



City of Cleveland
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Civilian Police Review Board
Michael Hess, Chairman
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TO: Dornat Drummond, Chief
Cleveland Division of Police

From: Michael Hess, Chair
Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB)

Cc: Marcus Perez, Administrator
Office of Professional Standards (OPS)

Brian Carney, Commander
Case Preparation/EEO Officer

Robert Simon, Acting Commander
Case Preparation

Date: August 16, 2023

Subject: **PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATION FOR STOLEN VEHICLES**

Chief Drummond:

OPS Investigation 2021-0144 revealed that the similarity of merge codes and the ability to select an improper code, without intervention, led to a stolen vehicle not being entered into LEADS. Interviews with Records Bureau staff reflect this improper selection of a merge code is also a common occurrence. The following is recommended to address this issue:

- 1. A Divisional Notice be issued prohibiting officers from forwarding reports to the Records Center with the merge code Pending LEADS -2nd Check and specifically directing staff at the Records Center to return such reports to the forwarding officer for their correction.*
- 2. It is suggested that the CPD Technology Integration Unit evaluate and consider changing LERMS merge codes to insure that codes are dissimilar in text as not to be confused with one another code ("Pending Priority/Leads vs. Pending LEADS -2nd Check). Additionally, it is suggested that the Unit evaluate and consider methods to prevent officers from selecting improper merge codes that are not within their scope of duties.*

3. *It is suggested that an additional provision be added to GPO 6.2.04 (Grand Theft Motor Vehicle and Unauthorized Use Investigations) requiring assigned detectives to verify that all new assignments involving stolen vehicles are listed in LEADS as stolen and if not listed as stolen to take steps necessary to have them listed in LEADS as stolen.*
4. *A policy change is also suggested requiring Impound Lots to send regular mail notices to vehicle owners at the same time they send certified letters to owners as many individuals do not sign for certified letters.*

It is further recommended that status of the above recommendations be forwarded back to the OPS, the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) and the Community Police Commission (CPC) within 60 days of the receipt of these recommendations.

Additionally, it is recommended thereafter that the respective units provide 30 day status updates to OPS, CPRB, and the CPC on their efforts to complete these recommendations until finalized.

Sincerely,

Michael Hess

*Michael Hess, Chair
Civilian Police Review Board*

