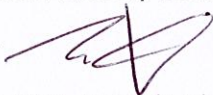
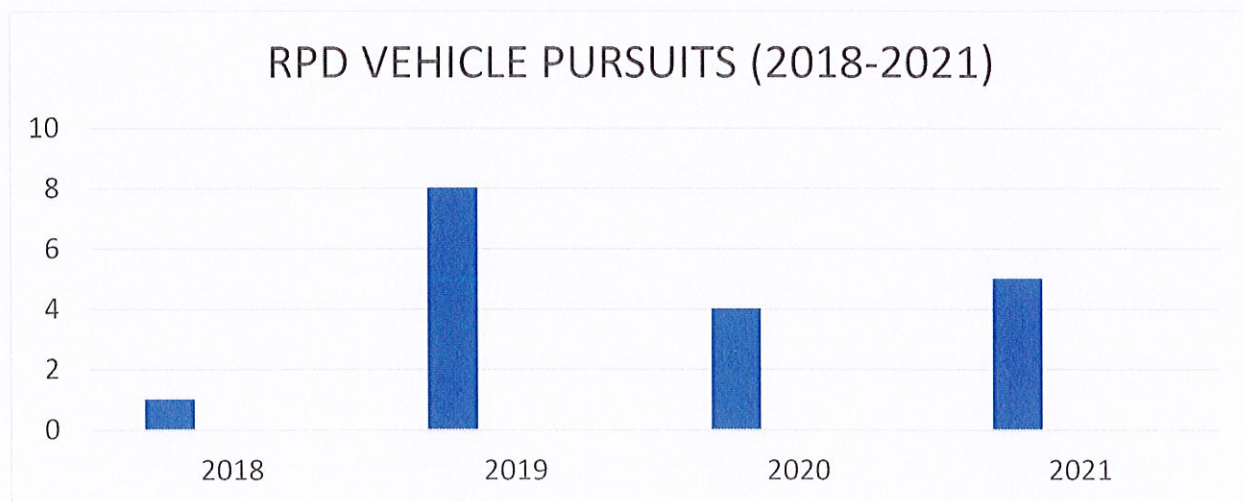


To: Ohio Community-Police Advisory Board
Fr: Chief Todd A. Kitzler 
Su: Rossford Police Dept 2021 Annual Vehicle Pursuit Analysis
Dt: March 30, 2022

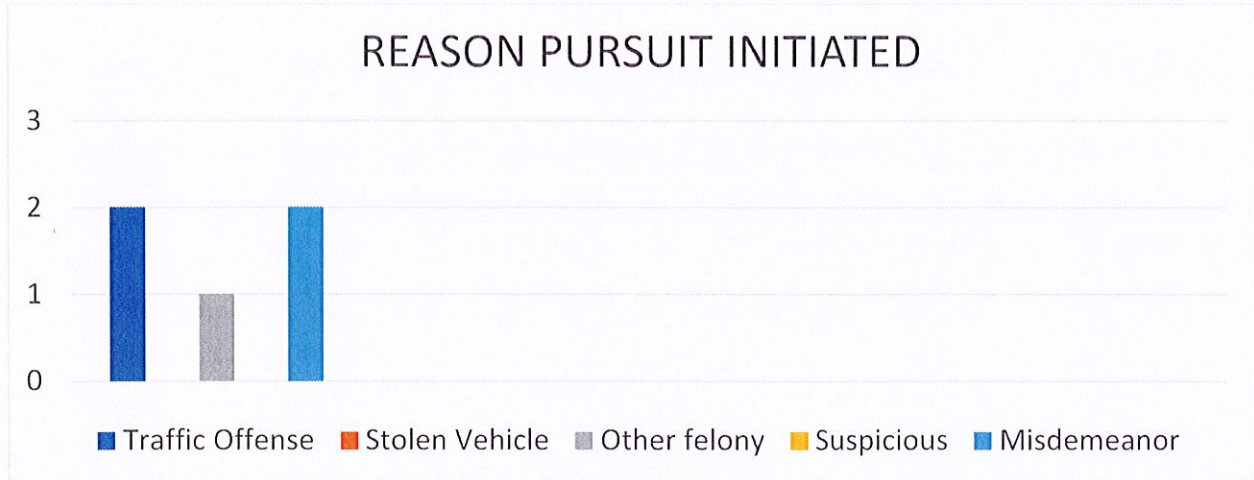
The following is a vehicle pursuit analysis, which is required on an annual basis by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. This report takes an in-depth look into all vehicle pursuits that occurred in 2021, with focus given to the reasons pursuits were initiated, terminated, and any violations of the pursuit policy that may have occurred. The main purpose of this analysis is to reveal patterns or trends that indicate training needs and/or policy changes. After the data is analyzed, recommendations will be made on ways to improve or enhance our current pursuit policy.

