



# TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

66 MAIN STREET, WEST ORANGE, N.J. 07052

## WEST ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL OPERATIONS

**ROBERT D. PARISI**  
*Mayor*

**JAMES P. ABBOTT**  
*Chief of Police*

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To: Chief James P Abbott

From: Lieutenant Mango

Subject: 2021 Pursuit Analysis

Date: 02/07/2021

Sir,

A review of the Pursuit Reports and Command Review for the year 2021 revealed the following:

*Total number of pursuits initiated: 11*  
*Number of pursuits resulting in crashes: 1*  
*Number of pursuits resulting in injuries: 0*  
*Number of pursuits resulting in fatalities: 0*  
*Number of pursuits resulting in arrests: 1*

*Total number of arrests: 1*

*Reason for Pursuits:*

*Criminal Activity: 3*  
*Traffic violations: 8*

*Pursuit termination reasons:*

*Supervisor Decision: 9*  
*Officer Decision involved in Pursuit: 2*  
*Disabled/Bail out: 0*

*The above listed pursuits were initiated by the following Officers: Lt. Mango, Sgt. Bette, P/O McCellan, P/O Brown (on 2 of the pursuits), P/O Orejuela, Det. Loreto, P/O Pischerchio, P/O Hamilton, P/O Delplato, and P/O Verduga.*

*The pursuits occurred on the following dates respectively: 1/22/2021 (Friday), 2/14/2021 (Sunday), 3/20/2021 (Saturday), 3/27/2021 (Saturday), 4/6/2021 (Sunday) 6/1/2021 (Tuesday), 7/8/2021 (Thursday), 8/28/2021 (Saturday), 9/24/2021 (Friday) 10/4/2021 (Sunday) and 12/8/2021 (Wednesday). There does not seem to be a pattern in regards to day of week.*

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*A review of past years revealed the following:*

*2012: 12 pursuits  
2013: 10 pursuits  
2014: 06 pursuits  
2015: 11 pursuits  
2016: 18 pursuits  
2017: 15 pursuits  
2018: 12 pursuits  
2019: 10 pursuits  
2020: 7 pursuits  
2021: 11 Pursuits*

*Pursuits increased by 63% from last year. This could be due to the increase in people returning to their normal routines since Covid had many people on lock down in 2020.*

*Every pursuit that an agency member conducts has a completed Incident Report and subsequent Command Review by two levels of supervision. These command reviews include a review of BWC footage, radio transmissions and interviewing officers and witnesses involved. In reviewing the 2021 Pursuit incidents as well as the Command Reviews for the same, I did not see any improper decisions for initiating any of the pursuits. None of the instances of officer actions resulted in discipline or counseling or internal affairs investigations, however 3 incidents resulted in re-training (21-026592), (21-030023), and (21-030940).*

*Some training issues in regards to losing sight of vehicle and not terminating the pursuit sooner, reported speed, and delay in activating lights and sirens and reporting pursuit on the radio. Officers and Supervisors, to their credit, continue to adhere to A.G. Pursuit Guidelines and Departmental Policy.*

*An analysis of driver data did not show any patterns of discrimination or bias based policing.*

*The pursuit policy is reviewed twice annually in conjunction with Firearms Requalification. In addition, I recommend that it be presented as a block of instruction in one of the in-service training days to benefit the high number of young officers we presently have in addition to power DMS.*

*The Directive was just updated to reflect the new Attorney General Guideline on pursuits which went into effect as of the new year 2022. There was training in conjunction with these changes via videos provided by the NJ Attorney General. All sworn officers participated in the video training and passed the tests that followed.*

*The pursuit reports will now be on the Attorney General online portal making it much simpler to maintain records and collect data.*

*Now that the changes are implemented from the Attorney General, we should remain diligent in reminding Officers on the strict guidelines of the new policies on pursuits by Sergeants during line up.*