

# VEHICLE PURSUITS

**POLICY  
306**



OFC.ABUNDO  
LT.HUISENGA





## **POLICY 306.2**

**It is the policy of this department to balance the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.**

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**RISK VS  
REWARD**

# OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

## 306.4

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized police department emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by Vehicle Code § 21055. Officers are responsible for continuously driving with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons and property (Vehicle Code § 21056).



# **WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT 306.4.1**

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when the officer reasonably believes that a suspect, who has been given appropriate signal to stop by a law enforcement officer, is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle.

SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSE

SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC

FAMILIARITY WITH THE AREA

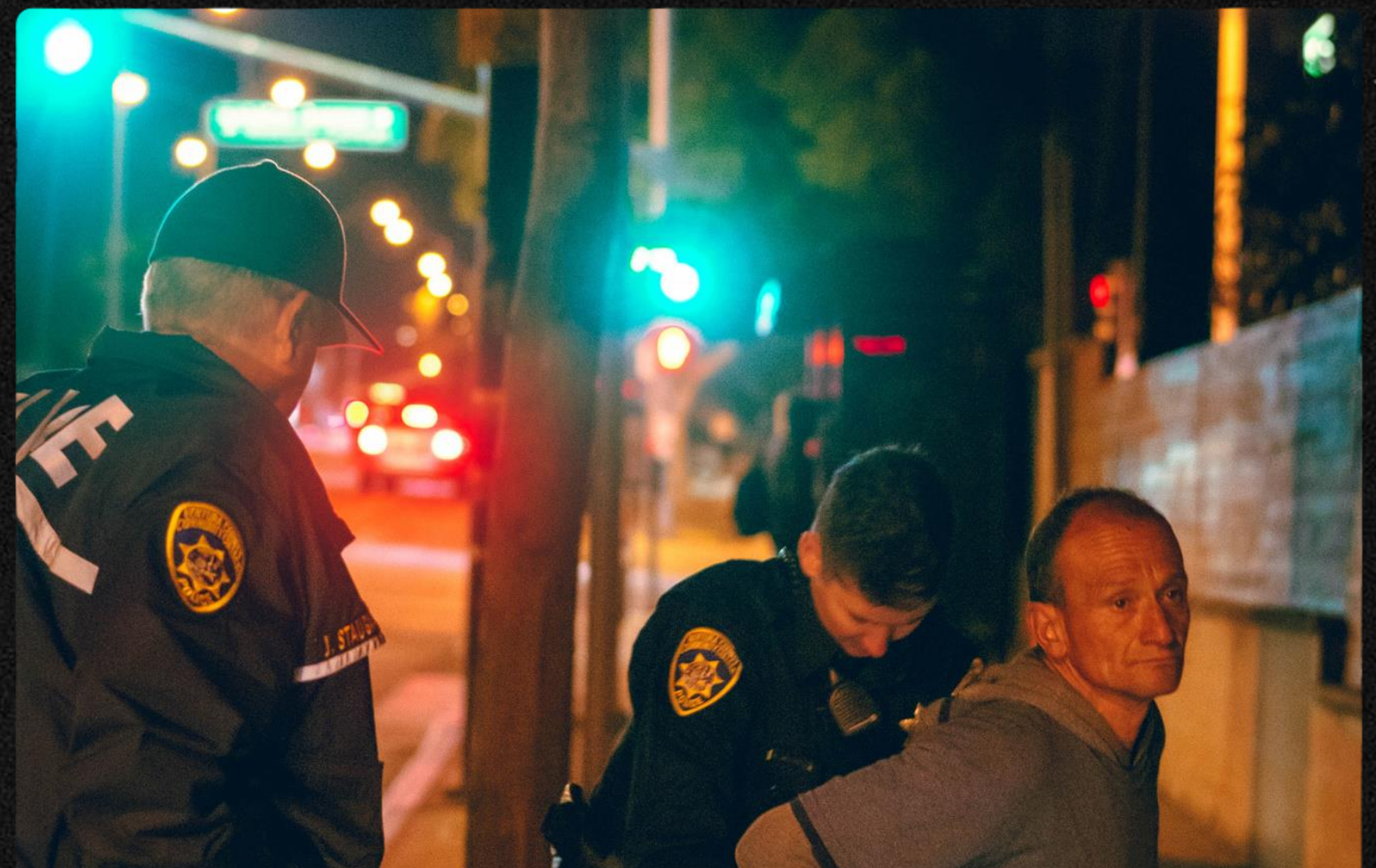
WEATHER, TRAFFIC, ROAD

IDENTITY OF THE SUSPECT

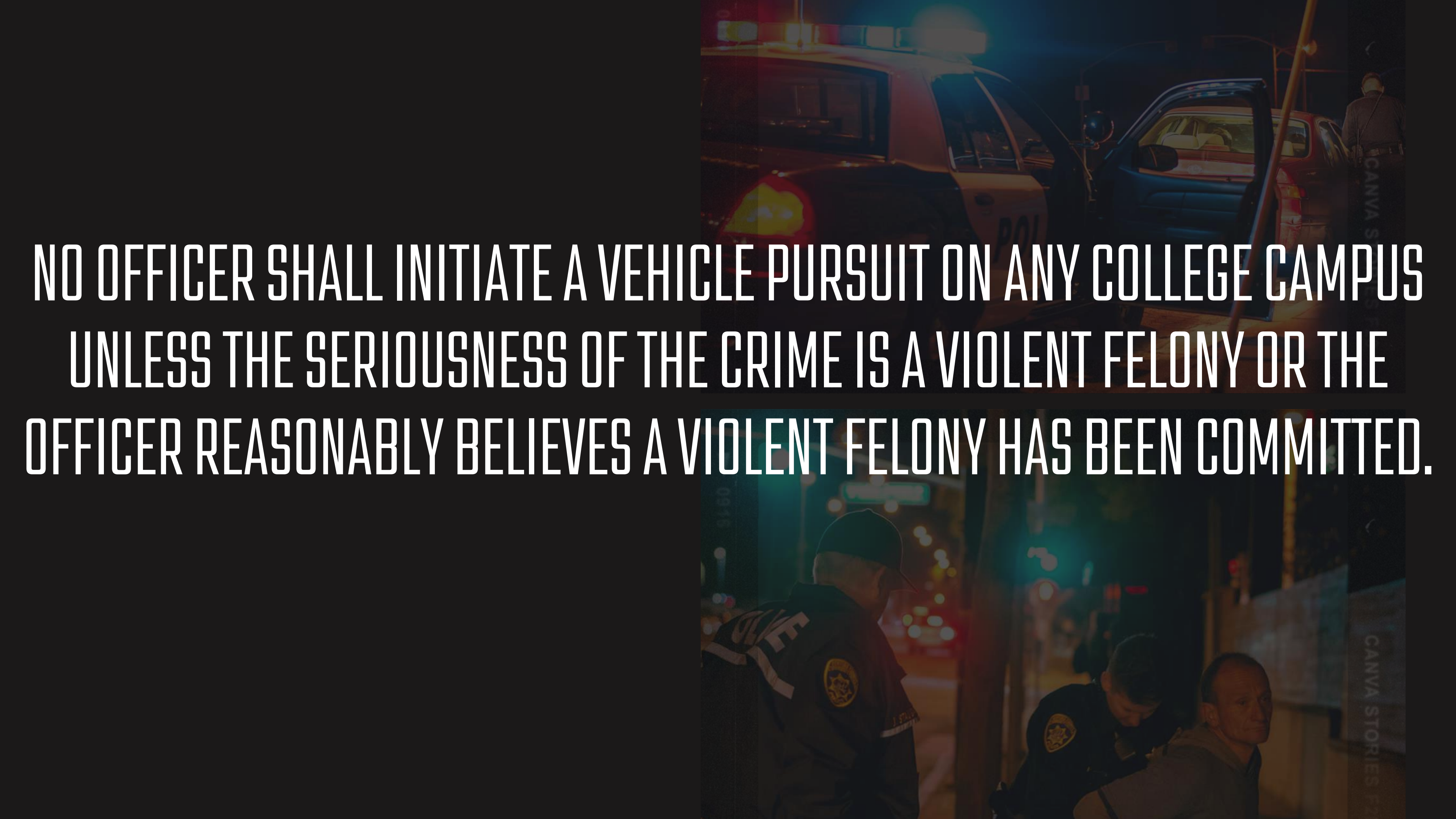
SUSPECT & OFFICER VEHICLE SPEED



CANVA STORIES P20



CANVA STORIES P21



**NO OFFICER SHALL INITIATE A VEHICLE PURSUIT ON ANY COLLEGE CAMPUS  
UNLESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIME IS A VIOLENT FELONY OR THE  
OFFICER REASONABLY BELIEVES A VIOLENT FELONY HAS BEEN COMMITTED.**



CANVA STORIES 200

003

18



003

CANVIFILM 200

# WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT 306.4.2

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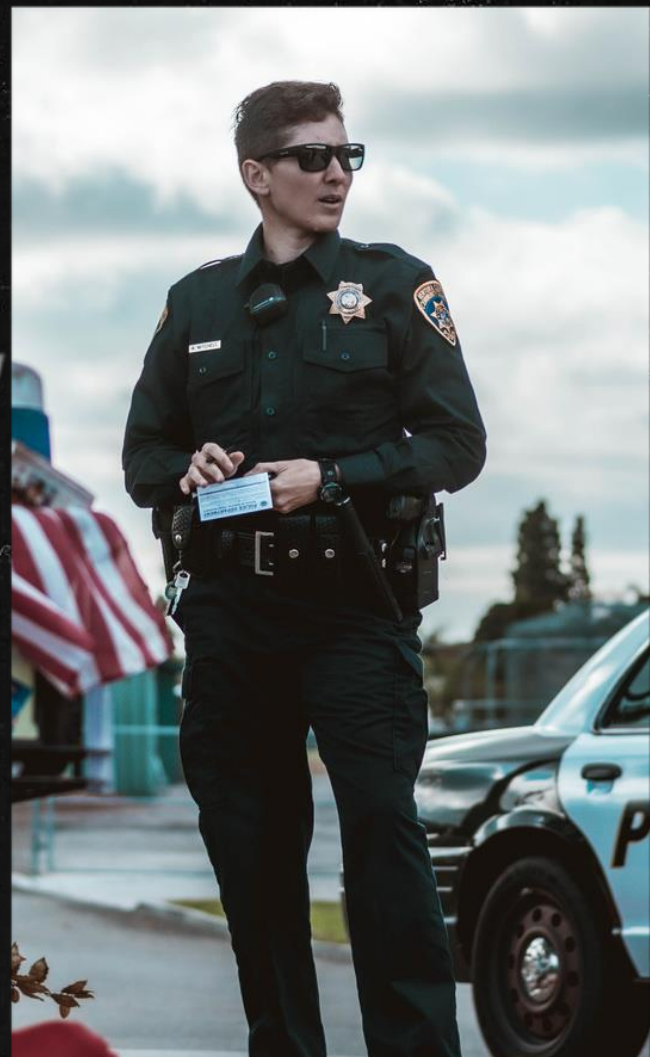
Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.



