

PUBLIC RECORDS
Released pursuant to
A.R.S. 39-121, Et. Seq.

To: Jeri L. Williams Date: June 3, 2021

Police Chief

From: Dennis Orender, Commander

Professional Standards Bureau

Subject: TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION - PUR20-0026

Internal Investigators: Lieutenant Ryan Junas (Investigative Review)

Sergeant Tadd Cline (Primary Investigator) Sergeant Chris Sullivan (Secondary Investigator)

DAC#		Date Received:					
Check one as appropriate:							
	initiated driving incident whe exceeding \$5000.00.	re suspect flees/refuses	s to stop re	sulting in injury, fatality, or			
Reporting Supervisor:	Sergeant Tadd Cline		Precinct/B	ureau: PSB			
Incident/DR Number/s:	20-1513182	Date Report Com	pleted:	9/13/20			
Incident/DR Number/s:		Date Report Com	pleted:				
		officer or otherwise avoid appr	rehension	c.) chronologically detailing their			
making it known that the office	ng with policy requirements (e.g., ac r is in pursuit, etc.) or statements re	garding non-compliance (with	n explanation))			
 Minimum/maximum speed of the down, etc.) 	ne vehicles involved at locations and	d traffic control devises during	g the pursuit,	(e.g., speeding up or slowing			
	anders, or other hazards throughout pervisor terminated the pursuit and	CONTROL PONT BOTH CONTROL OF CONTROL C					
 Information regarding the conti 	nuance of any unit in the pursuit aft	er termination.					

		Initiati	on/Communications	**		
Officer initiating pursuit/dr	iving incident:	Office	r Benson #10691	Precinct/Bureau:	900/Patro	ol
Officer observing initial violation:			r Pollard #10545	Precinct/Bureau:	900/Patrol	
Reason for the pursuit at	the <u>time of initia</u>	ting, (e.g	., violations, etc.):	□Stolen (Sus	pected)	
□Traffic (Civil)	□Traffic (Crimi	nal)	□Criminal (Misdemeanor)	⊠Criminal (Fe	elony)	
□DUI (Suspected)	□Other (explai	n):				
Vehicle traffic conditions:			□Moderate	⊠l iabt	□No	
	VE COMME	eavy	21 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 -	⊠Light	□None	
Pedestrian traffic conditions: ☐Heavy ☐Moderate ☐Light ☒N						
Did the initiating officer st	ate they were "In	Pursuit?"			□Yes	⊠No
Did the initiating officer ad	⊠Yes	□No				
Did the initiating officer ad	⊠Yes	□No				
Did the initiating officer gir	ve location, direct	tion of tra	vel, and speed of vehicle?		⊠Yes	□No

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Did the initiating officer state the offense for which the suspect was wanted? □Yes									
Did the initiating officer give a description of the vehicle being	□Yes	⊠No							
Did the initiating officer give the number of occupants and their	□Yes	⊠No							
Was the air unit requested?	⊠Yes	□No							
If not currently flying was the air unit contacted to respond?		□Yes	□No						
Was the air unit able to respond?		⊠Yes	□No						
Did the air unit arrive before the pursuit concluded?									
Did the air unit take over calling the pursuit? ☐ No									
Pursu									
Note: Attach all associated documentation to this report, e.g., DRs, accide	ent reports, memorandums, etc.								
Date of pursuit: 09/13/20	*S2000-9812-9	5007000							
	050 Elapsed time: Three minutes	s (3)							
List exact route of pursuit from start to conclusion:			60						
and .									
Distance Late (Visite and Admitted Distance and D	Off CO b	ct: 30 m							
Distance total (miles): 1.4 miles Top speeds: Officer: 62 mph Suspect:									
Distance between vehicles during pursuit: Minimum:	15 feet Maximum:	.3 miles							
Pursuit Conclusion									
☐ TERMINATION: ☐ Supervisor order ☐ Officer decision ☐ No decision or order									
Other (explain) or check apprehension and/or accident below:									
Reason for termination: Left jurisdiction	☐ Equipment failure ☐ Safe	ty concern	70						
☐ Known suspect ☐ Suspect eluded officers									
☐ Other (explain):									
How many other arrests? (passengers): One (1)									
Describe all traffic violations or criminal acts committed by the driver of the suspect vehicle <u>during</u> the pursuit:									
☐ No improper action	☐ Speed too fast for conditions								
Exceeded lawful speed	☐ Failed to yield right-of-way								
Followed too closely	Ran stop sign How mar	ny?	<u> </u>						
☐ Disregarded red light How many? One (1) ☐ Made improper turn									
☐ Drove in opposing lane of traffic ☐ Knowingly operated with faulty/missing equiprocess.									
Required motorcycle safety equipment not used Passed in no passing zone									
Unsafe lane change Other unsafe passing									
☐ Inattention									
Other (describe):									

