



Fire and Police Commission

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Fire and Police Commission Releases Report on Police Vehicle Pursuits

The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission (FPC) has released their [2017 Vehicle Pursuit Report](#), and a presentation of the report contents will be made to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners at their [regular meeting on April 19 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 301-B of City Hall](#). The report provides a comprehensive overview of Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) vehicle pursuit statistics for 2017 and contextualizes the current data with data going as far back as 2002. It is intended as a factual summary of the relevant statistics, and as such a tool for the public and the Board to utilize when discussing this important topic.

As an independent civilian oversight agency for the MPD, the FPC has unencumbered access to the records and databases of the department, and this access was utilized to independently research the frequency of and circumstances surrounding the department's vehicle pursuits.

Significant findings include:

- **In 2017 the MPD engaged in 369 vehicle pursuits; this is the highest total number of vehicle pursuits since at least 2002.**
 - This was a 21% increase compared to 2016, and most of the increase was due to additional vehicle pursuits engaged in after the implementation of changes to SOP 660 on September 22, 2017.
- **There was a decrease in both the number of non-pursuit incidents and the overall percentage of vehicles fleeing from traffic stops after the policy change in September 2017.**
- **The percentage of pursuits resulting in an accident has continued a ten year downward trend.**

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- **The number of pursuits resulting in injury reversed the upward trends seen during 2015 and 2016.**
 - In 2017 there were 4 pursuits resulting in Department employee injury (the same as 2016),
 - 11 resulting in 3rd party injury (down from 21 in 2016), and
 - 35 resulting in pursuit subject injury (down from 44 in 2016).
- **The number of pursuits reaching high speeds continues to be high.**
 - Like 2016, almost half of all pursuits in 2017 reached speeds greater than 75 miles per hour.
- **The age of pursuit subjects continues to be low.**
 - Like 2016, about half of all pursuit subjects were aged 18 or younger.
- **The apprehension rate of vehicle pursuits continues to be lower than in past years.**
 - In 2017 the percentage of pursuits resulting in subject apprehension was 30.6%. While in 2010, 91.2% of pursuits resulted in subject apprehension.

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