



DeKalb County Police Department Office of the Chief

Date: March 26, 2025

To: DKPD

From: Gregory A. Padrick #1896, Interim Chief

Subject: Expanded Criteria for Initiating Pursuits

In an effort to reduce crime, we are expanding the criteria for initiating vehicle pursuits. Effective immediately, a pursuit may be initiated if there is probable cause to believe that the suspect being pursued has committed any crime—whether felony, misdemeanor, or any traffic offense.

Please note that this expanded criteria does not diminish the responsibilities of the officers involved in the pursuit, nor their supervisors. Officers are still required to exercise due regard for safety, and both officers and supervisors who act in reckless disregard for the safety of others, or allow such actions to occur, will be held accountable for their decisions.

All officers are required to adhere to the laws and regulations governing vehicle pursuits. At the same time, officers must exercise sound discretion and prudent judgment in each pursuit. It is important to recognize that not every violator will be apprehended, and in certain circumstances, the most prudent and professional decision may be to terminate a pursuit in the interest of safety. When assessing the appropriateness, speed, and scope of a pursuit, officers must exercise careful judgment to ensure that their actions remain objectively reasonable at all times.

Additionally, officers who have received formal training in the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) maneuver may execute it, in accordance with their training and their professional assessment of the situation. No officer should attempt any maneuver they have not been formally trained in or do not feel proficient performing.

An update to the current Pursuit Policy is in progress and will be disseminated upon completion and review by the Law Department. Thank you for your attention to this important update, and for your continued commitment to public safety.