

Spring Grove Hospital Center Police Department

Vehicular Pursuit

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish, confirm, and advise that the Spring Grove Hospital Center has and enforces a non-vehicular pursuit policy.

II. Policy

Vehicular pursuit of fleeing suspects can present a danger to the lives of the public, officers, and suspects involved in the pursuit. Since the SGHC Police Department does not issue or authorize their police officers to carry offensive or defensive weapons requiring them to pursue vehicles that have chosen not to stop once their emergency lights and sirens have been activated, places them in greater danger than their counterparts who are fully equipped to pursue and apprehend non-cooperative suspects/violators that might be armed and who have been trained in police motor vehicular pursuits.

III. Definitions

Vehicular Pursuit: An active attempt by an officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect who is actively attempting to elude the police.

Authorized Emergency Vehicle: A vehicle of this agency equipped with operable emergency equipment as designated by State law to include emergency lights and siren.

Primary Unit: The police unit, which initiates a pursuit or any unit which assumes control of the pursuit.

Secondary Unit: Any police vehicle which becomes involved as a backup to the primary unit and follows the primary unit at a safe distance.

Rolling Road Blocks: The positioning and use of police vehicles in front and along side of a suspect vehicle while it is in motion in an effort to slow the suspect vehicle down and stop. This technique is also used in an effort to contain the vehicle and prevent it from turning or going around the police vehicle blocking their path.

This also includes intentional slowing the flow of traffic of other vehicles to force a Suspect vehicle of slowing down.

Stationary Road Blocks: The positioning of vehicles across the roadway to slow down and stop a suspect or wanted person operating a motor vehicle.

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IV. Following a Suspect in a Motor Vehicle

If a SGHC Police Officer is operating an emergency vehicle equipped with both emergency lights (red and /or blue) and siren, and a suspect fails to stop or flees. The SGHC Police Officer may follow the suspect vehicle but may not exceed the posted speed limit and must comply with all traffic laws. The officer will not have their emergency lights or siren activated while they are following the suspect vehicle. The Officer will notify the switchboard of their observations, description of the motor vehicle, driver, occupants if possible, location, and direction of travel. For the SGHC Police Officer to follow the vehicle, the vehicle, driver, or occupant must have been engaged in violation of criminal or traffic law or engaged in suspicious activity, elopement, suspected, theft etc...

The Switchboard Operator will notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies of the SGHC Police Officer's activity and request their assistance in stopping and identifying the vehicle and all of the occupants. The Switchboard Operator will log all of the information into the police officers activity log, which will also include the disposition of the incident.

The SGHC Police Supervisor or the Officer in Charge will monitor the incident and shall either approve or terminate the SGHC Police Officer's action.

The SGHC Police Officer will write a detailed police report articulating their observations and submit their report before the end of their shift. The report will include the decision made by the supervisor/OIC as to whether or not they were instructed to terminate their action or if their supervisor/OIC authorized them to follow the vehicle. The report will include what law enforcement agencies were notified; whether or not the suspect vehicle was located by the allied agency, year, make, model and color of the vehicle; along with descriptive information of all the occupants found in or related to the vehicle. If the allied law enforcement agency took a police report or wrote a traffic citation, the SGHC Police Officer will include the agency's case number, citation number, criminal or traffic charge.

V. Roadblock Restriction

Roadblocks shall not be employed to apprehend wanted persons. ***Nothing in this directive shall prevent the SGHC Police Department from using stationary road blocks to conduct traffic management, access control, maintenance, special events, weather related events, and/or redirect traffic.***

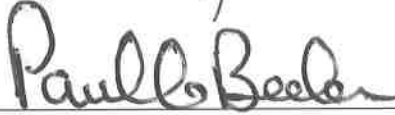
End of Directive

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Approved By:



Raymond N. Foxwell
Spring Grove Hospital Police Chief



Paul Beeker
Spring Grove Hospital Center COO

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Date

RNF/tb

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