq.);
- Any malicious or felonious assault or malicious bodily wounding under Article 4 (§ 18.2-51 et seq.);
- Robbery under §18.2-58 and carjacking § 18.2-58.1;
- Criminal sexual assault punishable as a felony under Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.);

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.4
	TOPIC: PURSUITS INTO MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	


- Arson in violation of § 18.2-77 (Burning or destroying dwelling, house etc.) when the structure burned was occupied or a Class 3 felony violation of § 18.2-79.
- B. When an officer in pursuit believes that the pursuit will enter either Maryland or the District of Columbia, the officer shall immediately notify the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC). To the extent possible, pursuit updates should be provided to DPSC to assist the entered jurisdiction officers in locating and aiding in the pursuit.
 - C. Unless authorized by the controlling pursuit supervisor, no more than three directly involved units plus one canine unit may enter may enter Maryland or the District of Columbia.
 - D. The pursuing officer(s) shall allow a unit or units from the entered jurisdiction to become the lead units. It is the responsibility of that jurisdiction's units to initiate any additional requests for assistance.
 - E. In the event units from the entered jurisdiction do not become the lead units, the controlling pursuit supervisor shall direct the pursuing officers when to terminate the pursuit.
 - F. In the event the pursuing Fairfax County officers arrest the fleeing suspect(s), the suspect(s) shall be held for the jurisdictional units where the arrest occurred. Custody shall be transferred to that jurisdiction's unit. Fairfax County officers should then obtain the necessary warrants in Fairfax County and begin the extradition process.
 - G. Offenses that are observed by the pursuing officer(s) occurring outside the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be reported to the authorities in the jurisdiction where the offenses were observed. The pursuing officer(s) shall offer all reasonable assistance to further that jurisdictions investigation and any resulting prosecution.
 - H. Officers should be cognizant that their actions during the pursuit occurring outside the Commonwealth of Virginia are subject to review by that jurisdiction's lead law enforcement agency and that jurisdiction's prosecutor.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.5
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: OTHER-AGENCY PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. OTHER-AGENCY PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY


Officers may assist with other-agency pursuits within Fairfax County in accordance with General Order series 503, Vehicle Pursuits and the following requirements:

- A. The first Fairfax County Police Department officer becoming aware of an other-agency pursuit in or approaching Fairfax County shall advise the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC), via the police radio, of the pursuit.
- B. If another law enforcement agency unit is by themselves and in pursuit, then Fairfax County Police Department officers, with approval from a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander, may be directly involved only for a reasonable amount of time to ascertain the facts and circumstances surrounding the pursuit from that agency (this will usually be completed by DPSC). After a reasonable amount of time has elapsed and the facts and circumstances surrounding the pursuit are unknown, then the pursuit participation shall be immediately terminated by a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander.
- C. Once the facts and circumstances surrounding the pursuit are determined, a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander must authorize or not authorize the continuation of the Fairfax County Police Department's direct involvement. Officers and the controlling pursuit supervisor must be able to articulate that the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers.
- D. In the event another law enforcement agency has multiple units in pursuit or requests Fairfax County Police Department's assistance with their pursuit, a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander must authorize or not authorize Fairfax County Police Department's direct involvement based on the facts and circumstances surrounding that pursuit. Officers and the controlling pursuit supervisor must be able to articulate that the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.5
	TOPIC: OTHER-AGENCY PURSUITS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY	


offender, including passengers.

- E. With approval from a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander, Fairfax County Police Department officers may be indirectly involved in an other-agency pursuit. Multi-agency coordination is crucial for the safety of all individuals; therefore, proper notification and communication is essential for the safe, indirect involvement by Fairfax County Police Department officers.
- F. If a supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander authorizes Fairfax County officers to be directly involved in an other-agency pursuit, then the controlling pursuit supervisor shall provide, via the police radio, the total number of Fairfax County units allowed to be directly involved. The number of Fairfax County units allowed will be dependent on the number of other-agency vehicles directly involved in the pursuit. Strong consideration should be given to limiting a total of three units (other-agency and Fairfax County Police Department officers) directly involved. For example, if there are two other-agency units directly involved in the pursuit, then only one Fairfax County Police Department officer should be authorized to be directly involved.
- G. Fairfax County officers shall terminate their pursuit assistance when the other-agency unit(s) leaves Fairfax County's jurisdiction unless the pursuit is in accordance with General Order 503.3, Pursuits Outside Fairfax County (Within the Commonwealth of Virginia).
- H. Officers should obtain warrants for traffic and criminal offenses observed within Fairfax County in the event the identity of the offender is established.
- I. If the other agency terminates its pursuit while within Fairfax County, Fairfax County units may continue to pursue only on the basis that the pursuit continues to satisfy the provisions within General Order 503.2, Initiating a Pursuit, and with the controlling pursuit supervisor's authorization.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.6
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: CONTROLLING PURSUIT SUPERVISOR		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. CONTROLLING PURSUIT SUPERVISOR

