



July 29, 2022

Interim Chief Adrian Diaz  
Seattle Police Department  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Diaz:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

**Case Number**

- 2021OPA-0528 / 2022COMP-0012

**Topic**

- Vehicle Eluding/Pursuits

**Summary**

- It was alleged the Named Employees engaged in an out of policy pursuit.

**Analysis**

- Named Employee #1 (NE#1) responded to a bank robbery in progress. The call was initially noted in CAD as an armed bank robbery. A tracker was placed in the bag with the stolen money. NE#1 saw the suspect drive out of the parking lot and attempted a traffic stop, but the suspect fled.
- NE#1 and a second officer initiated a pursuit of the suspect vehicle. The pursuit lasted 22 seconds and less than a mile until the suspect vehicle crashed into a passing motorist. The suspect was apprehended.
- [SPD Manual 13.031-POL-4](#) requires that “the officer has received authorization to continue the pursuit from a supervisor.”
- NE#1 did not have authorization from a supervisor to engage in a pursuit. However, OPA recognizes that there was not a significant amount of time with which authority could be given before the collision occurred.
- At the discipline meeting, the chain of command flagged ongoing concerns relating to whether the policy speaks to supervisory authorization at the start of a pursuit or in continuance of a pursuit.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Revise SPD Policy 13.031-POL-4 to clarify whether a supervisor’s approval is required to initiate a pursuit or rather to continue a pursuit that was already initiated.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*Gráinne Perkins*

Gráinne Perkins  
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability