
Tips and Trends from ICJE

From ICJE, Inc. <jimrechel@icje.ccsend.com>
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To Phillip Calvert <PCalvert@faulkner.edu>

Monthly News & Updates

September 2025

Symbiotic Relationships

As summer fades into fall, some flowers begin their quiet retreat into hibernation. The once vibrant blooms dwindle, no longer replenished by bursts of fresh color and life. Yet, other flowers continue to flourish in full bloom, such as the purple salvia lining the front walkway at our house. The continuing blooms draw swarms of bumblebees whose busy hum fills the early autumn air. Drawn in by this lively scene, I recently stopped to watch the flurry of activity, noticing how the bees moved almost as if choreographed by a director off-stage.

Within seconds I realized that I was in the glory of the intricate world that God has created, the interaction between the bees and the flowers representing the symbiotic relationship needed for both to survive. I watched as a bumblebee delicately landed on a vibrant purple salvia blossom, collecting nectar while dusting its legs with pollen.

As I watched and stood amidst the bees buzzing about, their hum filled the air and I felt a surprising sense of calm and security, trusting that my motionless presence would assure them I meant no harm.

I marveled at God's creation for that moment.

Then reality hit as I got in my truck and turned on the radio, filled with stories of tragedy, both natural and man-made. One story that struck me especially hard was the tragedy in Hartselle, where a high-school student was killed as an innocent bystander when a suspect, pursued by police, crashed into the car he was in—killing him and injuring others.

The tragedy in Hartselle made me reflect on how often innocent lives are lost due to high-speed pursuits, prompting me to consider researching what changes, if any, are needed in law enforcement practices to prevent such heartbreaking outcomes.

Law enforcement and the society that they protect have a symbiotic relationship that is as critical to a thriving society as the bees are to the flowers.

As reported in the press:

Hartselle Police Department Capt. Daniel Parker told AL.com on Monday that the investigation into the incident is currently in its early stages, with community members complaining about the chase that resulted in the crash. I feel like once you get into Hartselle, call it off," said Emily Robbins, who said she knew Hollis as her son's friend. She described him as "polite and sweet."

The challenge we face is finding a balance between the value of high-speed pursuits, in terms of apprehension and deterrence, and the risk of losing innocent lives. Gaining the support of the citizens we serve is crucial, whether to better justify current policies or to adapt them with new strategies.

Jim Rechel
ICJE Newsletter Editor
jimrechel@icje.org

Please feel free to email comments or suggestions anytime!

Thanks, Jim

Heartbreak in Hartselle: Families of teens involved in crash speak out

The Hartselle community is grieving after a deadly crash, and 17-year-old Tristan Hollis' family describes it as "horrific" and "senseless."

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Society News

The Debate Over High-Speed Police Pursuits: Balancing Benefits, Risks, and Safer Alternatives

As seen in Hartselle, high-speed vehicle pursuits by law enforcement spark intense debate, with advocates highlighting their role in public safety and detractors pointing to the significant risks posed to innocent bystanders.

Drawing on law enforcement research, federal statistics, and case studies, this article examines both sides of the argument, emphasizing transparent attribution and direct comparison of perspectives to clarify policy implications.

Arguments Supporting High-Speed Pursuits vs. Risks and Counterpoints

Deterrence and Crime Rates: Cause or Correlation?

Proponents of pursuit authority argue that restricting high-speed chases may inadvertently embolden criminal behavior. For example, after Washington state restricted high-speed chases in 2021 (Washington State Legislature, SB 1054), reported motor vehicle thefts rose by over 30% in 2022, reaching 41,330 cases—the highest since 1997—according to FBI Uniform Crime Reporting data. Violent crime also increased from 335.7 to 375.6 incidents per 100,000 people, with homicides at a five-year high and robberies up 18% (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Annual Report 2022).

However, directly attributing crime spikes solely to pursuit policy changes is tricky. The Council on Criminal Justice and researchers from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy note that multiple factors, including pandemic disruptions and changes in reporting practices, confound simple causal links. In other regions, such as Milwaukee, restrictive pursuit policies implemented in 2018 were followed by a decrease in pursuit-related fatalities but did not produce a sustained increase in overall crime rates when paired with technological alternatives and robust investigative practices (Milwaukee Police Department, 2020 Pursuit Policy Review).

