



# Traffic Alert



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## PURSUITS

*QUESTION : Does the need to apprehend the fleeing suspect at this time outweigh the risk and danger to all persons involved, (INCLUDING YOU THE OFFICER!).*

All of us at one time or another, while patrolling the streets of Chicago, have experienced a traffic violator who refuses to obey our lawful direction to curb their vehicle. At that time we as Police Officers may experience a feeling of disbelief, a feeling of being offended that an individual would disregard an order from the Police, and ultimately a feeling of, "That citizen will not get away, I will win, I WILL catch you!" When the winning feeling kicks in, you should take a deep breath and you **MUST** ask yourself the above mentioned *QUESTION*, also known as, "**The Balancing Test.**"

Whether you decide to initiate a chase, or while you are involved in a chase, you must continue to determine the following:

"The Balancing Test:"

- Do the speeds and/or maneuvering of my vehicle allow me complete control of my vehicle?
- Does the weather and/or road conditions allow me to initiate the chase or continue one?
- Do pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic permit me to continue?

Once you have applied the, "Balancing Test," and have deemed a pursuit is warranted and permissible, you must:

- Activate the emergency equipment of your vehicle .
- Immediately notify OEMC with the facts surrounding the pursuit.

*OEMC will immediately assign a supervisor to monitor the pursuit.*

Officers will immediately **terminate** the pursuit if:

- A supervisor orders you to do so.
- The primary pursuing Officer determines that the pursuit does not conform to, "The Balancing Test."
- Any vehicles involved, (CPD or pursued vehicle), are involved in a traffic crash with the potential for injury.
- The most serious offense the vehicle is wanted for is: Theft, including PSMV, a hazardous traffic violation, (other than a DUI), or the pursued vehicle is disregarding traffic signs and signals.
- The pursuing unit lose radio transmission with OEMC.
- The pursuit is **NOT** conducted in accordance with G.O. 03-02-01.

### BE AWARE :

**Officers, even though a Supervisor is responsible for monitoring and managing a pursuit until termination, you the Officer that initiated the pursuit will still be held *ACCOUNTABLE* for your decisive actions. Officers, you will have to be prepared to justify your actions, and the judgment you exercised may be used in any type of administrative review. Do not allow your *EGO* to interfere with your common sense!**

*Be Safe.*

*Be Courteous.*

*Be Professional!*