- A. Once a Fairfax County police officer initiates a pursuit, a monitoring patrol supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander shall become the controlling pursuit supervisor and adhere to the supervisory responsibilities outlined in this General Order. It is expected that a district patrol supervisor from the district wherein the pursuit was initiated will become the controlling pursuit supervisor.
- B. The responsibility for authorizing the continuation of a pursuit shall rest solely with the controlling pursuit supervisor. The controlling pursuit supervisor shall exercise sound judgment and their decisions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-817 (Disregarding signal by law-enforcement officer to stop; eluding police; penalties) shall not be the sole justification to authorize a pursuit or continue a pursuit.
- D. A supervisor or commander who has initiated or is directly involved in a pursuit, may temporarily be the controlling pursuit supervisor until a non-involved commander can assume the controlling pursuit supervisor responsibilities. If no other commander is available, the Police Liaison Commander will be the controlling pursuit supervisor.
- E. The controlling pursuit supervisor shall remain in command throughout the entirety of the pursuit unless command needs to be transferred under articulable emergency circumstances.
- F. If an other-agency pursuit is within Fairfax County and that agency requests Fairfax County police officers become directly or indirectly involved in that pursuit, a monitoring patrol supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander shall either authorize or not authorize the officer's pursuit participation. The authorizing patrol supervisor, Duty Officer, or commander will now become the controlling pursuit supervisor of all Fairfax County units involved.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.7
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUIT VEHICLES		
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I. PURSUIT VEHICLES

A. Pursuit Rated Vehicles

Only pursuit rated vehicles may initiate or be directly involved in a pursuit. Pursuit-rated vehicles are identified with “Pursuit Driving” label next to the cruiser number located on the doorframe.


B. Police Motorcycles

1. Police motorcycles equipped with full emergency equipment (lights and siren) may be directly involved in a pursuit until a police vehicle becomes directly involved in the pursuit.
2. Once a police vehicle becomes directly involved in the pursuit, the police motorcycle shall immediately withdraw from being directly involved. The pursuit withdrawal shall be in accordance with General Order 503.11, Terminating Pursuits and Pursuit Withdrawal, Section II, Subsection B.
3. Police Motorcycles may be indirectly involved in a pursuit.
4. Off-road police motorcycles shall not be directly or indirectly involved in a pursuit.

C. Truck chassis vehicles which are not labeled as a “Pursuit Driving” vehicle, may only be indirectly involved in a pursuit.

D. Non-Fairfax County Owned Vehicles


Vehicles not owned by Fairfax County shall not be directly or indirectly involved in a pursuit.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.8
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUIT DRIVING		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2, 41.3.1 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10, OPR.01.02, OPR.01.03		

I. PURSUIT DRIVING

Pursuit driving poses a heightened level of risk to the public, officers, and the offender, including passengers. Therefore, the overall safety of the public, officers, and the offender, including passengers, will always be considered during pursuit driving. Officers shall, at all times during pursuit driving, operate the police vehicle with due regard for safety of all individuals and within their training and abilities. Only those officers who have been authorized to be directly involved in the pursuit may use pursuit driving.

- A. The emergency operation of police vehicles during pursuit driving shall be in accordance with the Va. Code Ann. 46.2-920 (Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situation; exceptions and additional requirements).
- B. During pursuit driving, full emergency equipment shall be utilized. This includes the constant, not manual or intermittent, use of the siren.
- C. Officers shall maintain control of their police vehicle at all times and operate the vehicle within their training and abilities.
- D. Except during a rolling roadblock and the use of the Precision Immobilization Technique (see General Order 504, Vehicle Stopping Techniques for further), all police vehicles directly involved in pursuit driving shall provide enough space and distance to ensure proper braking and reaction time in the event the fleeing vehicle or a police vehicle takes evasive action, stops quickly, or other potentially dangerous circumstances become present.
- E. The passing of police vehicles presents hazards to the officers involved. In order to mitigate the safety issues, the passing of police vehicles directly involved in the pursuit should be avoided unless first coordinated, via the police radio, with the involved officers.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.9
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES

Understanding that officers may not consistently remain as the lead, second, or third unit, the following are the responsibilities of each unit.

A. Lead Unit


The lead unit will:

1. Provide updated information regarding the location and direction of travel until primary radio control has been transferred. Radio communications should be as concise as possible to allow communication between the dispatcher, the controlling pursuit supervisor, and the units directly and indirectly involved.
2. Have primary radio control until the second unit arrives and assumes radio control.
3. Be responsible for safely keeping the fleeing vehicle in sight.
4. Have the authority to terminate a pursuit.

