

ATLANTIC BEACH POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant C. Jamison



CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PURSUIT REPORT FOR 2024

Compilation and analysis of statistical data relevant to Pursuits conducted by the officers of the Atlantic Beach Police Department.

Executive Summary and Analysis

Signature of Preparer: Date: 2/4/2025

Reviewed By: Cmdr J. Hayson Date: 2-4-25

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Accepted By: V. Guebels Date: 24.25

Having a standardized process for reporting and analyzing pursuit data is an important step in assisting law enforcement agencies in engaging in safer vehicle pursuits. It is the policy of the Atlantic Beach Police Department to complete an annual documented analysis of all pursuits. The purpose of this analysis is to identify any patterns or trends. If the analysis reveals any patterns or trends, it could indicate training needs, equipment upgrade needs, or policy modifications needs.

Policy Overview

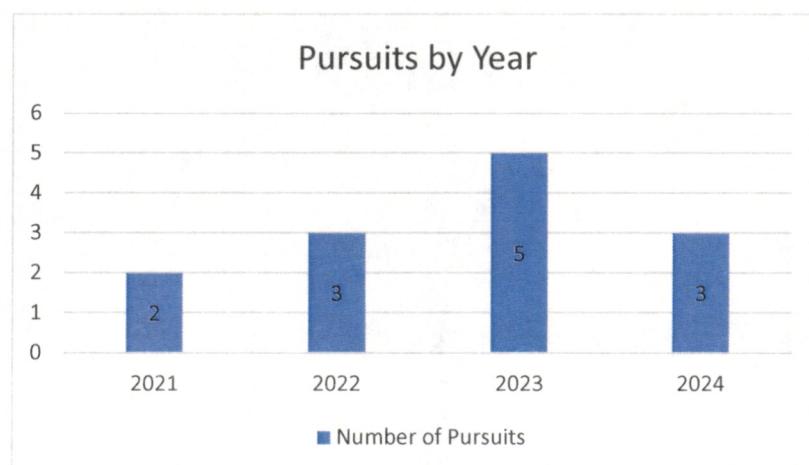
Atlantic Beach Police Department policy defines a vehicle pursuit as an active attempt by an officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend the occupants of a moving vehicle, providing that the driver of such vehicle is aware of the police officer's attempt to stop the subject vehicle, the subject vehicle increases speed, the subject vehicle takes other evasive actions, or refuses to stop in an attempt to avoid apprehension. Agency officers are authorized to initiate a vehicle pursuit if he or she has a reasonable belief that the fleeing subject vehicle, if allowed to flee, would present an imminent threat to human life because the officer has reasonable suspicion that the driver or an occupant of the subject vehicle has committed a forcible felony and poses a continued threat of death and/or serious bodily injury to the public; or the officer has reasonable suspicion that prior to law enforcement attempting to stop the subject vehicle, the driver of the subject vehicle was operating the vehicle in a dangerous manner likely to cause death and/or serious bodily injury to the public.

Vehicle pursuits, by their very nature, pose inherent risks to the community as well as to those involved. Because of this, it is also the policy of the Atlantic Beach Police Department that a motor vehicle pursuit is justifiable only when the necessity of immediate apprehension of the suspect(s) outweighs the level of danger to the community created by the pursuit. In instances where immediate apprehension cannot be made with reasonable safety, an officer shall attempt to obtain sufficient information to make a subsequent apprehension and cease the pursuit. Officers must constantly evaluate factors justifying the pursuit and whether it should or should not be continued in line with this policy.

Pursuit Analysis

Overview

In 2024, officers conducted three (3) vehicle pursuits. This is in line with historical averages and a decrease from 2023. All pursuits were reviewed by the chain of command to evaluate compliance with Atlantic Beach Police Department policy.



City of Atlantic Beach Police Department Annual Pursuit Report for 2024

One (1) pursuit was determined to possibly be in conflict with department policy and referred for further review. The others were found to be in compliance with agency policy.