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CANVIFILM 200

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CANVA STORIES 200

# WHEN TO TERMINATE

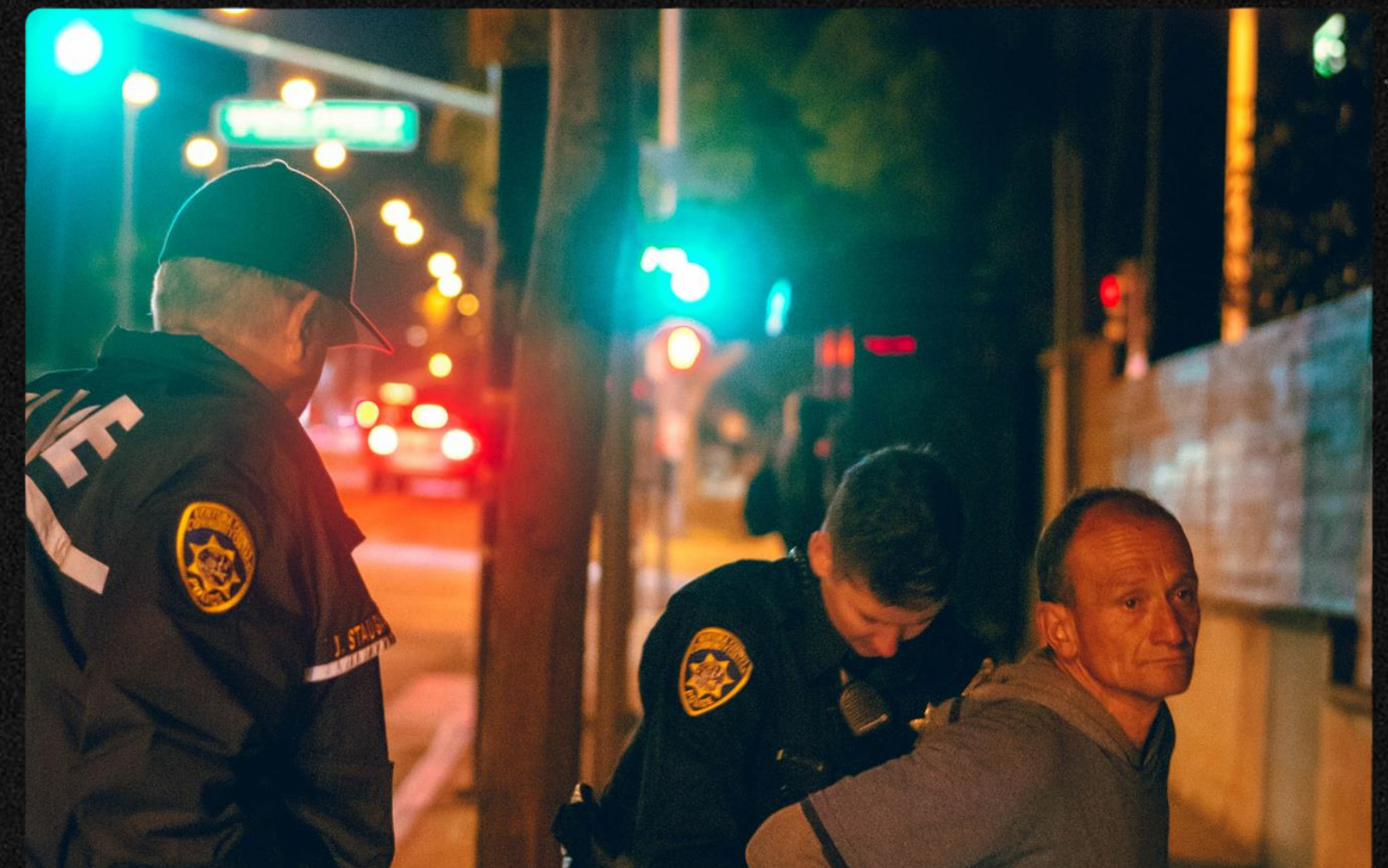
DISTANCE OF SUSPECT VEHICLE

SUSPECT VEHICLE LOCATION UNKNOWN

YOUR VEHICLE BECOMES UNSAFE TO DRIVE

LIGHTS OR SIRENS BECOME INOPERABLE

IDENTITY OF THE SUSPECT IS KNOWN





**WHEN TO TERMINATE**

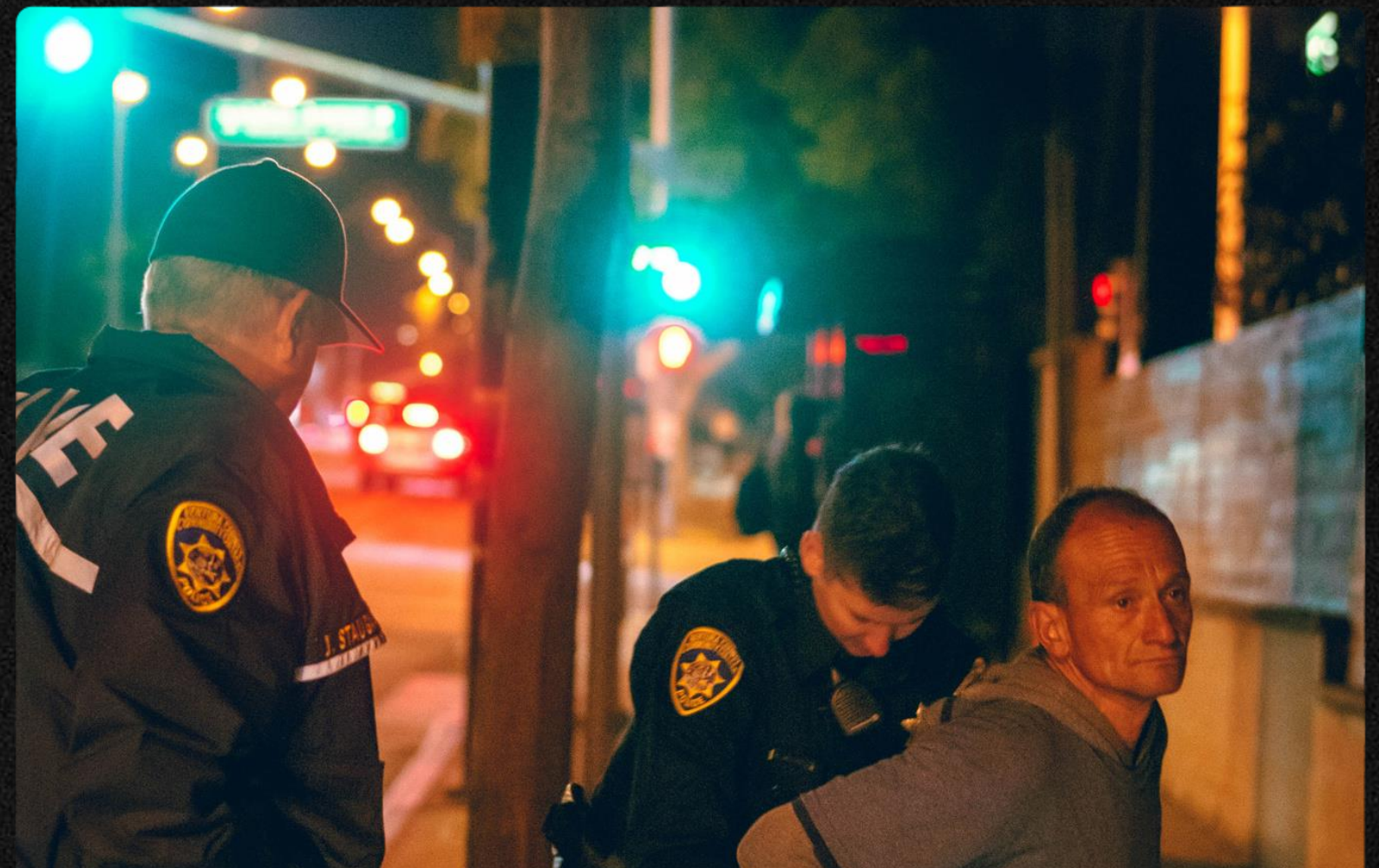
**DISCOURAGED**

**EXTENDED PURSUITS OF VIOLATORS FOR  
MISDEMEANORS NOT INVOLVING:**