B. Second Unit

The second unit will:

1. When initially becoming actively engaged in the pursuit, immediately notify the dispatcher, via the police radio, that they are the second unit.
2. Assume the radio communication responsibilities. When appropriate, the second unit will provide continuous updates as to the location and direction of travel of the pursuit. Only the most pertinent information should be provided, as this will allow others, particularly the helicopter, sufficient opportunities to use the radio.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.9
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES	

3. Maintain visual contact with the lead unit.
4. Assume the lead unit responsibilities if circumstances dictate.

C. Third Unit

The third unit will:

1. When initially becoming directly involved in the pursuit, immediately notify the dispatcher, via the police radio, they are the third unit.
2. Maintain visual contact with the second unit.
3. Assume the lead unit or the second unit responsibilities if circumstances dictate.

D. Additional Units when Authorized


When authorized by the controlling pursuit supervisor, any additional units will:

1. When initially becoming directly involved in the pursuit, immediately notify the dispatcher, via the police radio, that they are the fourth, fifth, sixth, etc. unit.
2. Maintain visual contact with the unit directly ahead of them.
3. Assume either the lead unit, second unit, or third unit responsibilities if circumstances dictate.

E. Controlling Pursuit Supervisor


Upon becoming aware of a vehicle pursuit initiated by a Fairfax County police officer or an other-agency pursuit within Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Police Department becomes directly or indirectly involved in the pursuit, the controlling pursuit supervisor shall:

1. Acknowledge, via the police radio, the vehicle pursuit and either authorize or not authorize the pursuit.
2. Be responsible for authorizing and the continuation of a pursuit. The controlling pursuit supervisor shall exercise sound judgment and their

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.9
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES	

decisions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

3. Be able to articulate that by authorizing the pursuit, the need for the apprehension of the fleeing suspect outweighs the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and the offender, including passengers.
4. Acknowledge, via the police radio, that the pursuit is leaving Fairfax County and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia and either authorize or not authorize the pursuit to continue in accordance with General Order 503.9, Pursuits Outside Fairfax County within the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or General Order 503.10, Pursuits into Maryland and the District of Columbia.
5. Take command and manage the pursuit, to include:
 - a. Monitoring the pursuit for compliance to applicable policies and procedures.
 - b. Being cognizant of the directly involved officers' demeanor.
 - c. Being aware of the environmental conditions such as the weather, time of day, traffic conditions, and the area and speed of the pursuit.
 - d. Monitoring the number of authorized pursuit vehicles directly involved in the pursuit.
 - e. Monitoring the number of indirectly involved units.
 - f. Maintaining command of the Fairfax County Police Department officers involved in the pursuit, no matter where the pursuit is located.
 - g. Authorizing additional units as required.
6. In order to maintain proper pursuit management, it is suggested that the controlling pursuit supervisor park their police vehicle and use all resources available (CAD Map, etc.) to manage the pursuit.
7. Account for:
 - a. All directly involved officers at the conclusion of the pursuit.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.9
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES	

- b. Any property damage that occurs as a direct result of the pursuit or a direct result from actions occurring during the pursuit.
- c. Any injuries that occurred as a direct result of the pursuit or a direct result from actions occurring during the pursuit (See General Order 503.14, Pursuit Related Crash Investigation for further.)

F. Canine Unit

Either the dispatcher or the canine units shall determine the closest canine unit to respond to the pursuit. Only one canine unit may be directly or indirectly involved in the pursuit, unless the controlling pursuit supervisor determines otherwise based on articulable safety needs.


Canine units, if available, shall:

1. Utilize response driving when responding to a pursuit. It is understood that the response might be from further distances than other police units.
2. Immediately mark enroute or advise a dispatcher they are enroute to the pursuit.
3. Advise the dispatcher, via the police radio, when they are directly involved in the pursuit.
4. Not be considered as part of the presumptive three police vehicle limit in accordance with General Order 503.2, Initiating a Pursuit, Section I, Subsection K.

G. Helicopter Unit

In accordance with General Order 530.2, Police Helicopter Operations, the helicopter will:

1. Respond, at the request of the Department of Public Safety Communications, to provide aerial surveillance of the pursuit.
2. Assume primary radio responsibility, when feasible.
3. When the helicopter unit has sufficiently identified the fleeing vehicle, they shall notify the controlling supervisor in order for a decision to terminate the pursuit when the need for apprehension no longer outweighs the

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.9
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES	


danger created by the pursuit. However, consideration must be given to the helicopter approaching restricted air space requiring the involved officers to continue in the pursuit.

