

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

4:00 PM

3rd Floor Council Chambers

Public Safety Committee

*Victor Jones, Chair
Britt Moore
Tyrone Johnson
Chris Williams
Mayor Jay Wagner (Alternate)
Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)*

Public Safety Committee - Council Member Jones, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

[2021-522](#)

Presentation-Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy

Chief Travis Stroud-High Point Police Department will be giving a presentation on Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy.

Attachments: [DB-ATVs PPT](#)

ADJOURNMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dirt Bikes / ATVs

11/17/21



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HPPD STANCE

THIS IS A PROBLEM



Public Comments: November 1, 2021

Larry Diggs, a resident at 1127 Biltmore Avenue, addressed Council regarding a troubling situation that recently occurred to him and some friends while riding in a van that involved someone on a dirt bike traumatizing them and caused damage to the vehicle traveling with them. He explained the incident was reported to the High Point Police Department, they came out and investigated, but the officer told them that the current policies in place do not allow them to give chase in situations such as this, unless it involves a felony. He questioned the policing policies in place and questioned why they could not make an arrest or detain the individual.

Theresa Peele, a resident at 700 E. Fairfield Road, addressed Council regarding the same incident. She reported that she was actually a passenger in the vehicle that Mr. Diggs spoke about earlier; that the individual on the dirt bike was close enough for her to touch; that he did cause damage to her mirror; that they were followed all the way to where one of the riders were dropped off; that she is a volunteer for the visually impaired with the High Point Lion's Club; that this was a traumatic incident and it scared her; how she has called the city on numerous occasions when similar incidents have happened in the past. She stated this is a real problem and asked the City Council to help.

City Council Response

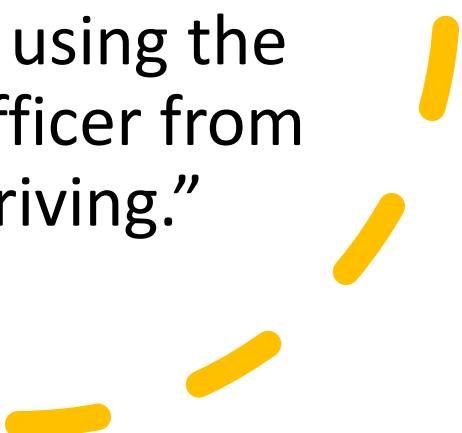
- *Mayor Wagner spoke to being aware of these situations and spoke to how it is a very difficult situation to fix but offered assurances that the Police Department is working on a plan. Council Member Jones suggested the policing policies could be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting. City Manager Tasha Logan Ford agreed that the policy could certainly be reviewed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting. She explained that one of the reasons the policy is in place is to ensure that no further danger to the public is caused by engaging in a high-speed chase.*
- *Mayor Wagner encouraged residents that encounter situations such as this to get pictures or videos on their phones which might be helpful for the police to identify these individuals.*

General Order 3.1: Police Vehicle Operations

PURPOSE:

“To set forth policies and procedures concerning the safe operation of police vehicles and the safety of officers and citizens.”

“Emergency vehicle operation does not relieve the police officer of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway, nor does it protect the officer from the consequences of emergency driving.”



POLICE PURSUITS

The initiation or continuation of a pursuit is permissible only when the officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe:

1. The suspect presents a clear and immediate threat to the safety of other persons; **or**
2. When the necessity of immediate apprehension or investigation outweighs the level of danger created by the pursuit.