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Describe all final charges <u>after</u> investigation, (e.g., warrants, drugs, DUI, etc.):										
Driver: Armed Robbery and Aggravated Assault on a PO										
Passenger: Armed Robbery										
☐ COLLISION: ☐ Yes ☐ No Officers involved: ☐ Yes ☐ No										
Injuries: ☐ Yes ☐ No Officer/s: ☐ Yes ☐ No Suspect ☐ Yes ☐ No										
Fatalities: Yes No Officer/s: Yes No Suspect Yes No										
Other injuries:										
Damage to property/vehicles: Yes No Describe: Suspect vehicle sustained bullet holes and										
strikes due to the police involved shooting (SH20-0016) but not because of the pursuit.										
Total (how many) law enforcement vehicles involved: Marked: Four (4) Unmarked: 0										
Other agencies involved: N/A										
Type of aircraft involved: Yes										
Stop Sticks										
Were stop sticks deployed? ☐ Yes ☒ No										
Deployment location/s:										
Deployed by:										
Was the suspect vehicle spiked? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Did spikes end pursuit? ☐ Yes ☐ No										
Environment										
Weather conditions: ☐ Cloudy ☐ Rainy ☐ Severe winds										
☐ Blowing sand/dirt ☐ Fog/smoke/smog ☐ Other (explain):										
Road conditions:										
☐ Construction ☐ Obstructed ☐ Flooded ☐ Off-Road										
Other (explain):										
Suspect Vehicle/s										
Total occupants: Two (2) Stolen: ⊠ Yes □ No										
Year: 2015 Make: Kia License: State: AZ										
Other information: Vehicle stolen at gunpoint										
Involved Officer/s (In Order of Involvement)										
Unit Driver name and serial # Passenger name and serial # Call Sign Memo Attached *										
Primary Officer Rayonte Benson #10891 N/A 922G ☐ Yes ☒ No										
Equipment# Decals Siren (*) Emergency Lights (*) Vehicle Year/Make										
811569 No No No No No No 2018 / Chew Tahoe										