4. Monitor traffic and environmental conditions. Any potential unsafe condition, such as upcoming stopped traffic, red lights, school zone, etc., will be relayed/communicated to the ground units, via the police radio, as soon as possible.
5. When possible, video and audio record the pursuit and any post-pursuit actions.
6. Withdraw from the pursuit for a medical emergency requiring the helicopter's assistance or upon entering an area where the helicopter is not authorized to fly.

H. Department of Public Safety Communications


In accordance with the Department of Public Safety Communications Standard Operating Procedures, the law enforcement dispatcher will:

- Acknowledge the officer initiating the pursuit.
- Restrict the channel to pursuit traffic only unless another police emergency arises.
- Determine who the controlling pursuit supervisor is and announce that via the police radio.
- Immediately request canine and/or the helicopter.
 - NOTE: No authorization from the controlling pursuit supervisor or the initiating officer is needed prior to requesting canine and/or the helicopter.
- Acknowledge, via the police radio, the second unit, third unit, and other units until the number of authorized police vehicles has been reached.
- Announce, via the police radio, that the maximum number of authorized police vehicles has been reached.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.9
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES	

- If the pursuit is terminated, acknowledge the termination and confirm, via the police radio, all directly involved officers have terminated their pursuit participation.
- Coordinate with affected jurisdictions if a pursuit is to leave Fairfax County.
- If the pursuit is terminated in another jurisdiction, immediately notify that jurisdiction of the termination.
- Coordinate with affected jurisdictions if an other-agency pursuit is within Fairfax County. This includes notifying the other agency that the Fairfax County Police Department is terminating their pursuit participation or are not participating in the pursuit.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.10
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: TERMINATING PURSUITS		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. TERMINATING PURSUITS

Officers may continue a pursuit as long as it is reasonable and prudent to do so. In some instances, however, a decision to terminate a pursuit may be the most appropriate course of action. Officers and controlling pursuit supervisors must always balance the need for immediate apprehension with the danger created by the pursuit. Any doubt concerning the reasonableness of a pursuit should always be resolved in favor of the safety of the public, of the officers, and of the offender, including passengers.

When the helicopter unit has sufficiently identified the fleeing vehicle, they shall notify the controlling supervisor for a decision to terminate the pursuit when the need for apprehension no longer outweighs the danger created by the pursuit. However, consideration must be given to approaching restricted air space which would require the directly involved officers to continue in the pursuit.

- A. The lead unit, any controlling pursuit supervisor, or any commander may terminate a pursuit.
- B. Indirectly involved officers, other directly involved officers (not the lead unit), and/or any other officer shall recommend terminating the pursuit, via the police radio, to the controlling pursuit supervisor when:
- Unsafe circumstances are observed;
 - Information is known that might affect the safety of the officers, the public, and/or offender, including passengers; or
 - The risk to the officers, the public, and/or offender, including passengers, has substantially increased.
- C. The termination of a pursuit shall be voiced via the police radio.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.10
	TOPIC: TERMINATING PURSUITS	

D. The termination of a pursuit shall not be overruled. Where new information is developed (such as shots fired, violent felony charges occur, etc.) or there are extenuating, articulable circumstances as to why the pursuit should continue, the controlling pursuit supervisor may re-authorize continuation of the pursuit.

E. Pursuits shall be immediately terminated (not by utilizing a vehicle stopping technique) under the following circumstances:


1. When the need for immediate apprehension no longer outweighs the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers.
2. If it is necessary to stop and render aid to any injured individual and no other units are available to do so.
3. The pursuit no longer conforms to the pursuit policy.
4. If directed to do so by any officer authorized to terminate a pursuit.
5. If the pursued vehicle's location is no longer known. If visual contact is lost, other than momentarily, officers will terminate the pursuit.
6. When the pursuit is not authorized to enter another jurisdiction. Prior to entering another jurisdiction and without prior authorization, all pursuit actions shall cease.

F. Pursuits shall be terminated, provided there is no immediate need for apprehension, when the suspect's identity has been established to the point that later apprehension can be accomplished.

G. Pursuits should be terminated when the pursuit is in an area that is geographically unfamiliar to the officers.

H. Pursuing officers and the controlling pursuit supervisor should consider terminating the pursuit when potentially hazardous situations develop, such as:

- When weather conditions, road conditions, and/or traffic conditions negatively change.
- An increase in pedestrian traffic, especially in urbanized pedestrian areas.


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.10
	TOPIC: TERMINATING PURSUITS	

- An increase in vehicular traffic, especially in heavily populated areas.
- A change in location of where the pursuit is heading such as residential area, school zone, commercial area, major intersection, urban area, etc.
- School crossings.
- Bike lanes.
- The driving behavior of the fleeing vehicle such as driving the wrong way on roadway, dangerous driving maneuvers, etc.
- Children in the fleeing vehicle.
- Speed of the fleeing vehicle.