The Rossford Police Department recognizes the fact that vehicle pursuits expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. For that reason, pursuits go through a review process to ensure that protocol is being followed, and to identify officer safety issues, potential risks to the public, training needs, and liability issues.

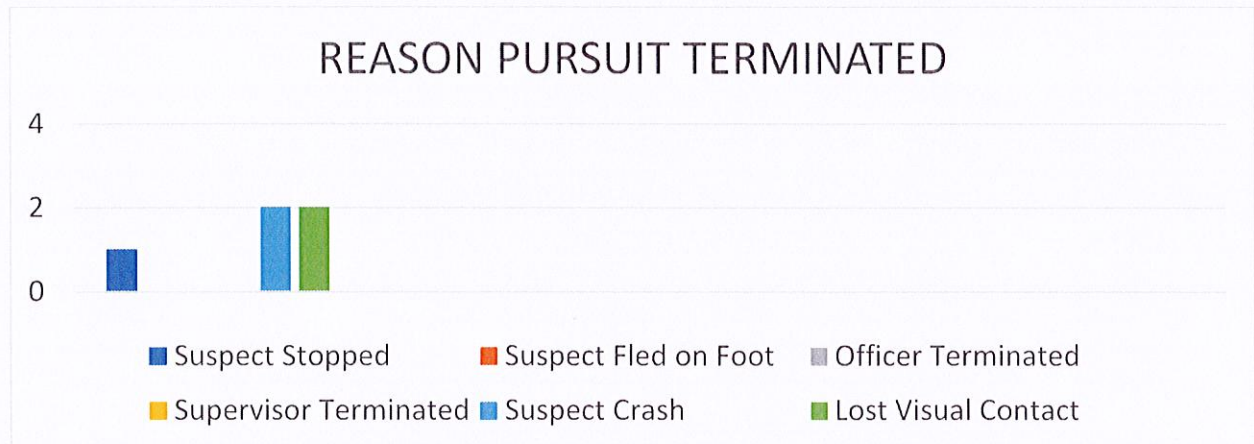
The first section of this analysis will begin by examining the total number of vehicle pursuits that occurred in 2021. The research will look to compare the number of pursuits from the previous year with the goal being to explain any data trends.



The above chart displays the number of pursuits that have occurred over the past 4 years. A total of 5 pursuits occurred in 2021 compared to 4 in 2020.

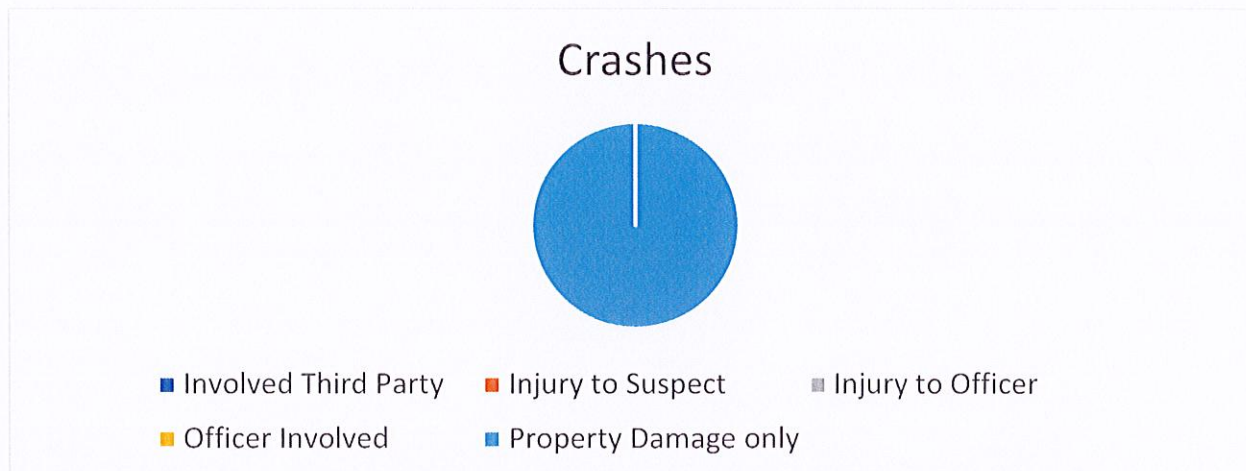


Pursuits are initiated for a variety of reasons. 2 of our 2021 pursuits were initiated due to a traffic offense, 2 for misdemeanor offenses, and 1 for a felony offense.



