



Timothy K. Cameron  
SHERIFF

# Office of the Sheriff

## St. Mary's County, Maryland

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An Internationally  
Accredited Agency

February 15, 2024

TO: Sheriff Steven A. Hall, St. Mary's County, Maryland

SUBJECT: Analysis of Vehicle Pursuits for January-December 2023

The following is an analysis for Vehicle Pursuits by deputy sheriffs of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) during the period of January through December 2023. The Sheriff's Office established a comprehensive Emergency Driving Policy in July 1996, as well as a Vehicle Pursuit Review report. Statistical data for this report was derived from the Vehicle Pursuit Reviews completed by the involved officer's immediate supervisor and submitted through the Chain of Command via Blue Team for final approval. Upon final approval, the report is forwarded to the Office of Professional Responsibilities where it is reviewed once again and placed into the IAPro database software. Refer to the below 2023 data obtained from the IAPro database compared against the 2022 and 2021 data:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
• Total Number of Pursuits	10	8	11
• Number of Pursuits Initiated by SMCSO	10	7	10
• Pursuits Documented by In Car Camera	10	8	10
• Suspected DWI as Reason for Pursuit	2	2	4
• Number of Pursuits Aborted	3	3	4
• Number of Involved Officers	23	34	26
• Avg. Number of Officers per Pursuit	2.3	3	2.4
• Pursuits Not Within Policy	1	2	3
• Avg. Length of Pursuit (miles)	4.2	3.5	3
• Stop Device Utilized	2	4	2
• Accident Occurred During Pursuit	4	1	0
• Injuries During Pursuit	2	2	0

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One pursuit was initiated by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office reference a reported domestic assault involving a handgun with the victim possibly being kidnapped and in a vehicle as a hostage with the suspect. This vehicle pursuit was unique in the fact the suspect driver stopped and let the victim out of the vehicle, then continued to evade pursuing officers. This pursuit is the only pursuit in 2023 that covered over 10 miles, ending after approximately 16 miles. One (1) pursuit in 2023 was determined not to be within policy, which led to an Administrative Investigation for the involved officer. The disposition of the Administrative Investigation resulted in three (3) administrative charges against the officer with a punishment of three (3) days loss of pay. Injuries occurred during two (2) pursuits as a result of motor vehicle crashes. In both instances the suspect was the only vehicle involved in the crash. Both suspects had minor injuries and were examined on the scene by EMS personnel, and no officers or other citizens were injured.

  
Thomas A. Hedderich  
Lieutenant  
Office of Professional Responsibilities

Agree

(☒) Yes ( ) No, see indorsement.

Major:



Date 2-15-24

(☒) Yes ( ) No, see indorsement.

Sheriff:



Date 2/15/24