



2024 Annual Review Report

**Internal Affairs Investigations
Use of Force Incidents
Departmental Vehicle Collisions
Vehicle Pursuits**

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024



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Office of Professional Standards

An annual review of the required reports and their findings for calendar year 2024 has been completed for the following: Internal Affairs Investigations, Force Review Committee's findings, and the Departmental Crash/Pursuit review findings.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS:

During the 2024 calendar year, eighteen (18) internal affairs investigations were processed by the Professional Standards Office. The investigation into one incident is still pending. The investigations involved thirteen (13) different sworn employees and three (3) non-sworn employees. External sources accounted for five (5) investigations, while thirteen (13) were initiated from an internal source. External sources generally include complaints from a citizen about an employee's conduct or a concern with Departmental procedure.

Twelve (12) of the investigations were investigated by the Professional Standards Officer, one (1) was investigated by the Deputy Chief of Police, and five (5) were handled at the field level.

The following are the dispositions of the allegations:

Improper Conduct	Pending	Proper Conduct	Policy Failure	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded Complaint	Withdrawn
10	1	4	0	3	1	1

Totals relate to all investigated charges and not total number of incidents

The following is a summary of imposed discipline:

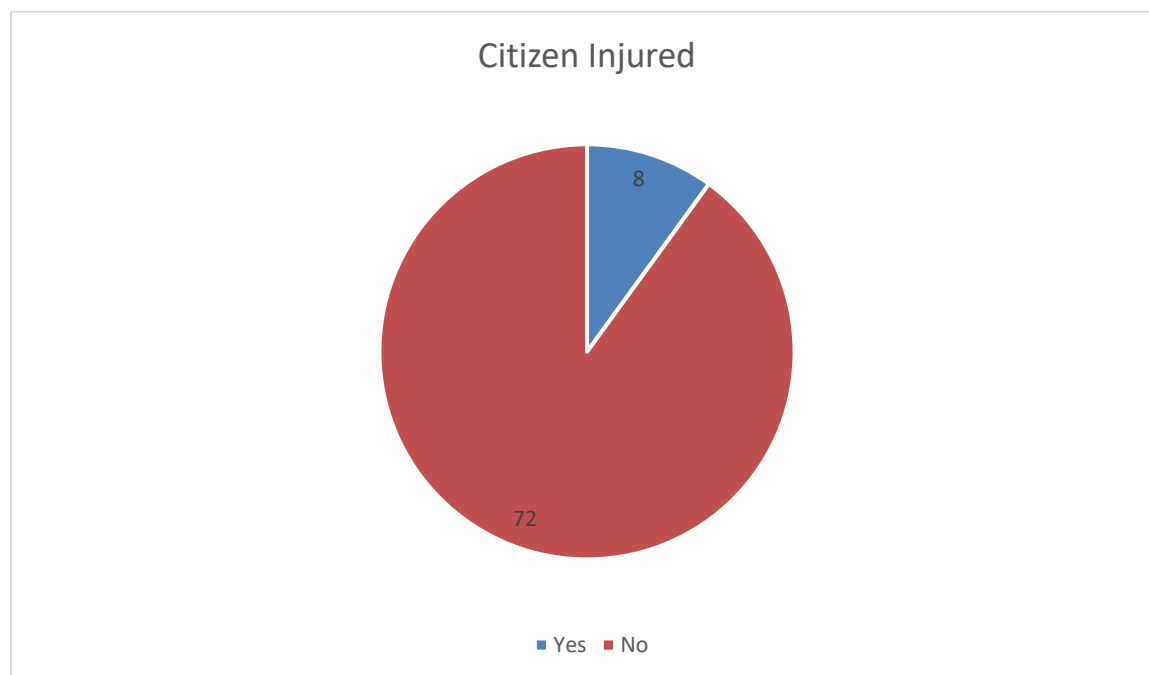
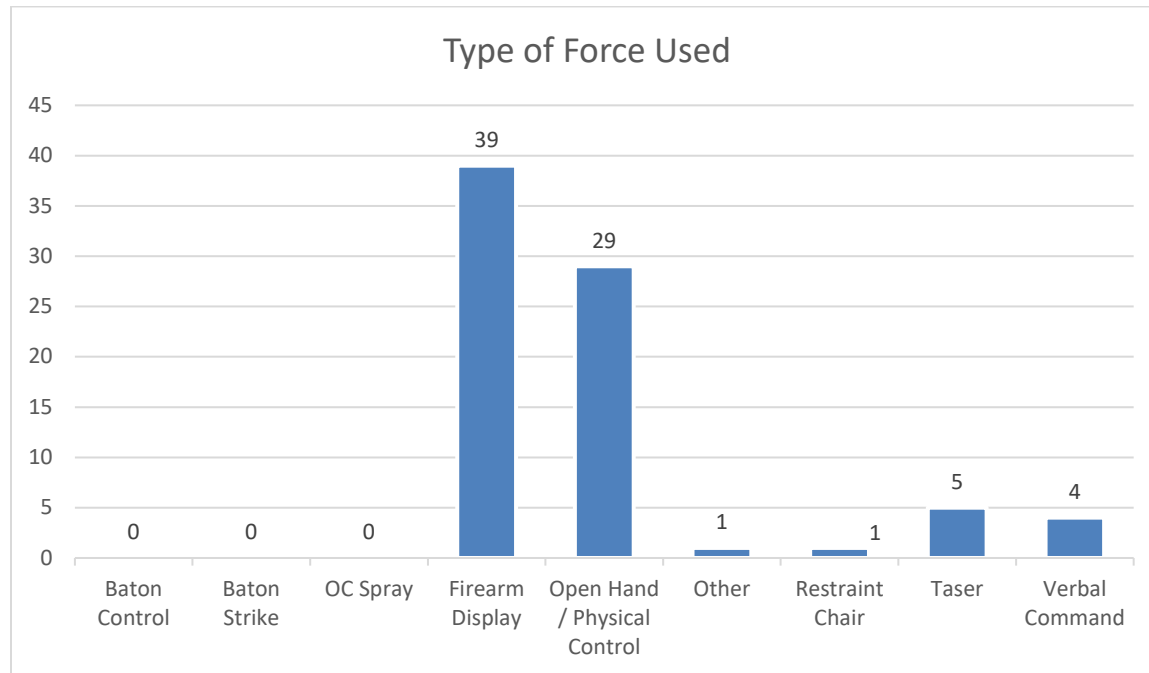
<u>Discipline Type</u>	<u>Number Issued</u>
Verbal Reprimand	5
Written Reprimand	4
Suspension	1
Demotion	0
Dismissal	0