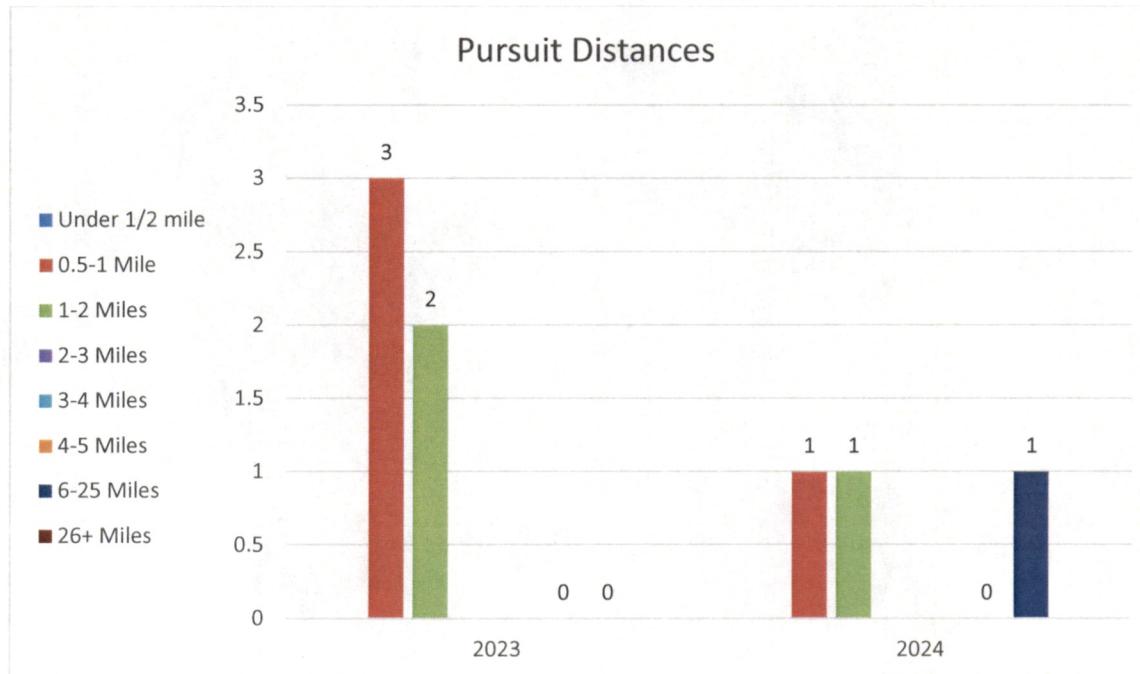
The pursuit that required further review was determined to be outside of policy because it was not properly terminated by the officer due to the danger of the pursuit outweighing the need for immediate apprehension. The officers involved received counseling and specific retraining in reference to proper pursuit procedures. None of the pursuits resulted in a crash or injury to an individual.

