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VENTURA COUNTY

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CHIEF TRAVIS WALKER
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California Highway Patrol

Operational & Procedural Agreement

Subject: Guidelines for Control of Cross-Jurisdictional Pursuits in Ventura County

1. **Purpose:** To establish uniform guidelines in coordinating police pursuits that cross jurisdictional boundaries within Ventura County.
2. **Adoption:** The guidelines contained herein are officially adopted by the Ventura County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, which includes the Sheriff, the District Attorney, all County Police Chiefs, and the California Highway Patrol's Ventura County offices. These guidelines supersede all prior communications, agreements and promises, either oral or written, on this subject matter.
3. **Application:** Nothing contained herein is intended to increase, modify, or in any way affect current legal vehicle pursuit standards. Deviation from these guidelines shall not be considered a breach of any legal standard.
4. **Definitions:** The following terminology shall be used to standardize terms relevant to vehicle pursuits:
 - a. *Take over the pursuit:* Assume operational control of the pursuit. The assisting agency shall dispatch unit(s) to take over for the requesting agency. Once in place, the requesting agency will disengage from the pursuit.
 - b. *Request to assist:* A request for a secondary unit. Additional units may be requested given the circumstances of the pursuit.
 - c. *Disengage from the pursuit:* Terminate code 3 driving and discontinue trailing the pursuit.
 - d. *Assist with the arrest:* This will be a request for unit(s) to assist at the

termination of the pursuit to safely affect the arrest of the suspect(s).

- e. *No assistance needed:* This is a notification only that a pursuit is in an allied agency's jurisdiction and no additional assistance is needed nor required by the pursuing agency.
- f. *Termination point:* The point where the pursuit comes to a conclusion.

5. **Agency Notification**

- a. When a vehicle pursuit leaves or is about to leave the pursuing agency's jurisdiction, it is important to provide as much advanced notification as possible to neighboring agencies.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the pursuing agency's dispatch center to notify the neighboring agency as soon as practical. This notification shall attempt to provide information set forth in Section 7, below.
- c. Should the pursuit continue through another outside agency and towards another, the agency that has jurisdiction in which the pursuit is occurring shall make effort to advise the subsequent jurisdiction of the pursuit that is headed in their direction.

6. **Jurisdiction Requests:** The pursuing unit(s) may request, through their watch commander or field supervisor, assistance from units of other jurisdictions if the pursuit enters another jurisdiction and any of the following conditions exist:

- a. The pursuing agency's unit(s) become disabled and the pursuit would otherwise continue;
- b. The pursuing agency is unfamiliar with the area of the pursuit to the degree that there is increased risk to continue the pursuit or the suspect is likely to escape;
- c. The pursuit is likely to terminate in the allied agency's jurisdiction and insufficient units from the primary agency are available to safely arrest the suspect(s).

7. **Information Exchange:** The requesting agency shall advise the assisting agency of all relevant information including:

- a. The type of assistance requested, using the terminology defined in Section 4, above;
- b. Vehicle/suspect description;
- c. The specific reason(s) for the pursuit/want;
- d. To the best possible extent, specific information regarding officer safety/identity of suspect(s)/weapon(s);
- e. The behavior of the suspect(s) during the pursuit including any information known or suspected that would affect the need to continue/disengage from the pursuit;
- f. (As available) Whether the requesting agency wishes to retain arrest authority

over the suspect and the violations likely to be charged (should the assisting agency successfully stop the fleeing suspects[s]) or relinquishes all interest in the suspect.

8. **Level of Assistance:** The unit requesting assistance shall specify the level of assistance required as follows:
- a. Request for another agency to *take over the pursuit*.
 - 1. An agency may request, through their agency's communications center, with approval of the watch commander or field supervisor, that another agency assume operational control of the pursuit. If the assisting agency agrees to assume control of the pursuit, the assisting agency shall dispatch resources to take over for the requesting agency.
 - 2. Upon the arrival of the first unit from the assisting agency, the requesting agency's primary unit shall become the secondary unit. Upon arrival of additional units from the assisting agency, the remaining requesting agency unit(s) shall disengage from the pursuit.
 - 3. The agency assuming operational control of the pursuit shall exercise its own discretion regarding the need to continue or disengage from the pursuit. Should the requesting agency retain arrest authority, that agency shall send resources to the termination point and assume the responsibilities for the investigation of crimes committed while the original agency was in control of the pursuit.
 - 4. In the event of disputes regarding responsibilities, a supervisor shall be dispatched, if available, or the respective watch commanders will coordinate enforcement actions.
 - b. Request for another agency to *assist with the pursuit*.
 - 1. An agency may request another agency to provide units to assist with a pursuit. The request shall be clearly relayed to that agency.
 - 2. Mere notification of an ongoing pursuit shall not be construed as a request for assistance.
 - 3. Units assigned to assist another agency shall, upon taking position and notifying their own dispatch of their status, switch to the radio frequency of the controlling agency and assume the duties of a secondary unit.
 - 4. The watch commander or field supervisor of the assisting agency retains the discretion to withdraw any or all of its units at any time.
 - c. Request for another agency to *assist with the arrest*.
 - 1. An agency may request assistance from another agency if it appears necessary to safely affect the arrest of the suspect(s) at the end of the pursuit. The requesting agency shall specify whether the units are