**VIOLENCE**

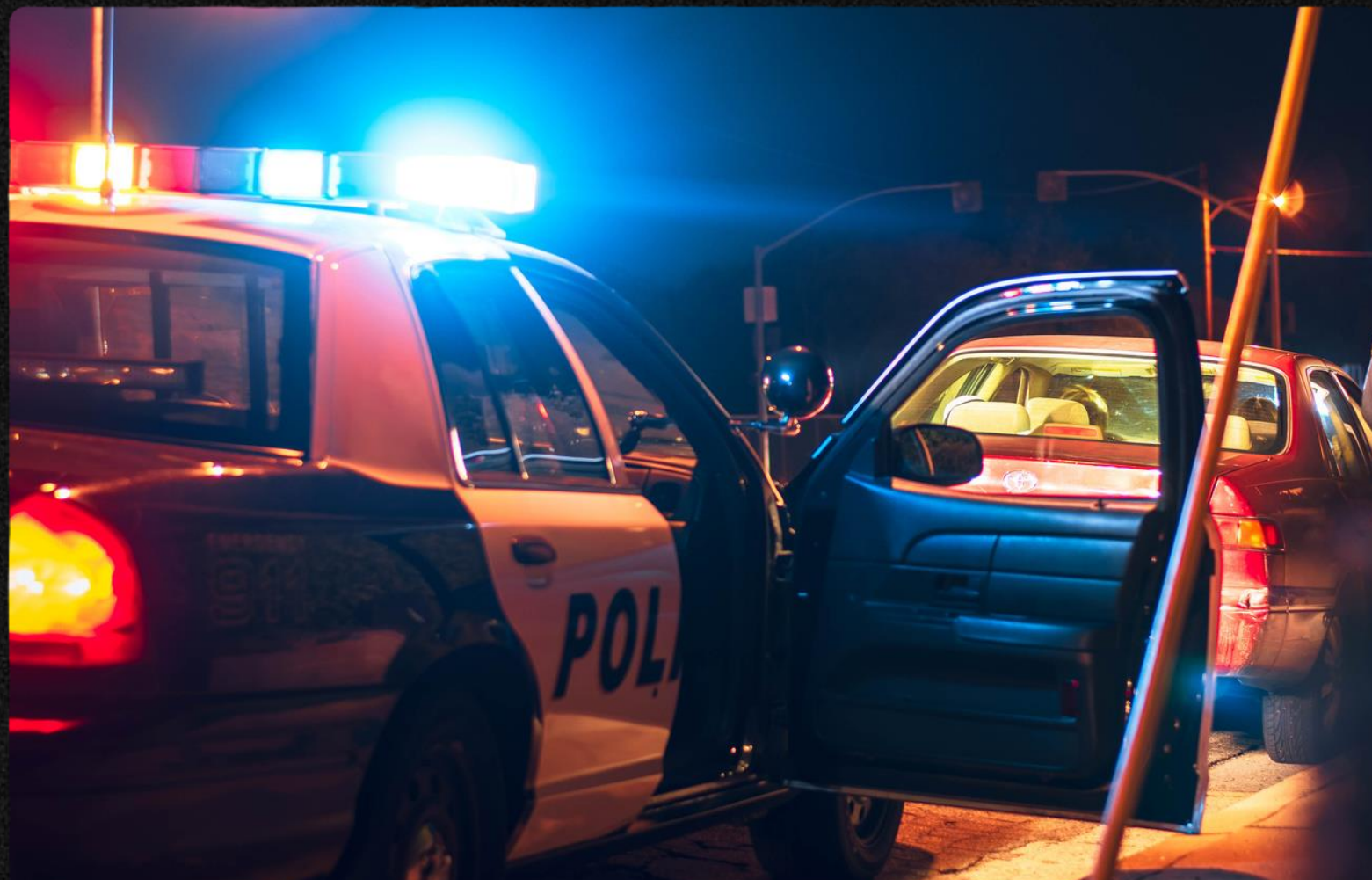
**RISK OF SERIOUS HARM**

**WEAPONS**



# WHEN TO TERMINATE

IF THE FLEEING VEHICLE ENTERS OR DRIVES UPON ANY COLLEGE CAMPUS, REGARDLESS OF DRIVING BEHAVIOR, THE OFFICER WILL IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE THE PURSUIT. OFFICERS MAY CONTINUE TO PURSUE A FLEEING VEHICLE ONTO CAMPUS ONLY IF THE DRIVER IS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING A VIOLENT FELONY.



# WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT 306.4.2

## EXAMPLES

Suspect vehicle is driving extremely fast and weaving in and out of traffic during rush hour. The only PC you have is a broken brake light.

Suspect vehicle is driving recklessly and headed towards a school zone at a time you know that school is released.

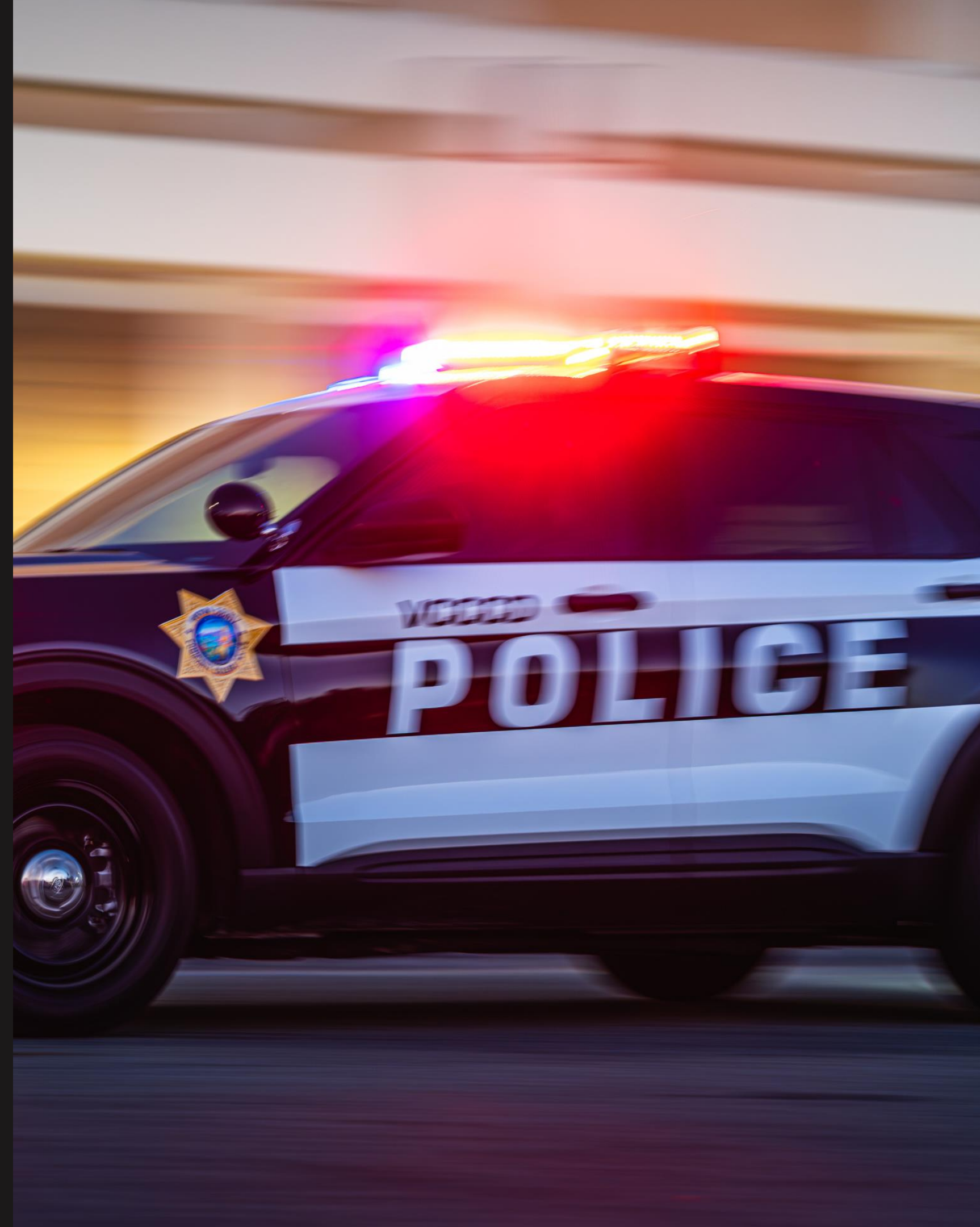
You are in pursuit of a vehicle and heading into a unfamiliar area with zero radio coverage. You have no other officers in pursuit.