I. Post-Pursuit Procedures

Once a pursuit has been terminated (not by utilizing a vehicle stopping technique), all directly involved officers shall:

1. Acknowledge, via the radio, the termination of the pursuit.
2. Immediately deactivate their emergency equipment and resume normal driving, complying with all traffic laws.
3. Turn in a direction different than the fleeing vehicle when possible.
4. If outside Fairfax County, the directly involved officers shall return to the county via the quickest route.
5. Keep, if equipped, the In-Car Video (ICV) system operational until the officer(s) loses sight of the vehicle.
6. Provide a lookout to include the last known direction of travel of the fleeing vehicle.

<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.11</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURSUIT WITHDRAWAL</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2, 41.3.1		
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.10, OPR.01.02, OPR.01.03		

I. PURSUIT WITHDRAWAL

A. Individual Pursuit Withdrawal


When a directly involved officer needs to withdraw from a pursuit, they shall do so with due regard for their safety, the safety of other officers, and for the safety of the public.

1. Officers shall withdraw their participation in a pursuit in the following circumstances:

- a. When the pursuit is beyond the officer's abilities.
- b. If either the emergency lights and/or siren malfunctions or becomes inoperable.
- c. If the police vehicle has a mechanical failure such as a flat tire, overheating, etc.

B. Police Motorcycle Withdrawal

The withdrawal of a police motorcycle from the pursuit can be an extremely dangerous situation and shall be conducted with due regard for the safety of the police motorcycle operator. The police motorcycle operator will indicate to the other directly involved officers by a clear and distinct maneuver, a visual signal, or verbally (via the police radio) that they are withdrawing from the pursuit. Those units behind the police motorcycle shall provide enough distance for the safe withdrawal of the police motorcycle.


<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.12</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURSUIT STOPPING TECHNIQUES</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2, 41.2.3		
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUIT STOPPING TECHNIQUES

A. The following vehicle stopping techniques (see General Order 504, Vehicle Stopping Techniques) should be considered to stop a pursuit:


- Stop Stick Tire Deflating Device
- Rolling Roadblock
- Precision Immobilization Technique
- Stationary Roadblock
- Vehicle Incident

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.13
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: DOCUMENTATION		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUIT DOCUMENTATION

- A. The officer initiating a pursuit shall document the circumstances in an incident report in the current Record Management System. If the initiating officer is rendered incapable of documenting the circumstances of the pursuit, the responsibility of documentation shall be coordinated by either an on-duty supervisor or commander.
- B. All directly involved officers shall complete an incident supplement in the current Record Management System.
- C. Officers who were indirectly involved (closed intersections, deployed Stop Sticks, etc.) shall document their actions in an incident supplement in the current Record Management System.
- D. Any medical treatment performed on an individual as a result from the pursuit shall be documented in an incident report in the current Record Management System. Officers shall note whether the injuries were incurred as a result of the pursuit or whether they are pre-existing injuries or conditions.
- E. Any criminal investigation regarding the action by an officer during a pursuit shall be conducted by the Operations Support Bureau, and in accordance with SOP 12-045.
- F. In the event a duty officer or commander terminates a pursuit or declines to authorize the pursuit, that duty officer or commander shall articulate the reason(s) for their decision on a supplement to the incident report in the current Records Management System.
- G. Officer's Responsibilities
 - 1. The officer initiating a pursuit shall clearly articulate, in the incident report, the facts known at the time supporting their determination that the offender, including passengers, posed an immediate danger to public


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.13
	TOPIC: DOCUMENTATION	

safety where the need for immediate apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers. The officer shall avoid drawing conclusions without providing supporting facts.

2. Officers directly and indirectly involved in a pursuit shall document their actions in a clearly worded incident report or supplement in the current Records Management System, including any recommendation to terminate the pursuit.
3. After a pursuit, and in accordance with General Order 430.8, In-Car Video (ICV) Program, Section V, Subsection G, officers directly or indirectly involved in the pursuit shall note in their incident report and/or incident supplement that the ICV equipment was used and that video and/or audio exists. If there was no ICV, this fact shall be documented, as well as the reason(s) why.
4. Officers are reminded that any In-Car Video relating to a pursuit shall be classified as "Pursuit" via Backend Client (computer program), in order to properly preserve the video in accordance with the Library of Virginia Retention Schedules.
5. All pursuit incident reports and supplements shall be forwarded to the officer's supervisors.

