I. POLICY

All personnel operating department vehicles shall exercise due regard for the safety of all persons. Members of the department who operate department vehicles will strictly adhere to existing state and local statutes and this policy. Particular attention will be focused on engaging in vehicle pursuits. Officers engaged in emergency vehicle operations shall utilize both the audible (siren) and visual (emergency lights) emergency warning equipment while engaged in vehicle pursuits or overtaking a vehicle in accordance with 46.2-920 of the Code of Virginia. When using a department vehicle in emergency operations, pursuing officers and supervisors must justify their actions and, once they have decided to pursue, continue to evaluate the safety of their actions.

II. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines governing the operation of police vehicles, with special attention to pursuits.

A limited number of the enclosed City of Charlottesville Police Department General Orders have been redacted. The redactions ensure that Police Department’s operational and tactical responses are withheld for community and Officer Safety (e.g., bank alarm response, response to an active threat, and Tactical Operations).