You are in pursuit of a vehicle and have positive ID of the suspect. You are able to discontinue and have an officer wait at the last known residence and/or create a warrant for the suspect.

# SPEED LIMITS 306.4.3

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The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the officer and supervisor. Evaluation of vehicle speeds should take into consideration public safety, officer safety, and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle.



# PURSUIT UNITS 306.5

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police department emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor); however, the number of units involved may vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request additional units to join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it reasonably appears that the number of officers involved may be insufficient to safely arrest the suspects. All other officers should stay out of the pursuit, but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any officer who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.



# VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT 306.5.1

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Officers operating vehicles not equipped with red light and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit.

# PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES 306.5.2

The primary unit should notify the dispatcher commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including but not limited to:

1. The location, direction of travel, and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.
2. The description of the suspect's vehicle including license plate number, if known.
3. The reason for the pursuit.
4. Known or suspected weapons. Threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.
5. The suspected number of occupants and identity or description.
6. The weather, road, and traffic conditions.
7. The need for any additional resources or equipment.
8. The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit



# SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES 306.5.3

The second officer in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary unit and is responsible for:

1. Immediately notifying the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit.
2. Remaining a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.
3. Broadcasting the progress, updating known or critical information, and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
4. Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
5. Serving as backup to the primary pursuing officer once the suspect has been stopped.





# PURSUIT DRIVING 306.5.4

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The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the officer considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for units involved in the pursuit:

1. Officers, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
2. Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:
  - a. Available units not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.
  - b. Pursuing units should exercise due regard and caution when proceeding through controlled intersections.
3. As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving left of center (wrong way) against traffic. In the event that the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
  - a. Requesting assistance from available air support.
  - b. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling it on the correct side of the roadway.
  - c. Request other units to observe exits available to the suspects.
4. Notify the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and/or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.
5. Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other units unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the primary unit and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved units.

# PURSUIT TRAILING 306.5.5

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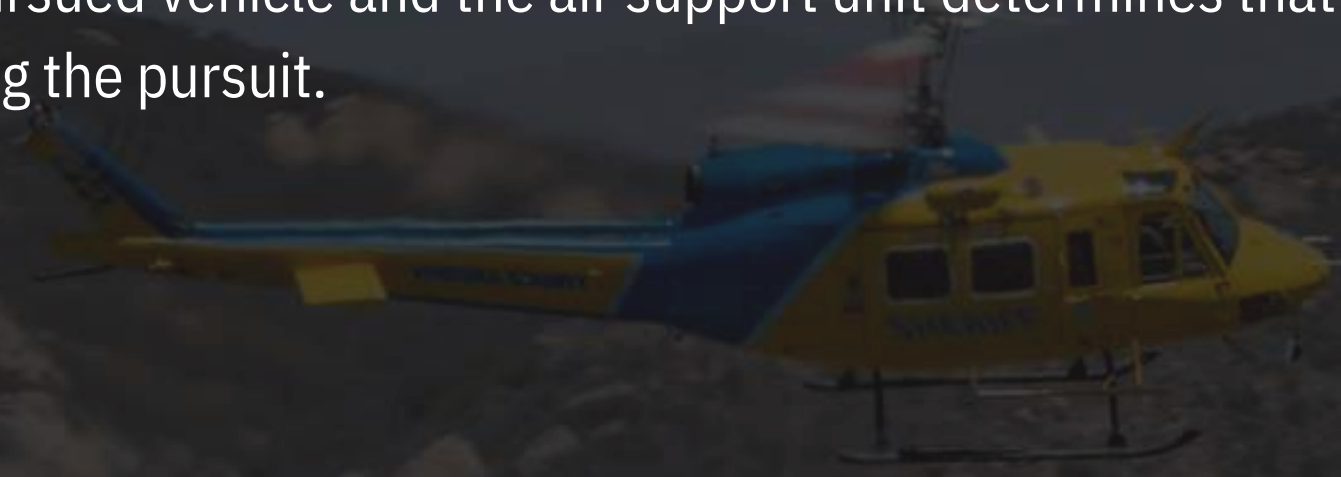
In the event the initiating unit from this agency either relinquishes control of the pursuit to another unit or jurisdiction, that initiating unit may, with permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide information and assistance for the arrest of the suspects and reporting the incident.

# AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE 306.5.6



When available, air support assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, the unit should assume control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground units, or involved supervisor, will maintain operational control but should consider whether the participation of air support warrants the continued close proximity and/or involvement of ground units in the pursuit.

The air unit should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit and provide officers and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards, or other pertinent information to evaluate whether to continue the pursuit. If ground units are not within visual contact of the pursued vehicle and the air support unit determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air support unit should recommend terminating the pursuit.



# UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT 306.5.7

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There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route.

Officers are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public.

Officers should remain in their assigned area and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

The primary and secondary units should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (red light and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

# SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES 306.6.6

Available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this department.

The field supervisor of the officer initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor will be responsible for:

1. Immediately notifying involved unit and the dispatcher of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit.
2. Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
3. Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
4. Ensuring that no more than the required number of units are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
5. Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in the supervisor's judgment, it is unreasonable to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
6. Ensuring that assistance from air support, canines, or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.
7. Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
8. Ensuring that the Watch Commander is notified of the pursuit as soon as practicable.
9. Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this department.
10. Controlling and managing Ventura County Community College District Police Department units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
11. Preparing a post-pursuit review and documentation of the pursuit.
  - a. Supervisors should initiate follow up or additional review when appropriate.

