



February 27, 2023

Director Gino Betts, Jr.
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers: 2021OPA-0528 / 2022COMP-0012

Topic: Vehicle Eluding/Pursuits

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged the Named Employees engaged in an out of policy pursuit.

Original Recommendation:

Revise SPD Policy 13.031-POL-4 to clarify whether a supervisor's approval is required to initiate a pursuit or rather to continue a pursuit that was already initiated.

Action Taken:

SPD Policy 13.031 prohibits vehicle pursuits unless there is *"probable cause to believe the person being pursued poses a significant imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to others such that, under the circumstances, the public safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be to be greater than inherent risk of pursuit driving; and the Officer has received authorization to continue the pursuit from a supervisor."*

The language in the policy is intended to communicate that when appropriate, officers' have the discretion to initiate a pursuit, but must (as soon as possible) get authorization from a supervisor to continue the pursuit. Because there is such a high bar set for when pursuits are appropriate, waiting for a supervisor to approve initiating one gives a dangerous subject, who the officers has already deemed a significant threat, time to evade police.

SPD will include a reminder at upcoming supervisor training that the policy means exactly what it says – that officers may initiate pursuits when the circumstances meet the standards defined in policy but must get supervisory approval to continue them.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Partially Completed

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police