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Dri</u>	iver name a	and serial	<u>#</u>	Pa	assenge	er name ar	nd seri	ial#	Ca	ll Sign	Memo	Attached *
Secondary	The second section of the second seco							⊠ No					
Equipmen	Equipment# Decals Siren (*) Emergency Lights (*) Vehicle Year/Make							/Make					
911638								hoe					
11-2				и	Б.				-1.44		II C:		A44lI *
<u>Unit</u>		iver name a				assenge	er name ar	na seri			ll Sign		Attached *
Support Officer Roberto Alvarado #10061 N/A 915L Yes No													
Equipment# Decals Siren (*) Emergency Lights (*) Vehicle Year/Make 811567													
811567		⊠ Yes	□ No		es	□ No	Y	es	☐ No		2018 / C	thevy Ta	noe
<u>Unit</u>	Dri	iver name a	and serial	#	Pa	assenge	er name ar	nd seri	ial#	Ca	II Sign	Memo	Attached *
Support	Sergea	ant Mayra F	Reeson #8	997	N/A					92G		Yes	⊠ No
Equipmen	ıt#	De	cals		Sire	en (*)	Eme	ergenc	y Lights	(*)	Veh	icle Year	/Make
811260		⊠ Yes	□No	X	es/	□ No	0		☐ No		2018 / 0	hevy Ta	hoe
11.48		•			_					-			
<u>Unit</u>	Dri	iver name a	and serial i	<u>#</u>	Pa	assenge	er name ar	nd seri	<u>al #</u>	Ca	ll Sign	- St LONG	Attached *
None	Visi	-			1000	4.52	<u></u>			244	\$25 ac	Yes	□ No
Equipmen	t#	12-2	cals	1		en (*)	392297		y Lights	(*)	Veh	icle Year	r/Make
		Yes	No		es_	No) <u> </u> Y	es	No				
<u>Unit</u>	Dri	iver name a	and serial	<u>#</u>	Pa	assenge	er name ar	nd seri	ial#	Ca	II Sign	Memo	Attached *
None									3			Yes	☐ No
Equipment# Decals Siren (*) Emergency Lights (*) Vehicle Year/Make													
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No													
Note: List any additional units in the DR or supervisor summary. * If no is checked it must be explained in the DR or supervisor.													
Note: List any additional units in the DR or supervisor summary * If no is checked it must be explained in the DR or supervisor summary													
			NW 26			4 - W 40			25.25				
Sales 18 111 W		20142		-	adi 97	perviso	r Respons	SIDIIITI	es	Times	1 821 48 1470	\$1000 Mar (1981)	
Supervisor na			nt Mayra F							Se	erial #:	8997	70
Duty hours/N-			00-0000 /										30
What time did	180 50	2 68	AJ Red	T 1 29 13		2047	0		200: 010		100		100 100 70
Status and location during pursuit: Part of the pursuit and was on-scene when the suspects were apprehended.													
79													
2			10 82	185	=						/= ==	1 -27:	50
Involved in pursuit?													
Supervisor's reasons for termination or continuation of pursuit:													
Armed robbery of a vehicle and the suspects attempted to run over a police officer.													
No. of the last of		19		22.5a.2 110									
Was monitoring supervisor aware of the following:													
Reason for pu	ırsuit?				No	1	Traffic cor	ndition	s?		⊠ Yes		No
Speeds involv	ed?				No	-	Total units	s invol	ved?		⊠ Yes		No
Was supervise	Was supervisor notified by radio of the pursuit? ☐ Yes ☒ No												
Radio operator's name: Alexa Boudreaux (resigned 11/1/2020) Serial # #A8286													

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

On September 13, 2020, at 8:47 p.m., officers were involved in a shooting after stopping a vehicle that was taken at gunpoint. The suspects fled in the stolen vehicle and a slow speed police pursuit ensued. The stolen vehicle later stopped, and both suspects were apprehended. Both suspects sustained gunshot wounds. As a result of the police involved shooting and the subsequent pursuit, administrative investigations were conducted by the Professional Standards Bureau.¹

On September 13, 2020, at 8:44 p.m., officers responded to regarding an armed robbery where the victim's vehicle was stolen at gunpoint. The stolen vehicle was a 2015 gray Kia Soul, AZ , and the suspects were described as two younger males, one of which was armed with a black semi-automatic handgun.

Officers Jordan Pollard #10545 and his partner, Nathan Jewell #10261 (call sign 924I) spotted the stolen vehicle in the southbound lane of North 29th Avenue, just south of Metro Parkway. They were driving north on North 29th Avenue in a 2018, fully marked police Tahoe. Officer Pollard, who was the driver, stopped the police Tahoe south of the stolen vehicle and both officers exited. Officer Pollard approached the front of the vehicle and Officer Jewell approached on the driver's side.

The stolen vehicle drove at Officer Pollard, while he was positioned in front of it, striking his left leg. Both officers responded by shooting at the driver, but the stolen vehicle drove south towards West Dunlap Avenue (See SH20-0016 for complete details). Officers Pollard and Jewell returned to their police Tahoe and notified the dispatcher of the shooting. As this occurred, Officer Rayonte Benson Sr. #10691 (call sign 922G) arrived on-scene, driving a fully marked, 2018 police Tahoe. He did not stop but continued after the stolen vehicle with his overhead lights and audible siren activated.