Recommendations:

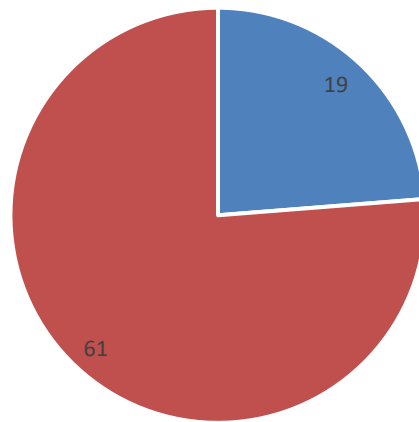
This period of review did not reveal any discernible patterns of misconduct by employees. The investigations did not reveal any pattern of corruption, dishonesty, excessive force, or abuse of authority.

USE OF FORCE:

In 2024, there were 80 applications of force. This is consistent with the 2023 analysis where 85 applications of force were documented. Each type of force used is consistent when comparing the two years of data. There is no discernable trend or pattern from year to year. It should be noted that firearm display is again the highest type of force used accounting for 48.75% of force used.

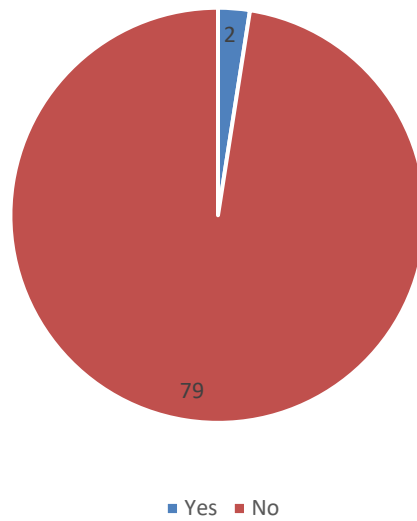


Citizen Taken to Hospital

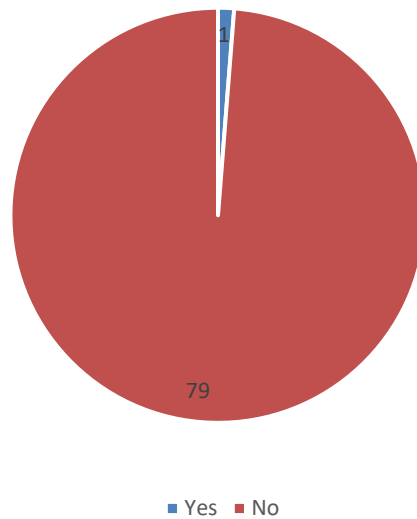


■ Yes ■ No

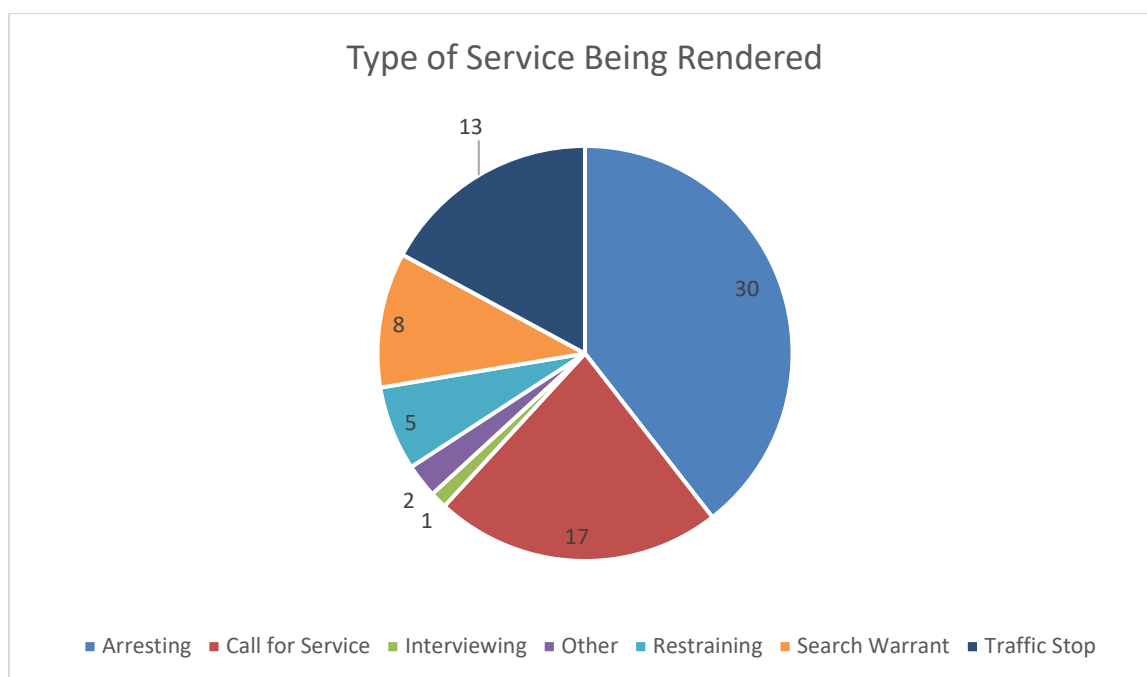
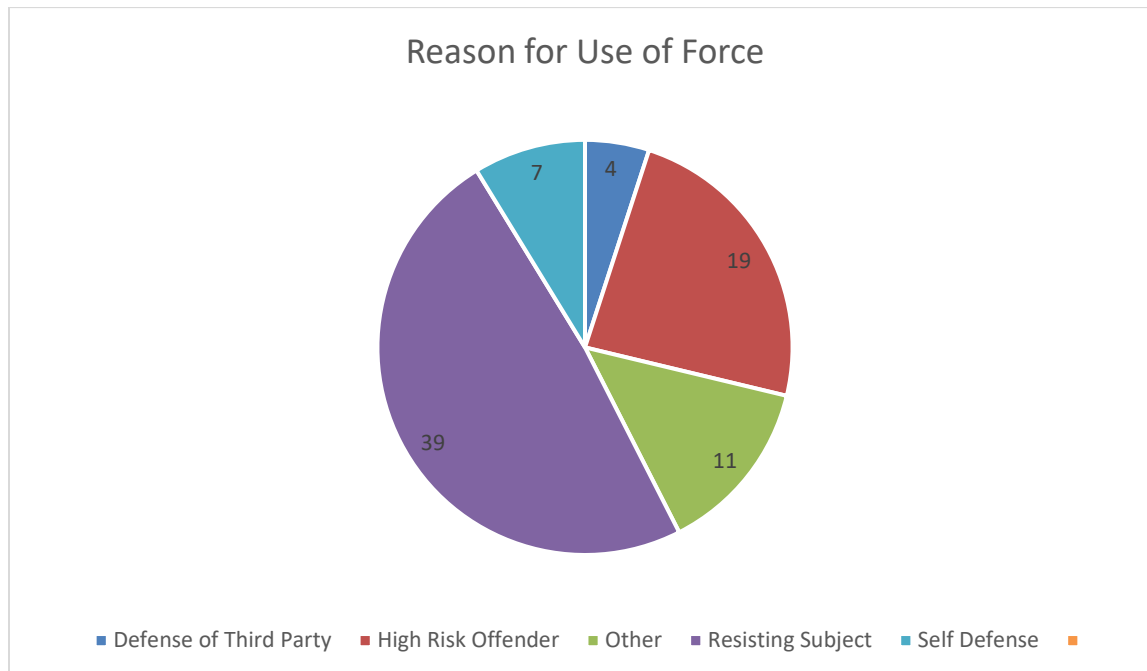
Officer Injured