H. Controlling Pursuit Supervisor's Responsibilities

1. The controlling pursuit supervisor shall complete the pursuit documentation within the current Internal Affairs Record Management System.
2. The controlling pursuit supervisor must articulate in their pursuit incident supplement the factual basis for their conclusion that, by authorizing the pursuit and allowing for the continuation of the pursuit, they determined the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers, and offender, including passengers.
3. In the event the controlling pursuit supervisor terminates a pursuit or declines authorization, that controlling pursuit supervisor shall articulate the reason(s) for their decision on a supplement to the incident report in the current Records Management System.


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.13
	TOPIC: DOCUMENTATION	

4. First line supervisors shall forward the completed incident report to their commanders, the Internal Affairs Bureau, the Media Relations Bureau, and the Criminal Justice Academy.

II. DOCUMENTING WHEN OFFICERS DECIDE NOT TO PURSUE

- A. When an officer attempts to stop a vehicle and that vehicle disregards the signal to stop, and the officer makes a decision not to pursue that vehicle, the officer shall document this on an incident report in the current Records Management System detailing their reasons for not pursuing.
- B. First line supervisors shall forward the completed incident report to their commanders, the Internal Affairs Bureau, and the Criminal Justice Academy.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.14
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY


A. Any pursuit related crash occurring within Fairfax County that was not a direct result of a vehicle stopping technique but was a direct result of the pursuit or actions during the pursuit will be investigated as follows:

1. Death or the potential loss of life to any individual:


- a. Investigative Authority: The Operations Support Bureau's Crash Reconstruction Unit and the Internal Affairs Bureau
- b. Investigative Format: Internal Affairs Bureau investigation and criminal investigation, as needed.
- c. Investigative Procedures: In accordance with SOP 12-045, as needed.
- d. Documentation Review: The commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau shall review the administrative investigation and forward the investigation to the appropriate bureau commander.
- e. Photographs will be taken of all injuries by the Investigative Authority and maintained within the case file.
- f. Any video and/or audio recordings of the incident will be preserved by the Investigative Authority.
- g. The collection of evidence shall be performed at the direction of the lead Crash Reconstruction Unit detective or their designee.

2. Medical treatment at a medical facility for any injury:

- a. Investigative Authority: The on-duty supervisor or above with technical expertise by the Crash Reconstruction Unit, as needed.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.14
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION	

- b. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the current Internal Affairs Records Management System describing the incident, extent of injuries, and type of medical treatment provided.
 - c. Documentation Review: The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their division commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.
 - d. Photographs will be taken of all injuries by the Investigative Authority and maintained within the case file.
 - e. Any video and/or audio recordings of the incident will be reviewed and preserved by the Investigative Authority.
3. Medical treatment for non-serious injuries that are provided by EMS personnel, personnel approved by the Fairfax County Police Department's Office of the Medical Director, or the individual refuses medical treatment:
- a. Investigative Authority: The on-duty supervisor or above with technical expertise by the Crash Reconstruction Unit, as needed.
 - b. Investigative Format: The appropriate documentation in the current Internal Affairs Records Management system describing the incident, extent of injuries observed or the complaint of injuries, and the fact the medical treatment was administered or refused by the individual.
 - c. Documentation Review: The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their division commander for appropriate review and dissemination.
 - d. Photographs will be taken of all injuries by the Investigative Authority and maintained within the current Records Management System.
 - e. Any video and/or audio recordings of the incident will be reviewed and preserved by the Investigative Authority.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.14
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION	

II. PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY

A. Any pursuit related crash, not as a direct result of a vehicle stopping technique, occurring outside Fairfax County and as a direct result of the pursuit or actions during the pursuit will be investigated as follows:

1. Death or potential loss of life to any individual:

a. Investigative Authority: Internal Affairs Bureau in cooperation with the jurisdiction investigating the crash.

b. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and an incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System, if needed.

c. Investigative Procedures: In accordance with SOP 12-045, as needed.

d. Documentation: The commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau shall review the administrative investigation and forward the investigation to the appropriate bureau commander.


e. Any video and/or audio recordings of the incident will be preserved by the Investigative Authority.

f. The investigative authority will respond to incidents that occur in:

- Prince William County
- Arlington County
- Loudoun County
- City of Fairfax
- City of Falls Church
- City of Alexandria
- District of Columbia
- Prince George's County, Maryland
- Montgomery County, Maryland

g. The investigative authority shall obtain copies of any documentation available from the jurisdiction investigating the crash and include all received documentation in the administrative investigation file.