The stolen vehicle drove through the red light at West Dunlap Avenue and continued south on North 29th Avenue. Officer Benson caught up with the stolen vehicle after it went through the intersection at West Dunlap Avenue. Officers Pollard and Jewell caught up with Officer Benson and the stolen vehicle north of West Butler Road. Both police units pursued the stolen vehicle with lights and sirens activated. Officer Jewell and Officer Benson provided the dispatcher with their locations, but not their speeds, direction of travel and neither unit declared over the radio they were in pursuit. Lieutenant Jeff Clement #8566 (call sign P95) twice told the dispatcher to have the units following the stolen vehicle to declare they were in pursuit.²

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The stolen vehicle continued south on North 29th Avenue and failed to stop at the four way stop intersection at West Butler Road. Officer Roberto Alvarado #10061 (call sign 915L) caught up with Officers Pollard, Jewell, and Benson, and the stolen the stolen vehicle north of West Griswold Road. The stolen vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign at this intersection and continued south on North 29th Avenue. Officer Alvarado declared he was "In pursuit," said the stolen vehicle was traveling 20 mph and there was no traffic on the roadway. The stolen vehicle continued to slow down until it approached West Northern Avenue. Sergeant Mayra Reeson #8997 (call sign 92G) joined the pursuit before the stolen vehicle turned right (west) onto the frontage road of West Northern Avenue. The stolen vehicle came to a stop in front of the residence at

Two male subjects were in the stolen vehicle and were subsequently taken into custody. Both were juveniles and both sustained gunshot wounds. They were transported to the hospital for medical treatment.

was charged for armed robbery and aggravated assault against a police officer and was charged with armed robbery. Both were charged as adults.

The distance of the pursuit was 1.4 miles and lasted approximately three (3) minutes and 44 seconds.³ Top speeds for the stolen vehicle were approximately 35 mph and minimum speed was approximately 15 mph. The maximum speed for Officer Benson was 62 mph and the maximum distance he was behind the stolen vehicle was .3 miles.⁴ The maximum distance occurred between 9700 North 29th Avenue (location of the shooting) and 9000 North 29 h Avenue (West Dunlap Avenue). His maximum speed occurred south of West Dunlap Avenue where he caught up with the stolen vehicle. This information was obtained by the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) affixed in Officer Benson's police Tahoe. AVL is a global positioning device affixed in all patrol vehicles that determines the vehicle's speed and location.

Officers Jewell and Pollard traveled approximately three quarters of a mile before they caught up to Officer Benson and the stolen vehicle. Their top speed was 70 mph between West Dunlap Avenue and West Butler Road.⁵ Officer Alvarado traveled approximately one mile before he caught up with the other police units and the stolen vehicle near West Griswold Road. His top speed was 78 mph between West Dunlap Avenue and West Butler Road.⁶ Sergeant Reeson was over a mile away before she caught up with the other pursuing officers and the stolen vehicle north of West Northern Avenue. Her top speed was 58 mph between West Dunlap Avenue and West Butler Road.⁷

The posted speed limit on North 29th Avenue between the scene of the shooting (9700 North 29th Avenue) and West Dunlap Avenue (9000 North 29th Avenue) is 35 mph. The speed limit on North 29th Avenue between West Dunlap Avenue and West Northern Avenue is 25 mph.

All officers involved in the pursuit were equipped with Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and were wearing seatbelts. Sergeant Reeson did not have her BWC activated during the duration of the pursuit.

PSB investigators discovered a motorist, Ms. Brianna Luster, witnessed the shooting and subsequent police pursuit.⁸ Ms. Luster stated she was driving her vehicle and pulled over after noticing a police vehicle approach her with its overhead lights and siren activated. Officers exited and approached the vehicle stopped behind her which she said was a Kia Soul. One of the officers motioned for her to leave. She stated she drove away and then heard gunshots. See SH20-0016 for complete details. Ms. Luster said she stopped at a red light (West Dunlap Avenue), witnessed the Kia Soul go through the red light, with no headlights on, and was followed by several police vehicles.