# **WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES 306.6.1**

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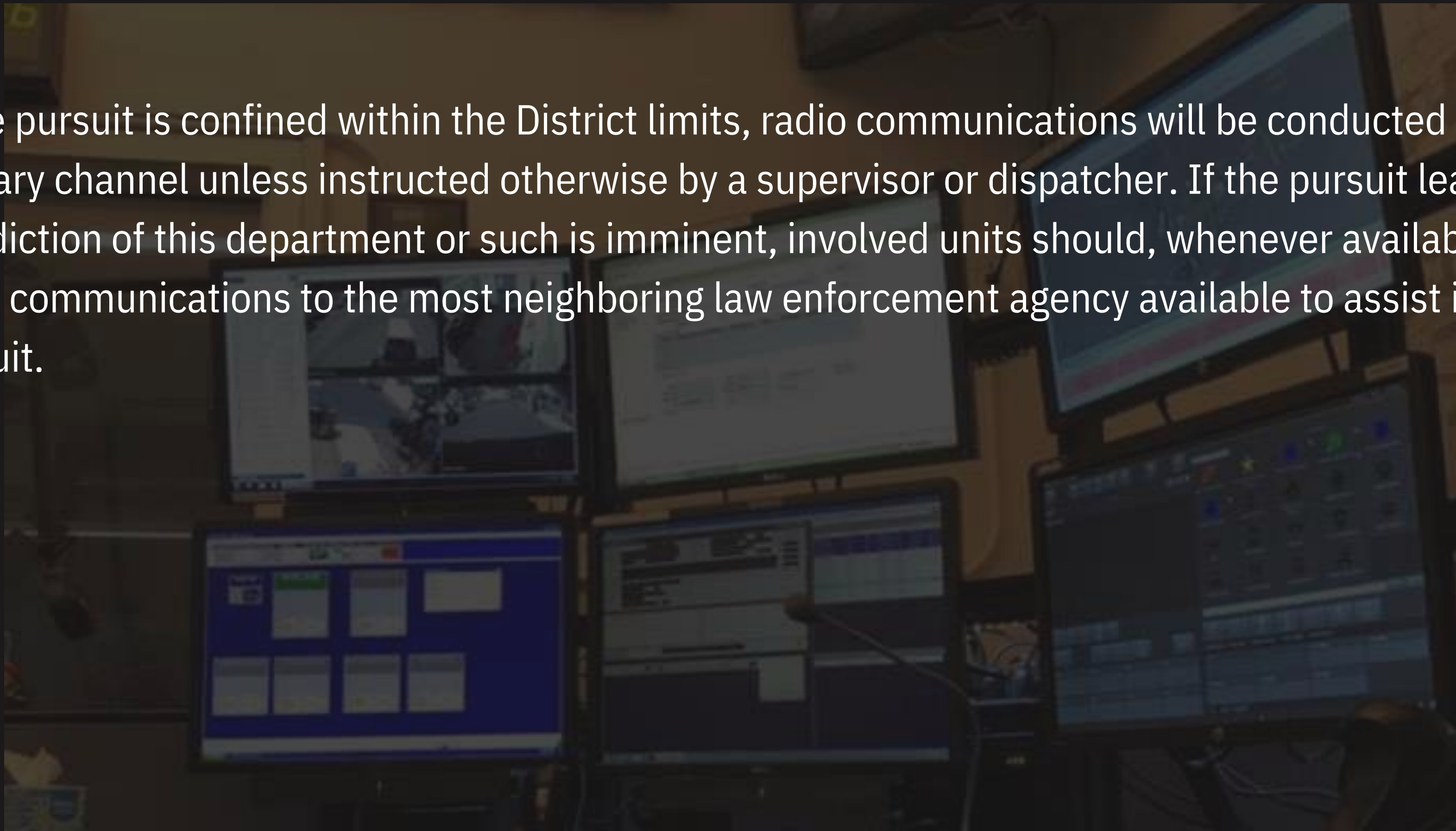
Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Watch Commander should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy.

Once notified, the Watch Commander has the final responsibility for the coordination, control, and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command.

The Watch Commander shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward to the Chief of Police.