needed to participate in the pursuit or respond to its termination point. They should also specify if a specific type of resource is requested (i.e. helicopter, K9, SWAT, etc.). The watch commander or field supervisor of each agency involved shall decide if more than two units are needed to participate in the actual pursuit.

d. Notification only: *"No assistance needed."*

1. If a pursuing agency enters another jurisdiction, the pursuing agency will notify the other jurisdiction. The pursuing agency will advise that it has units in pursuit through the city/jurisdiction and specify that no assistance is needed.

9. **End of Pursuit Procedure:**

- a. Responsibilities of the agency ending the pursuit ("the stopping agency"):
 1. Notify all involved agencies that the pursuit has ended and provide its termination point.
 2. Designate a supervisor to coordinate resources.
- b. Responsibilities of other involved agencies:
 1. The agency that initiated the pursuit shall ensure that the officer with probable cause (or that officer's supervisor) contacts a supervisor from the stopping agency at the end of the pursuit to provide information/assistance.
 2. All agencies with information, witnesses, or criminal charges related to the pursuit shall contact the stopping agency.
 3. All agencies involved in the pursuit shall provide reports as requested by the stopping agency (or booking agency, if different).
 4. Each involved agency will be responsible for completing its own separate CHP 187 report.
- c. Prisoner processing:
 1. In the absence of any other agreement (e.g., Officer Involved Shooting Protocol), the suspect(s) from the pursuit shall be turned over to the custody of the agency which has the most significant charges.
 2. Absent more significant charges by another agency, custody and booking of the suspect(s) shall default to the responsibility of the agency initiating the pursuit.
 3. The agency assuming custody shall be responsible for processing, booking, and coordinating related reports.
- d. Traffic collision investigations: The investigation of traffic collisions resulting from the vehicle pursuit should be the responsibility of the agency within the jurisdiction where the collision occurred.

10. **Communication:** In the event that the pursuing jurisdiction requests an agency to assume responsibility for the pursuit, communication procedures for that agency shall

apply.

- a. The agency in operational control of the pursuit shall be responsible for relaying the progress and conditions of the pursuit. When disengaging from a pursuit, the agency with operational control shall make radio notification to all involved agencies and ensure that the agencies acknowledge the notification. In the event an agency needs assistance in another jurisdiction, until additional resources arrive, the assisting agency can also broadcast the pursuit to keep their agency informed of its progress and the conditions of the pursuit. Prior to transferring a pursuit to another agency's radio frequency, the communication center representative should make contact with the jurisdictional communications center in order to ensure adequate staffing and functionality of radio communication.
- b. All multi-jurisdictional pursuits should use "clear text" terminology in order to ensure effective communication.

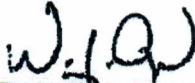
11. **Agency's Policy:** In the event that the pursuing jurisdiction requests an agency to assume responsibility for the pursuit or requests assistance, the agency assuming responsibility or providing assistance shall adhere to its own adopted vehicle pursuit policy.

- a. Each involved agency will be individually responsible for conducting its own internal inquiry to evaluate its officer(s) conduct with respect to departmental policy.

12. **Media Releases and Information Requests:** Unless otherwise agreed, press releases should be handled by one agency as agreed upon by the involved agencies.

13. **Training:** Each agency agrees to ensure that the appropriate employees from their own agency are trained in these operational and procedural guidelines.

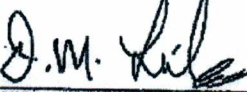
Reviewed and adopted by the following Ventura County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee members on this 21st day of JANUARY, 2021.



SHERIFF BILL AYUB
Ventura County Sheriff's Department



CHIEF DARIN SCHINDLER
Ventura Police Department




CHIEF DAVID LIVINGSTONE
Simi Valley Police Department



CHIEF ANDREW SALINAS
Port Hueneeme Police Department

Ventura County Pursuit Protocol
January 20, 2021



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