Pursuits should be discontinued whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risk of continuing the pursuit reasonably appears to outweigh the risk resulting from the suspect's escape.

In 2021, 1 of our pursuits ended when the suspect stopped on their own accord, 2 after the suspect crashed, and 2 were terminated by the officer after losing visual contact with the vehicle they were pursuing.



The 2 crashes involving a pursuit were property damage only. There was no damage caused to a department vehicle in either of the crashes.

Pursuit Policy Violations

Reviews of each of the 5 pursuits were conducted by a supervisor and the Chief of Police. No policy violations were identified.

Tire Deflation Devices (Stop Sticks) Used

Per the Rossford Police Department Policy Manual, the use of tire deflation devices (Stop Sticks) should be deployed only when it is reasonably apparent that only the pursued vehicle will be affected by their use. Prior to the deployment of stop sticks, the officer shall notify pursuing units and the supervisor of the intent and location. Officers should carefully consider the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risks to officers, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle. If the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials or a school bus transporting children, officers and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.

In 2021, there were 2 instances in which officers deployed a tire deflation device during a vehicle pursuit. In vehicle pursuit (202100151), the suspect vehicle was fleeing from officers from the Perrysburg Township Police Department. RPD officers successfully deployed stop sticks at Glenwood Road at Beech Street. As a result, the suspect vehicle became disabled, and the suspect was apprehended.

Stop sticks were deployed by RPD officers on I-75 at the 195.4 mm during pursuit (202100898). RPD was contacted to assist OSP and the WCSO during their pursuit. The suspect avoided the device and visual contact with the vehicle was lost.

There were no injuries caused to the officers, suspects, or the public by deploying the devices.

Training

The department as a whole completed 313 daily training bulletins (DTBs) in vehicle operations during 2021. This amounts to approximately 1 hour of training for each officer in that subject.

Review of 2021 Pursuits

A review of the 5 pursuits revealed that only 2 had any unusual circumstances. Pursuit (202100188) was initiated by the Toledo Police Department for a hit-skip suspect that originated in Monroe, Michigan. TPD terminated their pursuit once the vehicle entered Wood County. RPD officers located the vehicle parked on Buck Road and approached it. The vehicle then fled and was pursued by the Perrysburg Township Police Department and RPD. The suspect stopped on his own accord on East Wooster Street in Bowling Green, Ohio and was taken into custody.

Pursuit (202100151) was initiated by the Perrysburg Township Police Department after a suspect in a theft offense refused to stop. After responding to a request for assistance, an RPD officer deployed a stop stick device on Glenwood Road near Beach Street and disabled the vehicle's tires. The suspect crashed the vehicle on Miami Street and was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit.

Conclusions

The Rossford Police Department recognizes that the decision to pursue a motor vehicle is a critical one, and that it must be made quickly and under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. No officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicle pursuit due to the risk involved. This includes circumstances where Department policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicle pursuits are not always predictable and decisions made pursuant to this policy will be evaluated according to the totality of the circumstances reasonably available at the time of the pursuit. The Department also recognizes that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment.

Recommendations

After analyzing the 2021 pursuits, it is clear that the officers and supervisors of the Rossford Police Department are doing a phenomenal job in conducting and monitoring vehicular pursuits. No suspects or officers were injured in 2021 due to a pursuit.

Department training on pursuits and vehicle operations shall continue in the form of DTBs. Contact has been made with Ohio Department of Public Safety recommending that they provide further training to our department in the form of simulated training, in both conducting and supervising pursuits.

Department training on the use of stop sticks shall be developed and conducted annually starting in 2022. This training should be hands-on in nature and scenario based.

Each pursuit that occurs in 2022 should be reviewed and discussed at shift briefings to identify both good and bad aspects of the incident.

Several areas of department's vehicle pursuit reporting form need to be revised to make the form more user friendly for both the officer completing the form and the reviewers. This form will be revised in 2022.

No policy changes are recommended at this time.