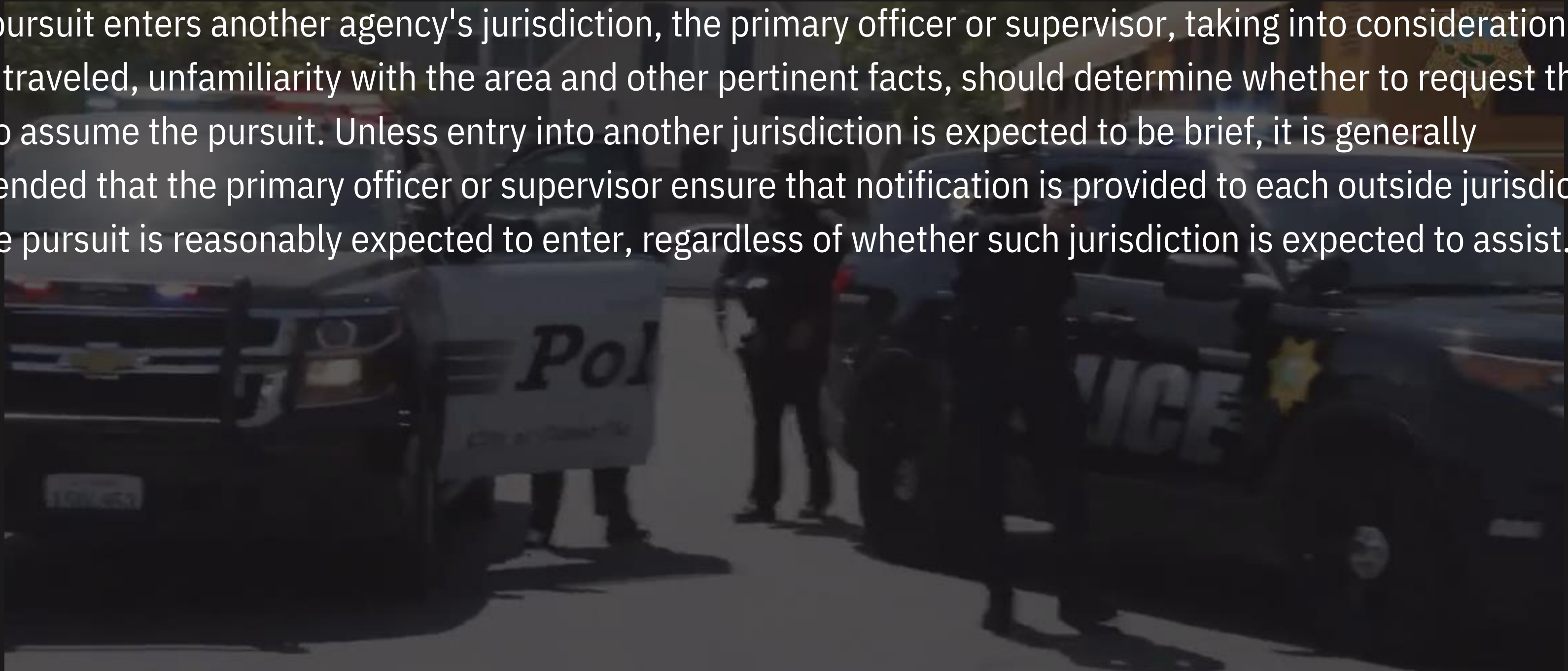
# DISPATCH 306.7

If the pursuit is confined within the District limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved units should, whenever available, switch radio communications to the most neighboring law enforcement agency available to assist in the pursuit.



# INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS 306.8

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary officer or supervisor, taking into consideration distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit. Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary officer or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether such jurisdiction is expected to assist.





# **ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY 306.8.1**

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Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Ventura County Community College District Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved officers may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports. Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific.

# **PURSUIITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION 306.8.2**

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The agency that initiates a pursuit is responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a supervisor may authorize units from this department to join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal of the pursuit.

# **PURSUIITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION 306.8.2**

## **CONT.**

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of Ventura County Community College District Police Department, the supervisor should consider:

- (a) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (b) The safety of the pursuing officers.
- (c) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (d) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (e) The ability to maintain the pursuit

# **PURSUIITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION 306.8.2**

## **CONT.**

As soon as practicable, a supervisor or the Watch Commander should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Watch Commander or supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in, or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing allied agency by officers of this department will terminate at the District limits provided that the pursuing officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, officers should provide appropriate assistance to officers from the allied agency including but not limited to scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports, and any other reasonable assistance requested or needed.

# WHEN PURSUIT INTERVENTION IS AUTHORIZED 306.9

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Whenever practicable, an officer shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle.

In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors should balance the risks of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards to the public arising from the use of each tactic, the officers, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle to determine which, if any, intervention tactic may be reasonable.

# USE OF FIREARMS 306.9.1

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An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others.

Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle (see the Use of Force Policy).

# INTERVENTION STANDARDS 306.9.2

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Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, the public, or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and subject to the policies guiding such use.

Officers should consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed

# INTERVENTION STANDARDS 306.9.2

## CONT.

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### TO BE USED WHEN TRAINED AND SUPERVISOR APPROVAL

**Blocking:** A low-speed tactic where one or more authorized police department emergency vehicles intentionally restrict the movement of a suspect vehicle, with the goal of containment or preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not boxing in or a roadblock

**Ramming-**The deliberate act of impacting a suspect's vehicle with another vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

**Boxing-In-**A tactic designed to stop a suspect's moving vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

**Tire Deflation Device-**A device that extends across the roadway designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle, sometimes referred to as spike strips.

**Roadblocks-**A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing an emergency vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.



# INTERVENTION STANDARDS 306.9.2 CONT.

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SHALL NOT BE USED UNLESS TRAINED AND SUPERVISOR

APPROVAL

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed tactic intentionally applied to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out and terminate the pursuit.

ALL THESE TECHNIQUES CAN CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH TO  
OFFICER, SUSPECT, AND THE PUBLIC.

# CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS 306.9.3

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Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force, which reasonably appears necessary under the circumstances, to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspects following the pursuit. Officers should consider safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspects.

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 306.10

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All appropriate reports should be completed to comply with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

(a) The primary officer should complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.

(b) The Watch Commander shall ensure that an Allied Agency Vehicle Pursuit Report (form CHP 187A) is filed with the CHP not later than 30 days following the pursuit (Vehicle Code § 14602.1). The primary officer should complete as much of the required information on the form as is known and forward the report to the Watch Commander for review and distribution.

(c) After first obtaining the available information, the involved, or if unavailable on-duty, field supervisor shall promptly complete a Supervisor's Log or interoffice memorandum, briefly summarizing the pursuit to the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. This log or memorandum should include, at a minimum:

- 1. Date and time of pursuit.
- 2. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
- 3. Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.
- 4. Involved units and officers.
- 5. Alleged offenses.
- 6. Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.
- 7. Any use of force that occurred during the vehicle pursuit.
  - (a) Any use of force by a member should be documented in the appropriate report (See the Use of Force Policy).

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 306.10

## CONT.

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8.Any injuries and/or medical treatment.

9.Any property or equipment damage.

10.Name of supervisor at scene or who handled the incident.

(d)After receiving copies of reports, logs, and other pertinent information, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee should conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review.

Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of department vehicle pursuit reports to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance, and training or equipment needs.



THANK  
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