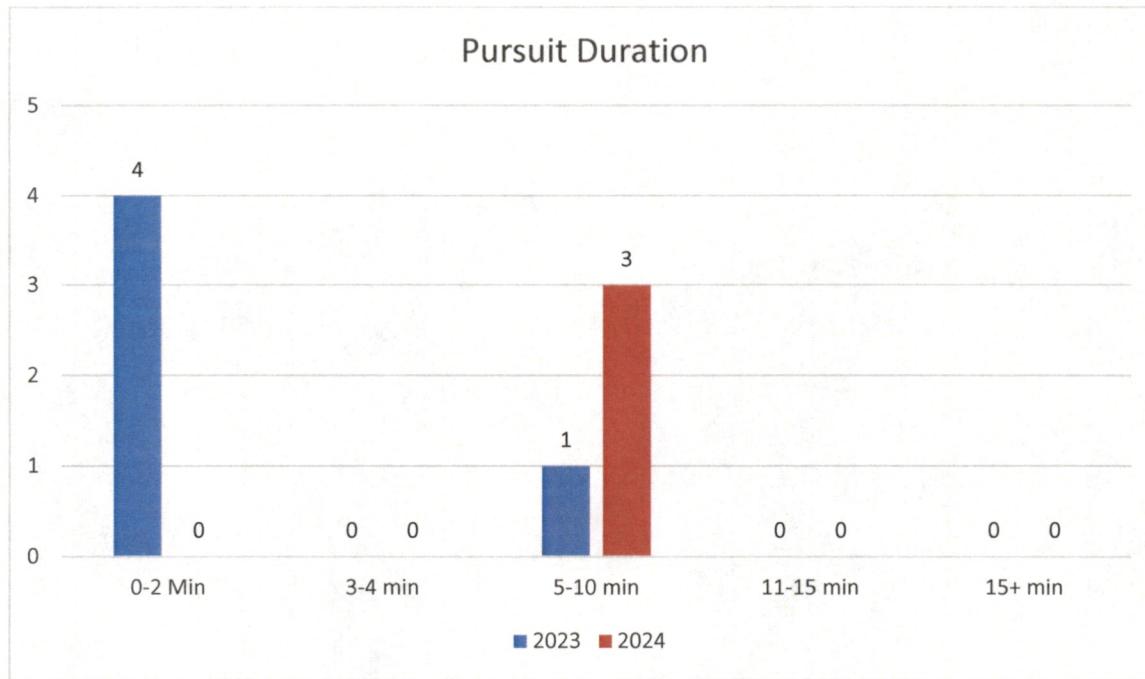
By Justification

In 2024, two (2) pursuits were initiated based on suspected DUI based on the driving pattern or other indicators the suspect was impaired and an on-going danger to the community. The third pursuit was initiated for reckless driving of the suspect vehicle prior to the initiation of the pursuit.

By Distance & Duration

Pursuit distances typically covered a distance of approximately 1 mile, though one pursuit was approximately 9 miles. The pursuit time from the initiation of emergency equipment to the termination of the pursuit averaged 6 minutes in 2024. The included charts show the duration and distance of all pursuits in 2024, as well as 2023 for comparison.





Termination

In 2024, two (2) pursuits were resolved when the suspect surrendered/stopped. The remaining pursuit ended when police lost sight of the suspect vehicle and officers voluntarily terminated the pursuit. The driver of the suspect vehicle in this pursuit was later identified and all three suspects were arrested.

The Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) is the Department's preferred means of conducting a controlled termination of a vehicle pursuit. Only members that have been trained in the Pursuit Intervention Technique may utilize these maneuvers and blocking techniques. No vehicle pursuits were terminated through the use of a PIT maneuver in 2024.

Suspect Demographics

In 2024, two (2) of the suspect drivers were male and one (1) was female. One (1) was White/Caucasian, one (1) was Black/African American, and one (1) was Hispanic. The average age of the suspect driver was 25 years old. All suspect drivers were identified.

Summary

With over 13,000 residents and thousands more traveling through Atlantic Beach, police pursuits are a rare occurrence. In 2024, 7,666 traffic stops were conducted. With only 3 vehicle pursuits, this reveals an occurrence rate of 0.0003%. This is similar with 2023, which saw 6,588 traffic

stops and 5 vehicle pursuits, an occurrence rate of 0.0007%. Despite an increase of 1,078 traffic stops, a 16% increase, the rate of vehicle pursuits decreased 40% from 5 to 3.

No specific trends were identified in this analysis that would indicate a need to change agency policy or a deficiency in policy or equipment.

The Atlantic Beach Police Department is proactive in the appropriate monitoring and assessment of vehicle pursuits, as well as fostering a culture of safety and accountability in the appropriate engagement of vehicle pursuits. Continued efforts to train officers when vehicle pursuits are authorized, as well as fostering safe driving skills, are key. This should continue to be a focus in the future, with additional opportunities in vehicle operations, pursuit intervention and prevention, and policy review methods to ensure officers have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in safe, justifiable pursuits.