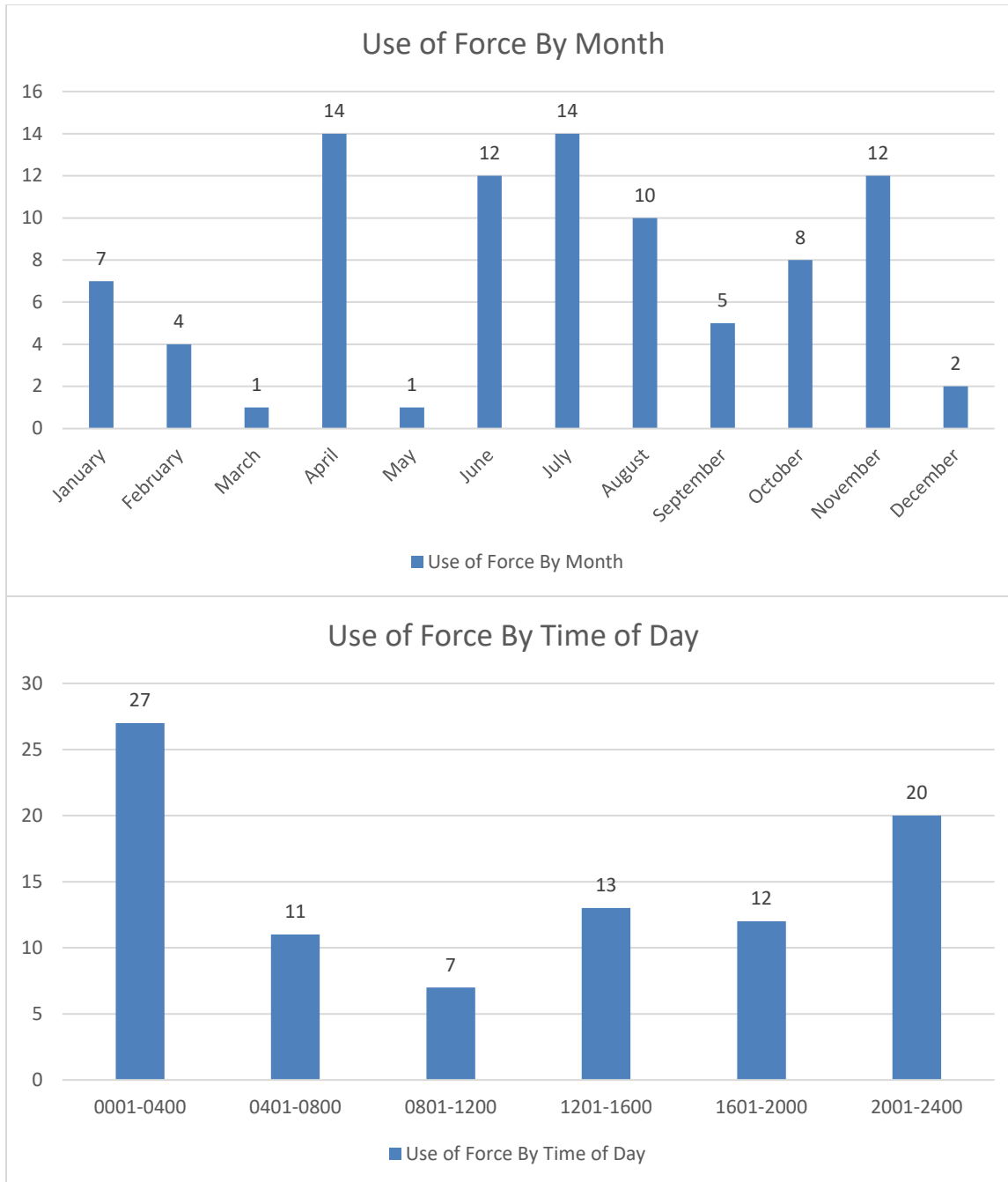
Officer Taken to Hospital



An analysis of injuries resulting from use of force reveals that suspects experienced a documented injury 10% of the time force was applied in 2024. This is continuing a downward trend since the prior analysis of 11.8% in 2023 and 30.4 % in 2022. Additionally, injuries sustained by officers were also down to 2.5% in 2024 from 9.4 % in 2023 and 21.7% in 2022.



The use of force is based upon the person's conduct, with the highest rate observed in arresting a resisting subject. The reason for the use of force of "resisting subject" occurred in 48.75 % of the use of force encounters. The type of service being rendered during which use of force was deployed the most was "arresting" which occurred during 39.5% of use of force encounters. This is in line with the prior two year's analysis.



An analysis of the use of force by month indicates that force is fairly consistent throughout the year except for 3 months of low usage in the year. When compared to the 2023 data there are no discernable trends or patterns in the time of the year. In analyzing the time of day, 64% of the use of force deployments occurred between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., with 52 % occurring between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. This is a new pattern compared to the prior year where the highest uses of force amount occurred between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Although it should be noted as stated earlier in this analysis, there were 80 uses of force in this 2024 analysis compared to 85 in the 2023 analysis.

Use of Force by Race and Sex of the Suspect:

	Black	Black	Hispanic	Hispanic	Other	Other	White	White
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Baton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canine Release - no bite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canine Release - with bite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical / OC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taser	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
Firearm - Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firearm - Display	15	12	9	0	0	0	18	7
Weaponless	7	5	1	0	0	0	22	5
Force totals	24	18	10	0	0	0	44	12

An analysis of the use of force as it relates to race, age, and gender shows that the average age of involved suspect is 31 years old. This is in line with the 2023 analysis of 31 years old and the 2022 analysis of 29 years old. Force and gender show that 72.2 % was deployed on males and 27.8% was deployed on females, which is in line with the 2023 analysis of 74.5 % deployed on males. An analysis of the rate at which force is deployed in relation to race is in line with the previous analysis and state population trends. During this analysis, force was used against white people 51.9%, black people 38.8%, and Hispanic people 9.3%. It should be noted that the state of Delaware estimates for 2024 show that the population of the state is 67.6% white, 24.1% black, and 11.1% Hispanic.