2. All other pursuit related crashes:

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.14
	TOPIC: PURSUIT RELATED CRASH INVESTIGATION	

- a. Investigative Authority: A supervisor or higher or as assigned by the Duty Officer or commander in cooperation with the jurisdiction investigating the crash.
- b. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and an incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System, if needed.
- c. Documentation Review: The investigative authority shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.
- d. Any video and/or audio recordings of the incident shall be preserved by the investigating authority.
- e. The investigative authority will respond to incidents that occur in:
 - Prince William County
 - Arlington County
 - Loudoun County
 - City of Fairfax
 - City of Falls Church
 - City of Alexandria
 - District of Columbia
 - Prince George’s County, Maryland
 - Montgomery County, Maryland


With Duty Officer or other commander approval, in some limited instances involving minor incidents, an immediate response by the investigative authority may not be required. The investigative authority may utilize information and reports from the jurisdiction investigating the crash, telephone interviews, statements and interviews from the involved department employee(s), and other means in lieu of having to respond to the incident scene.

- f. The investigative authority shall obtain copies of any documentation available from the jurisdiction investigating the crash and include all received documentation in the administrative investigation file.

<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.15</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURSUIT REVIEW</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2		
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. SUPERVISORY PURSUIT REVIEW

- A. First line supervisors (or in some instances the controlling pursuit supervisor) shall conduct a debriefing with the assigned officers who were directly involved in the pursuit, and if possible, include those indirectly involved officers. The department encourages that the debriefing includes all squad members as well as any entity directly involved in the pursuit to include dispatchers, canine, and the helicopter. The debriefing shall occur within the next two scheduled workdays and involve a review of all pursuit actions and associated In-Car Video pursuit footage. In instances where officers from multiple stations are involved, first line supervisors should coordinate to have one debriefing. This will allow a better perspective of the overall incident. The debriefing is to afford everyone the opportunity to assess and discuss the totality of facts and circumstances in an effort to gain experience and correct any identified issues thus enhancing safety for all.
- B. The debriefing requirement, as stated in section A, is waived if the Internal Affairs Bureau responds to investigate a pursuit related crash or a vehicle stopping technique that resulted in death or serious injury. Debriefings should occur at a later date with the concurrence of the Internal Affairs Bureau Commander.
- C. The reviewing first line supervisor (or in some instances the controlling pursuit supervisor) shall brief, in-person, their immediate commander(s) concerning all pertinent pursuit information, including compliance with laws and Department policy, identifying any positive driving behaviors, and addressing any issues which require corrective action. The commander(s) should be briefed as soon as reasonably possible and without unnecessary delay after the officer debriefing.
- D. The reviewing first-line supervisor (or in some instances the controlling pursuit supervisor) shall review all associated pursuit incident reports and supplements. The review shall ascertain if the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers and


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.15
	TOPIC: PURSUIT REVIEW	

offender, including passengers, is clearly articulated by the initiating officer and if the controlling pursuit supervisor's concurrence is clearly established.

- E. The reviewing first-line supervisor (or in some instances the controlling pursuit supervisor) shall provide the commander(s) with all the necessary ICV file numbers for all officers directly and indirectly involved in the pursuit.
- F. Supervisors shall document their review in the current Internal Affairs Records Management System. This review shall be forwarded to their commander.
- G. Instances when a pursuit is initiated by a first-line supervisor or a first-line supervisor is directly involved in the pursuit, the review of the pursuit shall be the responsibility of the involved first-line supervisor's commander.

II. COMMANDER PURSUIT REVIEW


- A. The reviewing commander(s) shall review the incident reports (including supplements) and all the necessary ICV pursuit footage for compliance with laws and regulations, identifying any positive driving behaviors, and addressing any issues which require corrective action. Officer safety and the sanctity of all human life should be important considerations in the commander's evaluation process. Commanders should ensure the safety of police vehicle operations and require corrective action as necessary. In instances where commanders initiate corrective action, the respective bureau Major should be informed.
- B. Commanders shall document their review and action in the current Internal Affairs Bureau Records Management System. This can occur on the same form the supervisors utilized to document their review.
- C. When a commander is directly involved in a pursuit, the following shall occur:
 1. Another non-involved commander of equal or greater rank shall conduct the review.
 2. The reviewing commander shall review all associated pursuit incident reports and supplements, including all the necessary ICV pursuit footage. The review shall ascertain if the need for apprehension outweighed the danger created by the pursuit to the public, officers and offender, including passengers, is clearly articulated by the initiating officer and if the controlling pursuit commander concurrence is clearly established.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.15
	TOPIC: PURSUIT REVIEW	

3. The reviewing commander shall brief the involved commander's supervisor of all pertinent pursuit information, including compliance with laws and regulations, identifying any positive driving behaviors, and addressing any issues which require corrective action. The commander's supervisor should be briefed as soon as reasonably possible and without unnecessary delay after the debriefing.

4. The reviewing commander shall evaluate the pursuit assuring adherence to laws and regulations. Officer safety and the sanctity of all human life should be important considerations in the evaluation process. Commanders should ensure the safety of police vehicle operations and require corrective action as necessary. In instances where the reviewing commander initiates corrective action, the respective bureau major or deputy chief should be informed.


