Recent cop chases draws criticism

By ARLENE FUNKE

What kinds of police incidents or suspected crimes justify the potential danger of a high-speed chase along city streets or highways?

Police admit that chasing a suspect can be risky, and should be justified by the "gravity" of the alleged incident.
Consider this scenario, which took place earlier this week. The radio in a police car blurts a message of a shooting in the city of Wayne.

A "subject" (suspect) in a white Toyota truck has escaped in that incident and is driving through western Wayne County "shooting at police."

That message last Monday afternoon prompted a chase that reached speeds 68-100 mph, according to a witness. There were unsuccessful roadblocks along the route, which went from the city of Wayne through Canton Township and into Washtenaw County.

THIRTY OFFICERS from the city

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of Wayne, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Ann Arbor and the Michi-

of Wayne, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Ann Arbor and the Michigan State Police chased the truck along Michigan Avenue, onto 1e75, along Ford Road, north on Mc14, onto U.S. 23. It ended north of Ann Arbor when the suspect, Lawrence Adams of Garden City, was forced off the road and shot. He died several hours later in University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Wayne police believe Adams, 37, carlier had shot and killed Morley Shellswell, 45, outside the Parklane Motel on Michigan Avenue, for "no apparent motive"

Police said Shellswell lived at the motel with his wife. Adams, who had been staying at the motel since late September had recently been evicted by the manage at the motel since late September had recently been evicted by the manage and the model should be the manage to the motel of the Michigan Avenue of the Michigan

Ford Motor Co.'s Transmission Plant in Livonia.

Livonia.

NO ONE WAS injured during the chase. But in recent weeks, injuries or leaths from these Starsky-and-Hutch stunts have sparked criticism.

For example, a 17-year-old woman recently was critically injured in Westland. Her car collided with a vehicle driven by a man police suspected of holding up a florist shop.

A Clawson man was thrown through is windshield and killed last week when the van he was driving collided with the car of a suspected shoplifter who was being chased by police.

In Monday's incident, Canton Township Police officials decided against dispatching cars or trying to set up a roadblock.

"By the time the vehicle had arrived"

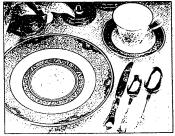
roadblock.
"By the time the vehicle had arrived in Canton, there already were 18 cars Lavolved," said Police Chief Jerry Cox.
"It seemed fruitless to make it number 19."

Cox said he discourages high-speed instrum chases. The exceptions, he said, are in Adams.

cases of serious assaults, homicides or thefts invol

ANDREW PRUNER knows well how dangerous that situation was. Pruner, 41, a Wayne County deputy sheriff, took part in the chase and was instrumental in catching up with

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