Apprehension of Dangerous Offenders vs. Public Safety Concerns

Supporters further emphasize that pursuits are essential for apprehending high-risk suspects—especially those involved in violent offenses. National studies, such as the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics (2015), report that only 9-10% of pursuits originate from violent felonies, but these cases often justify immediate action to prevent further harm. Data from the California Highway Patrol (CHP Annual Pursuit Report 2021) indicate 77% of suspects are apprehended during pursuits, and 70% end without a collision.

Yet, the public safety risks are substantial. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), police pursuits led to an annual average of 323 fatalities from 2017-2022, with bystanders accounting for 27% of deaths (NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System, FARS Database). Investigative reporting by USA Today (“Police Pursuits: Deadly Outcomes,” 2023) found that federal data often undercounts these events, documenting at least 3,336 deaths nationwide during the same period—including disproportionate impacts on Black Americans, who are killed at triple the rate of the general population.

A nine-year NHTSA study covering 2005-2014 found 2,654 fatal crashes resulting in 3,146 deaths, with 1,088 victims uninvolved in the pursuit—fully 35% of all fatalities (NHTSA, “Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2005-2014”). The study defined pursuit-related crashes by linking police reports and fatality records, striving for accuracy in attribution. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin analysis (2016) concluded that innocent third parties accounted for 42% of all killed or injured, with nearly 30% of deaths occurring in non-fleeing vehicles and 4% involving pedestrians and children.

Legal frameworks, such as those in California and Texas, provide officers with immunity for pursuits involving public threats (see *Draper v. City of Los Angeles*, 1949), underpinning the rationale for continuing chases in serious cases. Yet, the human cost remains high, especially when pursuits escalate minor infractions into deadly incidents.

Alternatives to High-Speed Pursuits: Case Studies and Outcomes

Technological and policy innovations have given rise to safer alternatives for apprehending suspects without the dangers of high-speed chases. These solutions have been piloted in various departments, yielding some measurable success.

GPS Tracking (StarChase): Departments using StarChase devices, including in Miami-Dade and Los Angeles, have achieved apprehension rates exceeding 80%. Suspects, unaware of being tagged, slow down rather than attempt dangerous escapes (StarChase Company Data, 2022).

Tire Deflation Devices and Grappler Systems: Arizona's Department of Public Safety and Texas law enforcement agencies have successfully deployed Grappler nets and Stop Sticks, consistently ending pursuits without major injuries (Arizona DPS Annual Report, 2023).

Aerial Tools and Drones: Chula Vista Police Department reported 117 arrests using drones for tracking fleeing vehicles from 849 calls between 2020-2022, reducing ground pursuit risks (Chula Vista PD Drone Program Evaluation, 2023).

Bait Cars and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR): Cities like Milwaukee and Baltimore have combined restrictive pursuit policies with ALPRs and bait vehicles, maintaining low pursuit rates and stable property crime trends (Milwaukee PD, ALPR Implementation Brief, 2021). Crucially, case studies show that policy restrictions—when paired with these alternatives—do not inevitably result in crime surges. Instead, careful integration of technology with investigative work can reduce the dangers of pursuits while preserving public safety.

Food for Thought

The discussion regarding high-speed police pursuits includes considerations such as crime deterrence, suspect apprehension, and bystander safety. Evaluating both the benefits and risks, referencing specific data sources and their timeframes, and reviewing case studies can help policymakers assess pursuit practices and alternatives.

Recent policy changes indicate that reforms and the use of new technologies may allow communities to address safety and accountability concurrently.

Livonia police use 'Grappler' tech to end high-speed chase

Livonia police deployed a "Grappler" device to stop the suspect's vehicle during a car chase.

[Video Link](#)

How Police STOP Speeding Criminals in Seconds!

10 ways police stop dangerous cars... Insane Ways Police Stop Getaway Cars! 🚨
When criminals try to escape in high-speed chases, police use crazy tactics to stop them! From spike strips to high-tech barriers, these unbelievable police chase stoppers will leave you speechless.

Watch Here

Technology

Enhancing police accountability and efficiency: How a Triad police department says one AI tool is...

The use of artificial intelligence is expanding across many different industries nationwide, including in the Piedmont-Triad. Learn how AI is increasing the ability to review body cam footage like never before.