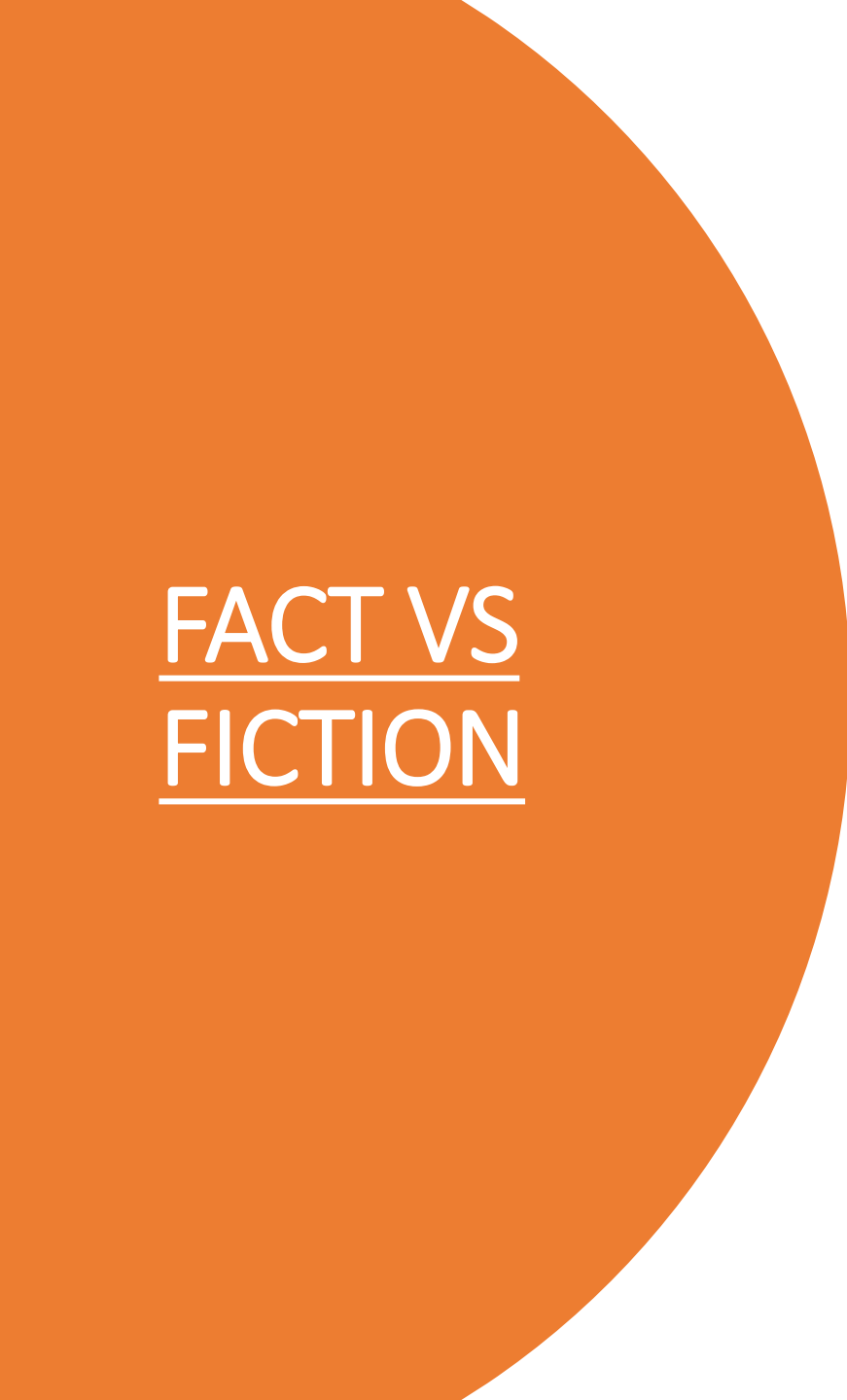
“Officers shall not initiate, or shall suspend their involvement in any pursuit when in the officer’s opinion, the danger to the public or officer created by the pursuit exceeds the danger presented by the offender remaining at large.”

General Order Wording

“Officers will not pursue motorcycles, mopeds, dirt bikes, ATVs (or similar vehicles), large trucks, buses, or motor homes unless there is an immediate threat to the safety or well-being of any person **and** a supervisor specifically authorizes such pursuit.”

A pursuit will be terminated when:

“The danger to the public or officer(s) created by the pursuit exceeds the danger presented by the offender remaining at large. This judgment must be made with the interest of public safety being the predominately weighted factor.”

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FACT VS FICTION

1. HPPD policy prohibits pursuits: FALSE
 - 40 pursuits entered in our documentation module in 2021
 - 65 terminated pursuits in 2021 (documented by Field Sheet)

 2. Every pursuit undergoes an extensive review: TRUE
 - Regardless of arrest/apprehension
 - Distance, time, top speed, etc..
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FACT VS FICTION

3. *“Current policies in place do not allow them to give chase in situations such as this, unless it involves a felony”*: FALSE

- *This is too broad – Not all felonies*

4. *Ramming, bumping, pushing one vehicle into another or physically forcing a vehicle off the road or to a stop is prohibited unless the use of deadly force would be authorized*: TRUE

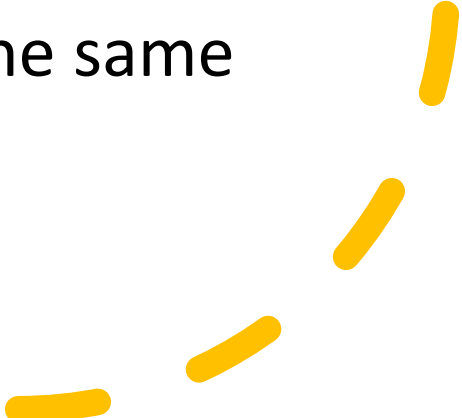
- *PIT Maneuver = Department wide training*

Pursuits of Dirt Bikes/ATVs

1. Chances of successful capture are slim.
2. High speeds and reckless driving that is much worse than the initial violation.
3. The riders desired response = for police to pursue.
4. If the chase does come to an end = Crash.
5. No insurance – who pays?
6. Law Enforcement best practice = Do Not Chase.

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HPPD ACTION PLAN

1. This is a problem we do not plan to ignore.
 2. The plan must be mapped out and well organized.
 3. Multi-phase plan.
 4. Results will take time.
 5. Coordination with the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.
 6. City Government must be on the same page with response.
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