

TO: L. Bercaw *AB 5-19-26*
Chief of Police

ATTN: B. Owen *BO 5-19-26*
Assistant Chief of Police

L. Richardson II *LR 5-19-26*
Police Major

FROM: U. Emilione, Captain *UE*
District Three

SUBJECT: Administrative Review# FN2026-1050

Overview:

In accordance with standard procedures, the Tampa Police Department (TPD) conducted an internal review of the response before and after a fatal crash that occurred on November 8, 2025, at 1510 E. 7th Avenue in Historic Ybor City. This review incorporated law enforcement reports, our radio transmissions, air service videos, and relevant CAD calls. The crash in question took place during a busy weekend night when large crowds were present and TPD's enhanced Ybor Deployment with several partner agencies was in effect. This deployment includes uniformed officers, plainclothes personnel, DUI units, mounted patrol, and drone pilots who work together to ensure safety throughout the district.

To support communication during major events and joint operations, TPD issues radios to partner agencies. The Division Three Commander approved eight radios to be issued to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). These radios were programmed to operate on a citywide channel to allow for efficient communication.

As part of the review, TPD updated its vehicle pursuit policy, SOP 386.1, to further clarify expectations and ensure consistency when working with partner agencies. The update clearly states that TPD officers are prohibited from requesting another agency to initiate a pursuit when TPD policy would not allow us to do so.

Incident Summary:

At approximately 12:40 a.m. on November 8, 2025, TPD Air Service observed two vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed on Interstate 275, suspected to be racing. TPD Air Service maintained visual contact with the vehicles and provided location updates to assist officers on the ground as part of its patrol support role for situational awareness.

One vehicle exited the interstate and was later located by law enforcement near Nebraska Avenue. As the vehicle approached 7th Avenue, an FHP Trooper attempted a traffic stop. When the vehicle failed to stop, FHP initiated a pursuit. A TPD unit nearby did not engage or activate emergency equipment. Within seconds, the suspect vehicle drove onto the sidewalk and into Bradley's on 7th, resulting in a fatal crash. Tampa Police officers already on foot patrol in the area immediately began to render aid to victims.

Findings:

As part of the TPD review, all Fleeing to Elude incidents involving FHP within the City of Tampa since February 2024 were examined. The review confirmed that TPD did not request FHP to pursue vehicles in any of those cases, and no violations of TPD policy were found.

Although no policy violations occurred, TPD updated SOP 386.1 to further clarify procedures and ensure consistent application of the department's pursuit policy. As a proactive measure, all eight TPD portable radios issued to FHP were collected prior to the completion of this review. Future communication with FHP will be coordinated with our Communications Division with the main radio frequencies to ensure transparency and accountability for all involved.

Conclusion:

The TPD review provided a complete assessment of the events leading up to the November 8, 2025, incident as well as the department's interactions with FHP in other Fleeing to Elude cases. The review confirmed that TPD did not participate in or request the pursuit of the vehicle involved. The policy updates to SOP 386.1 reinforce TPD's commitment to public safety by ensuring that decisions related to vehicle pursuits remain consistent, clearly defined, and aligned with department policy. Additionally, the City of Tampa has implemented numerous safety improvements, including lowering speed limits and rebricking along 7th Avenue to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety. These actions reflect the department's ongoing commitment to accountability, transparency, and safe coordination with partner agencies.

Respectfully submitted,



U. Emilione, Captain
District Three