[Read More](#)

One Year Ago Explosive Pagers Targeting Terrorist Operatives Were Detonated Remotely. Was It a Legitimate Tactic of Technology and War?

"Well, it Depends": The Explosive Pagers Attack Revisited - Lieber Institute West Point

Professional debates regarding the legality of the pagers attack have revealed deep disagreements regarding targeting and choice of weapons.

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"I Want to be a Better" ... at Being Open Minded

Book Summary - Principles: Life and Work (Ray Dalio)

While this book is not directly related to the issues of criminal justice, criminal activity, or security, it is a good book if you are looking to improve your

understanding of leading with an open mind.

An introduction of the book:

After his early career success as an investment trader and broker, Ray Dalio started his own brokerage firm, Bridgewater, in 1975. His achievements led him to become overconfident of his ability to predict the financial market. After suffering several major setbacks—including losing everything in the 1980s' market crash—he humbled himself, learned from his failures, and consistently documented and tested his decision-making criteria to gain powerful insights about work and life.

Dalio stopped running Bridgewater top-down as the sole expert and authority, and shifted to an idea meritocracy where the wisdom of every person in the organization can be harnessed. He sought to deepen/widen his perspectives, understand how humans think and behave, and how to leverage strengths toward specific goals.

The link below connects to a more detailed summary of the book covering Ray Dalio's principles for life and work, so you can uncover and apply your own principles in work and life!

[Read More](#)

Book Review: Principles: Life and Work by Ray Dalio

Principles: Life and Work by Ray Dalio combines memoir and guidance, offering insights on decision-making, productivity, and self-awareness. It emphasizes radical transparency, systems thinking, and learning from failures for personal growth.

[Read More](#)

Crime

Fake Car Dealer Websites Are Scamming Millions from Tennessee to Wisconsin- Frank on Fraud

Tim Smith (not his real name) never imagined strangers would appear at his Kentucky service center demanding vehicles he never sold them. The self-described "old country boy" was shocked when angry customers began showing up to his business claiming that they had sent him thousands of dollars for trucks that they never received.

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Felons on the Loose

The tragic murder of Iryna Zarutka in Charlotte serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges posed by violent crime in our communities. The reality that felons, often with extensive criminal backgrounds, are released back into society and may continue to prey on innocent citizens is a pressing concern for law enforcement professionals.

While national statistics suggest a decline in violent crime, it is essential to question the accuracy and reliability of these figures, as they may not truly reflect the complexities of crime on the streets of America. Are we, as a society, effectively measuring the real impact of crime on our communities?

Political Violence

As I was about to hit "Send" on this month's newsletter a news alert posted about a sniper who shot Charlie Kirk, a conservative leader of Turning Point USA. Prayers for him and all of the victims of the growing senseless violence!

Live updates: Conservative activist Charlie Kirk shot at an event in Utah, spokesperson says

Charlie Kirk, the CEO and co-founder of the conservative youth organization Turning Point USA, was shot Wednesday at an event at a Utah college, Turning Point said.

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2025- ICJE Training and Education

Training Schedule

For more information on the 2025 schedule, please visit our website by clicking on "Read More":

[Read More](#)

37th Annual Alabama Statewide LECC Training

Overwhelming Success - Thanks to Everyone Involved!

[Read More](#)

Online Academy - Iron Leader Team

Some of you may remember Joe McNamara from the annual "The Crooks are Getting Smarter" conferences. He now has a new program, and a leadership newsletter you may be interested in. Further information is in the link below.

Change is constant, and no fixed set of knowledge is sufficient. The Iron Leader Academy equips you to lead with clarity and purpose - providing you the insights and tools needed to sharpen your skills and prepare for the leadership challenges of tomorrow. This is about turning potential into performance.

[Read More](#)

One More Thing - Are We Losing Our Minds?*

If We Don't Share a Common Language We Are Not a Society *(Personal Opinion of Newsletter Editor)

Sharia Law? US Police Dept Introduces Arabic Patch

ZeroHedge - On a long enough timeline, the survival rate for everyone drops to zero

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Note: AI used in research for this newsletter and in editing some content.

ICJE, Inc. | P.O. Box 293 | Montgomery, AL 36101 US

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