



STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE

BOARD POLICY

Issued: January 1, 2001

Revised: January 15, 2025

Expires: Indefinite

Rescinds: LE-045-2000 Suspect Apprehension Pursuits

LE-045SPSB Vehicle Pursuits

Preamble:

- a) Pursuant to the *Community Safety and Policing Act (section 38(2))* a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing;
- b) *Ontario Regulation 397/23 - Vehicle Pursuits* requires the Board to have a policy on vehicle pursuits that is consistent with the *Regulations*; and
- c) The Board recognizes that vehicle pursuits are serious in nature, and that ensuring the safety of the citizens of the City of Stratford and the safety of this Police Service's Members are paramount in all aspects of police decision-making, including with respect to vehicle pursuits.

1. Board Policy:

- a) It is the policy of the Stratford Police Service Board (the Board) that vehicle pursuits be conducted only in accordance with the procedure set out by the Chief of Police as established in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of *Ontario Regulation 397/23 - Vehicle Pursuits* and this Policy;
- b) It is the policy of the Board with respect to vehicle pursuits that the Chief of Police shall:
 - I. Establish and maintain written procedures on vehicle pursuits that are consistent with *Ontario Regulation 397/23 Vehicle Pursuits*;
 - II. The procedures referred to above shall:
 - address the management and control of vehicle pursuits;

- set out tactics that may be used as an alternative to vehicle pursuits and tactics that may be used for following or stopping a fleeing motor vehicle;
 - describe the responsibilities of police officers, communicators; communications supervisors and road supervisors; and
 - describe the equipment available to the Police Service for implementing alternative tactics.
- III. Ensure that a multi-jurisdictional protocol is developed with other police agencies dealing with issues relating to vehicle pursuits;
 - IV. Ensure that Members involved with vehicle pursuits have the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform this function, and in particular, are trained in accordance with the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 397/23 - Vehicle Pursuits*;
 - V. Ensure Members receive training about the intentional contact between vehicles consistent with the requirements of Section 11 of *Ontario Regulation 397/23 – Vehicle Pursuits*;
 - VI. Ensure Members have successfully completed the required Ministry prescribed training;
 - VII. Address the use of tire deflation devices and officer training;
 - VIII. Ensure that Members involved with vehicle pursuits have available and use appropriate tools and equipment in performing this function;
 - IX. Ensure that an appropriate number of police vehicles are equipped with tire deflation devices and that officers are trained on their use; and
 - X. Ensure procedures established are in accordance with any prescribed Ministry directives or policing training standards.

2. **Report to the Board:**

- a) The Chief of Police shall make a written report to the Board within 30 days immediately following any vehicle pursuit in which:
 - I. There has been property damage;
 - II. There has been a personal injury or death;
 - III. The procedures with respect to vehicle pursuits were not followed; and
 - IV. In any other circumstance where, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, there is a significant issue or potential liability to the Board or the Police Service.

- b) The report shall disclose whether the vehicle pursuit incident was reported to the Special Investigations Unit.

3. **Annual Reporting Requirements:**

The Chief of Police shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures regarding vehicle pursuits;
- b) Confirmation of compliance with the procedures regarding vehicle pursuits; and
- c) The total number of vehicle pursuits undertaken in the previous 12-month period ending July 31 of that year, and a summary of each.

"Steve Cousins"

Chair

Approved January 15, 2025

Date