The Force Review Committee reviewed all the use of force incidents. One incident was sent to the Professional Standards Office for review

Recommendations:

For this reporting period, there are no discernible patterns of abuse, excessive, or unnecessary force being used by any of the officers involved. Race and sex do not appear to be factors in the use of force. The following recommendations will aid in compliance with and comprehension of the Use of Force policy (G.O. 1.3.A):

In-service training recommendations:

- Policy review
- Case law review
- Annual training with all issued equipment in accordance with standards
- Continued force on force training and use of simulated situations

DEPARTMENTAL COLLISIONS:

Nine (9) members of the Department were involved in nine (9) Departmental vehicle collisions during the year. All crashes were reviewed by the Special Enforcement Division Commander per GO 41.2.A. The crashes were closed as follows:

No Fault	7
At Fault	2

No crashes were sent to the Professional Standards Office for review. Crashes are reviewed by the Special Enforcement Division Commander and discipline for crashes is handled by the Deputy Chief of Police.

No crashes involved injury to a civilian. One (1) crash involved an injury to an employee.

Cause of Crash	Count	Percent of Total
Disregard Signs/Signals	1	11%
Improper Backing	5	56%
Inattentive Driving	3	33%

For this reporting period, there were three (3) at-fault collisions reported. One (1) crash resulted in a verbal reprimand and two (2) crashes resulted in a written reprimand.

Pending Review

No reports are pending review.

Recommendations:

The following will aid in compliance with and comprehension of the Vehicle Equipment/Emergency Operation policy (G.O. 41.2.B):

- A reminder to all officers about the need to pay attention to their surroundings when driving
- Policy review as part of in-service training
- Training as needed in defensive driving
- Emergency vehicle operators' course
- Review of General Order 41.2.B and related policies for validity

VEHICLE PURSUITS:**Total Number of Pursuits: 23**

Reason for Pursuit	Count	Percent of Total
Eluding	1	4%
Failure to Stop	14	61%
Implied Weapon	1	4%
Other	7	30%
TOTAL	23	100%

Time of Day	Count	Percent of Total
0001 - 0200	5	22%
0201 - 0400	3	13%
1201 - 1400	1	4%
1401 - 1600	2	9%
1601 - 1800	4	17%
1801 - 2000	2	9%
2001 - 2200	3	13%
2201 - 2400	3	13%
TOTAL	23	100%

Initial Violation	Count	Percent of Total
Felony	3	13%
Other	2	9%
Traffic	18	78%
TOTAL	23	100%

Pursuit Distance	Count	Percent of Total
1 to 2 Miles	6	26%
2.1 to 5 Miles	3	13%
Less than 1 Mile	14	61%
TOTAL	23	100%

Event That Ended Pursuit	Count	Percent of Total
Handed over to other agency	1	4%
Public Safety	14	61%
Suspect stopped vehicle	3	13%
Suspect vehicle eluded pursuit	5	22%
TOTAL	23	100%

Crash During Pursuit	Count	Percent of Total
No	20	87%
Yes	3	13%
TOTAL	23	100%

Pursuit Within Policy	Count	Percent of Total
No	0	0%
Yes	23	100%
TOTAL	23	100%

Disposition of Pursuits NOT Within Policy	Count	Percent of Total
N/A	N/A	N/A

Pending Review:

No pursuits are pending review.

Policy Review:

During this analysis, the Departmental Pursuit Policy and reporting procedures were reviewed. There are no discernible patterns related to the pursuits by any of the officers involved. No changes to the policy are recommended.

Recommendations:

The following will aid in the continued compliance and comprehension of the Vehicle Pursuit Policy (G.O. 41.2.A):

Policy review as part of in-service training.