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<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">VEHICLE PURSUITS</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.16</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">PURSUIT REVIEW COMMITTEE</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.2 VLEPSC: OPR.01.10		

I. PURSUIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- A. Semi-annually, the Pursuit Review Committee will review and analyze each pursuit (videos and incident reports) that occurred during the previous six months. The review will include any pursuit stopping technique utilized.
- B. The Chief of Police, or designee, will assign individuals to the Pursuit Review Committee. The Committee shall be comprised of at least the following:
 - 1. Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy Director (Committee Chairperson)
 - 2. Commander
 - 3. Academy instructor
 - 4. First-line supervisors
 - 5. Officers
 - 6. Other individuals as directed by the Chief of Police
- C. The Pursuit Review Committee will review each pursuit for:
 - 1. Trends including driving behavior of the officer and the fleeing suspect.
 - 2. Adherence and compliance with current pursuit training, policies, and procedures and whether or not modification of directives is needed.
 - 3. Safety and tactical improvements.
- D. The Pursuit Review Committee will provide a written report to the Chief of Police through the Director of the Criminal Justice Academy within ten (10) business days after the Pursuit Review Committee meeting. The report will

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.16
	TOPIC: PURSUIT REVIEW COMMITTEE	


provide any recommendations and how those recommendations should be implemented.

E. The Internal Affairs Bureau will produce a semi-annual written statistical analysis report for the Pursuit Review Committee. The report shall be produced in a timely manner so as to properly aid the objectives of the Pursuit Review Committee. This report will be provided to the Director of the Criminal Justice Academy who is responsible for disseminating the report to the Pursuit Review Committee and/or any other authority as determined by the Chief of Police.

F. The semi-annual written statistical analysis should include the following information:


- Pursuit initiation
- How the pursuit ended
- Initial pursuit charges
- Pursuit length
- Pursuit time of day/day of week
- Pursuit accidents/injuries
- Directly involved officer's years of service (especially the initiating officer)
- Pursuit environmental conditions
- Property damage resulting from pursuit
- Pursuit stopping techniques utilized, if applicable
- Charges placed after the pursuit differentiating between those charges placed as a result of the pursuit (Speed to Elude) to those charges placed not resulting of the pursuit (No Operators License, Suspended Operators License, DWI)
- Offender demographics such as age, residence (Fairfax, Washington DC, etc.), and race

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.16
	TOPIC: PURSUIT REVIEW COMMITTEE	

- Number of passengers, if applicable
- Type of vehicle
- Other data points as needed by the Pursuit Review Committee


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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.17
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: TRAINING		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: NOT APPLICABLE		
	VLEPSC: NOT APPLICABLE		

I. TRAINING

Every three years, all sworn officers shall receive Criminal Justice Academy training in emergency vehicle operations. If an officer does not receive training in emergency vehicle operations every three years, that officer will not be authorized to response drive, including being directly involved in a pursuit.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS		NUMBER: 503.18
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW:	
	TOPIC: LEGAL REFERENCES		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: NOT APPLICABLE VLEPSC: NOT APPLICABLE		

I. LEGAL REFERENCES

A. Code of Virginia


1. Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-76; Execution and return of warrant, capias or summons; arrest outside county or city where charge is to be tried.
2. Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-77; Escape, flight and pursuit; arrest anywhere in Commonwealth.
3. Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-297.1; Sentence of person twice previously convicted of certain violent felonies.
4. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-817; Disregarding signal by law-enforcement officer to stop; eluding police; penalties.
5. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-834; Signals by law-enforcement officers, crossing guards, and flaggers.
6. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-852; Reckless driving, general rule.
7. Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-920; Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements.

B. Code of the District of Columbia

1. Code of the District of Columbia § 23-901; Arrests in the District of Columbia by officers of other states.

C. Maryland Code of Criminal Procedure

1. Maryland Code of Criminal Procedure § 2-305; Authority of officers of other states to arrest in State.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: VEHICLE PURSUITS	NUMBER: 503.18
	TOPIC: LEGAL REFERENCES	

D. In *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372 (2007), the United States Supreme Court noted that “where a [fleeing motorist] intentionally places himself and the public in danger by unlawfully engaging in reckless, high speed flight and....poses an actual and imminent threat to the lives of any pedestrians who might be present, to other civilian motorists, and to officers involved in the case...a police officer’s attempt to terminate a dangerous high-speed car chase that threatens the lives of innocent by-standers does not violate the Fourth Amendment, even when it places the fleeing motorist at risk of serious injury or death.”

General Orders 503.0 through 503.17 become effective on XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and rescind all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subjects.

ISSUED BY: _____ APPROVED BY: _____

DRAFT

Chief of Police _____ County Executive _____