Interview with Officer Benson:

On October 1, 2020, Officer Benson was interviewed by PSB investigators.⁹ Officer Benson stated he was on an unrelated call when he heard the call of the armed robbery of the Kia Sole broadcast over the radio. He responded after hearing an off-duty officer at the Castles N' Coasters advise of a possible vehicle matching the description of the stolen vehicle about to travel south on North 29 h Avenue. He heard the broadcast of the officer involved shooting and knew the stolen vehicle struck Officer Pollard before fleeing south on North 29th Avenue. Officer Benson said he traveled past the scene of the shooting and saw the Kia Soul with its headlights turned off. He indicated he activated his lights and siren and caught up to the stolen vehicle south of West Dunlap Avenue. He stated he was the primary police unit behind the stolen vehicle but did not declare he was in pursuit. Officer Benson said he was able to hear his radio because the windows in his vehicle were rolled up and because he wears an earpiece.

Officer Benson was asked if he heard Lieutenant Clement request for officers to declare a pursuit if they were trying to stop the stolen vehicle. He replied, "Yes I did." Officer Benson added, "I'm going to be honest, I heard him (Lieutenant Clement) multiple times." Officer Benson said he was so focused on the stolen vehicle he was hoping someone else would declare they were in pursuit.

Officer Benson estimated they (he and the stolen vehicle) were traveling at speeds around 20 mph. He said he was approximately 20 feet behind the stolen vehicle and said there was no vehicle or pedestrians traffic seen.

Interview with Officer Jewell:

On September 14, 2020, Officer Jewell was interviewed by PSB investigators.¹² Officer Jewell said he advised the dispatcher of the shooting, that Officer Pollard was struck by the stolen vehicle and

the stolen vehicle fled southbound on North 29th Avenue. He stated he and Officer Pollard returned to their police Tahoe to pursue the stolen vehicle. Officer Jewell said they caught up with Officer Benson and the stolen vehicle south of West Dunlap Avenue. He said they (Officer Pollard and he) did not declare they were in pursuit. Officer Jewell said vehicle traffic was light and no pedestrians were seen. He said they pursued the stolen vehicle because it was taken during an armed robbery and it struck Officer Pollard's leg.

Interview with Officer Pollard:

On September 14, 2020, Officer Pollard was interviewed by PSB investigators.¹³ Officer Pollard said after the shooting, he and Officer Jewell returned to their police Tahoe to pursue the stolen vehicle. He stated they caught up to the stolen vehicle and Officer Benson south of West Dunlap Avenue. He said they were approximately three car lengths behind the stolen vehicle and estimated their speed was approximately 20 mph. Officer Pollard described vehicle traffic as being light and did not see any motorist take evasive action because of the pursuit. He said they pursued the vehicle because it assaulted him and was taken during an armed robbery.

Interview with Officer Alvarado:

On October 24, 2020, Officer Alvarado was interviewed by PSB investigators.¹⁴ He stated he was aware the stolen vehicle was taken at gunpoint and knew it struck Officer Pollard prior to driving south on North 29th Avenue. After catching up to the other officers and the stolen vehicle north of West Griswold Street he declared he was "In pursuit." He gave their direction of travel and said they were traveling 20 mph. Officer Alvarado said no other vehicles or pedestrian traffic were on North 29th Avenue. Officer Alvarado estimated he was in pursuit for approximately a third of a mile which lasted approximately one minute before the stolen vehicle stopped and a high-risk stop was initiated.

Interview with Sergeant Mayra Reeson:

On October 1, 2020, Sergeant Reeson was interviewed by PSB investigators.¹⁵ Sergeant Reeson said she responded to the armed robbery of the Kia Soul because she was close to where it occurred. She said she switched to the radio frequency working the call and heard an off-duty officer tell the dispatcher of a vehicle possibly involved on Metro Parkway by the Castles N' Coasters. Sergeant Reeson said she heard Officers Jewell and Pollard tell the dispatcher they were with the vehicle on North 29th Avenue south of Metro Parkway. Sergeant Reeson said she traveled south on Metro Parkway and activated her BWC. Seconds later, she said she heard Officer Jewell tell the

dispatcher they were involved in a shooting, the vehicle tried to run over Officer Pollard, and it drove away southbound on North 29th Avenue.

