

For Immediate Release:
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Community Police Commission Submits Recommendations on CDP Vehicle Pursuit Policy

Proposed changes focus on incorporating best practices to increase safety, improve transparency

CLEVELAND - On August 31, the Community Police Commission (CPC) submitted its vehicle pursuit policy recommendations to the City and Cleveland Division of Police.

Community concerns regarding the danger vehicle pursuits pose to the public and the pursuit related death of a 13 year old girl in December of 2019 led the CPC to take a look at existing policy.

The CPC recognizes the CDP's 2015 effort to update the vehicle pursuit policy and acknowledge that the current policy is generally in line with many national and local Ohio policies that existed during that time. In response to public concerns, the CPC concluded that five years is a reasonable amount of time to consider making several updates to enhance previous efforts in this area.

The CPC's recommendations were informed by community feedback and existing research on best practices currently followed by other law enforcement agencies.

The CPC's recommendations center on three key areas:

1. Refining when an officer can use an authorized emergency vehicle to pursue a suspect and incorporating additional best practices for these pursuits;
2. Defining training standards and limiting officers who are authorized to pursue to "sufficiently trained officers" only;
3. Outlining criteria for reporting vehicle pursuit data to the public.

[Read the CPC's recommendations, explanation of proposed changes, and letter to Chief Williams here.](#)

Implementing the CPC's proposed changes to the current pursuit policy will show the CDP is listening to the community's concerns and actively making changes to further build community trust and confidence in the Cleveland Division of Police.

The CPC looks forward to continuing a dialogue with the City and CDP about these recommendations.

About the Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC): The CPC was established in 2015 as part of the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the U.S. Department of Justice. The CPC provides community input on police policies to help strengthen relationships between officers and the communities they serve. Better policies will help ensure policing in Cleveland is safe, effective, and that people's civil rights are upheld. www.clecpc.org