Sergeant Reeson said she could see overhead lights and hear sirens as she drove past Castles N' Coasters. She indicated there was radio silence before Lieutenant Clement broadcast over the radio for units following the stolen vehicle to declare a pursuit if they were trying to pull it over. Sergeant Reeson said she heard an officer tell the dispatcher about being at North 29th Avenue and West Butler Road but was unsure if they were involved in the pursuit or were responding to the shooting.

Sergeant Reeson said she drove south on North 29th Avenue and joined the pursuit just north of West Northern Avenue. She said the stolen vehicle was traveling approximately 5 mph and she followed it approximately .10 miles before it stopped on the frontage road on West Northern Avenue. Sergeant Reeson said there was moderate to heavy vehicle traffic on North 29th Avenue north of West Dunlap Avenue but no vehicle traffic south of it.

Sergeant Reeson said she did not realize her BWC was not recording until her involvement in the incident was over. She indicated she had only been assigned a BWC for approximately seven weeks since being promoted to sergeant. Prior to her promotion, Sergeant Reeson said she worked in details where she was not assigned a BWC. Sergeant Reeson told PSB investigators she was sure she activated her BWC when she responded to the call but did not look down at her BWC to make sure it was activated.

CLOSING:

This Professional Standards Bureau investigation is complete. The investigation was reviewed by the involved employees and will be forwarded to the Driving Analysis Committee (DAC) for review. After review by the DAC, this investigation will be retained in the Professional Standards Bureau in accordance with retention policies/law.

Endnotes:

¹ Detectives from the Violent Crimes Bureau completed a criminal investigation of the armed robbery of a vehicle and the police involved shooting. Details of both are available through Public Records, IR#20-1513182

² Lt. Clement advised the dispatcher to have units declare they were in pursuit 41 seconds after Officer Jewell advised of the police involved shooting (3:22) and again 46 seconds after his first request (4:08). See Attachments section of the audio recording of the incident

Dunlap Road to West Northern Avenue = 1.1 miles. Times determined by Officer Jewell's BWC and communications audio of the incident. 11 seconds after the 998 broadcasted by Officer Jewell, Officer Benson is seen driving past Officers Jewell and Pollard's location (info from Ofc Jewell's BWC). 998 broadcasted at (2:34). At (2:45) Officer Benson drove past Officers Pollard and Jewell. The suspect vehicle stopped at (6:29) which = 3:34 minutes. ****See Attachments section for the communications audio. Officer Jewell's BWC available through Evidence.Com

⁴ See Attachments section for Officer Benson's AVL data

⁵ See Attachments section, AVL for 924I (Pollard and Jewell), 1:14

⁶ See Attachments section, AVL for 915L (Alvarado), :40

⁷ See Attachments section, AVL for 92G (Reeson), 2:09

⁸ Ms. Luster called criminal investigators after the shooting and gave a telephonic statement. See IR#20-1513182, available through Public Records for details

⁹ Officer Benson reviewed his BWC and Communication's audio of the incident prior to being interviewed by PSB

¹⁰ See Attachments section, PSB interview with Officer Benson, 31:58

¹¹ See Attachments section, PSB interview with Officer Benson, 32:05 – 32:07

¹² Officer Jewell reviewed his BWC but access to the Communication's audio was not available at the time of the PSB interview

¹³ Officer Pollard reviewed his BWC but access to the Communication's audio was not available at the time of the PSB interview

¹⁴ Officer Alvarado reviewed his BWC and Communication's audio of the incident prior to being interviewed by PSB

¹⁵ Sergeant Reeson reviewed her BWC and Communication's audio of the incident prior to being interviewed by PSB